



Association of International NGOs in Nepal

An informal network of INGOs working in Nepal

Development Dialogue in Sudur Pashchim Province

Summary Report

The Social Development Ministry in Sudur Pashchim Province, Dhangadi in coordination with AIN, the Association of INGOs organized a half Day Development Dialogue on 16 November 2018. In the context of decentralization under the federal system in Nepal, this is the second Development Dialogue that AIN has been facilitating as an effort to ensure effective discussion and building clear understanding of AIN with Provincial Government entities.

The Secretary of Ministry of Social Development Mr Gogan Bahadur Hamal had graced the event as the Chief Guest along with Under Secretaries Jhankar Bahadur Bista and Kishan Raj Chasuwal. There was presence of Ministry of Economic Affairs & Planning, Ministry of Industry, Tourism Forest and Environment, Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture & Cooperatives, Education and Dhangadi Sub Metropolitan city. Several media houses like Radio Nepal, FNJ, Radio Dhangadi, Dailymail, Pashchim Daily, Anumodan, Shuklaphanta Ujyaalo, RSS Dhangadi, Image Channel, Pahura daily had attended the Dialogue.

The main objective of this dialogue was to interact with Sudur Paschim Province's high officials to establish a positive productive relationship between them and AIN members, to improve collaboration and coordination with the provincial government in the projects and interventions across the province by sharing information and identifying practical mechanisms for regular contact and discussion; and to provide basic information about AIN, its principles, objectives, and the work INGOs does through its members in Sudur Paschim Province.

Remarks from Ministry

Under Secretary Ministry of Social Development, Jhankar Bahadur Bista emphasized that Government and INGOs should work hand in hand in partnership and appreciated AIN for its presence. It was highlighted that Government need INGOs and INGO budget should be flexible, it should be '**Donor Directed but not Donor Driven.**' There should be a balance in admin and program cost, there should be proper audits of INGO work, maintain transparency and should prioritize on local resources and see how much money is returning back to their own country. INGOs should try to work in 'whole approach with overall coverage' rather than working in pieces.

The Chief of Health Service Division Narendra Singh Karki presented that the health quality service needs to be improved in Sudur Pashchim, mainly in neo natal care, maternal child health, nutrition, birthing centers and increasing access. Though the health policy states that health services should be accessible within half an hour's time in some places it takes two days to reach. He added that there is a need of proper ambulance service as well. He spoke about Universal Health Coverage and hundred percent target achievement.

Likewise, the Education Department of Dhangadi Municipality urged that INGOs need to focus on Compulsory Education for school aged children; enrollment campaign, retention, local level curriculum, child friendly schools, ICT education and self- defense programs for women and girls, Children as zone of peace, CZOP and stressed that children should not be used for politics. There should be focus on education for children with disability & mentally challenged; he sought support from INGOs. He stated that the Ministry has visions to make Sudur Paschim as a hundred percent 'Literate Province'.

Ministry of Land Management & Agriculture, Nilkanth Pokharel, Senior Agriculture Extension Officer briefed about animal farming, poultry and livelihood support provided by INGOs. He shared about good practices & success stories in Cardamom farming and expressed that INGOs can inspire the community and the Ministry can give required training along with the seeds through the Agriculture Knowledge Centre. The Ministry seeks to create Model Districts so that it could be replicated in other districts as well.

AIN presentations

SC Members David Smith, County Representative Dan Church Aid, Sanjay Karki, Country Representative Mercy Corps, Mona Sherpa, Assistant Country Director CARE Nepal and Reshma Shrestha, AIN Program Coordinator had attended the event representing AIN. Sanjay Karki made a presentation highlighting about AIN in Nepal's development, the historical background of AID & Development, role of INGOs, their contribution and key challenges. He emphasized on the need of having one door policy and mechanism to facilitate INGOs, stronger coordination between SWC and various Ministries & the need of common understanding and approaches to create enabling development space. He stressed on the need of clarity in the coordination structure at the Federal, Provincial and Local government level for INGOs, issues of fees and taxes at various level, facilitation and reporting systems for INGOs.

AIN representative David Smith made a presentation highlighting on AIN member's sector wise program coverage and contribution in Sudur Pashchim namely on livelihood, DRR, education, health, GBV, WASH, Humanitarian, physical rehabilitation, Disability, Governance, GESI, economic development. He emphasized that INGOs are ready to respond to the needs of the province and it will be aligned with the local priorities.

Nineteen AIN Member INGOs namely CARE Nepal, CECI, Dan Church Aid, IPAS, World Vision, LWF, United Mission to Nepal, Action Aid, IDE, Room To Read, AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) Nepal, Weltherhunger Hilfe (WHH), Helvetas, Nepal Youth Foundation, Helen Keller International, Save The Children, Netherlands Leprosy Relief, World Education and Mercy Corps had attended the dialogue.

Way Forward

AIN Representative Mona Sherpa remarked that the Government and INGOs both wish to work for a common goal i.e. development but there has been some gaps hence there is a need to balance and understand each other's expectations. There is a need to understand about INGOs and how they function, that they are different from UN and other Bilateral/Multilateral donors. There is a need of a system for a formal coordination point at the regional level. She recommended that the media has a big role to play and should watch both the government and INGOs. As a way forward, an open floor discussion was held and all participants were requested to give recommendations for the next steps.

Recommendations from participants

Coordination Structures

- There is a need of a **forum at the Province level** (with central level, province level and district level body along with INGOs and NGOs) This Forum should discuss on project plans, implementation and evaluation to work in an effective manner
- Every INGO should designate a **'Contact Point Person'** and inform the Ministry
- AIN should have a formal structure at Province level and meet at least once in two months so that they are informed about the projects and play effective role in reducing duplication
- Form an **'INGO/NGO Coordination Desk'** at each Ministry
- A **'thematic Coordination Committee'** should be formed at the Provincial level, led by thematic divisions to review the plans and progress in every six months.
- A **Development Forum** should be led by Ministry of Social Development for regular meeting, review and way forward
- The line Ministries at Province level should prepare reports to show about the needs of each sector and level so that result oriented work could be done
- Discussion should be held between **line Ministries and INGOs on programs** that could be done and implemented in a joint manner
- Need for an **autonomous body like Social Welfare Council at State level** to ensure good coordination at state level
- **Province level AIN body** should have discussion with local level bodies. There is a need to build capacity of local level organization staff
- There should be one Ministry/department to whom all INGOs and NGOs could approach for future works
- Formation of Government and INGO **network**

Proper Planning mechanisms

- **Formulation of Province Development Strategy and Plan** to support sustainable development. Need clear plan from Sectoral government to fulfill the gap, sector wise strategic plans should be developed at the soonest
- Representatives from Local Government and INGOs should do **joint monitoring visits** and evaluation of impacts on a regular basis, and work in sync
- Program cost should be more than admin cost while making budget: Cut down Admin costs
- Stop the duplication in the INGO work: need one door system. Need consistency & transparency in INGO work
- INGOs and Local government should **play a complementary role** to each other
- INGOs working for Dalit should provide services and facilities to Dalit and include them in their programs as well. Services should reach to people below poverty line
- Bimonthly mobile meetings in working area
- Government should take lead role in bringing uniformity to INGO programs
- District and sector wise sharing: lead Ministry of Social Development
- Health INGOs should work on herbal medicines
- Reporting/Review at Ministry level
- Make a provincial development network: MoSD & AIN: meeting every two months
- Review: Regular basis on plan and work collaboratively

- While working with partners, send representatives to check their performance through close monitoring
- Check the impacts and results of Livelihood programs: See if the employment generated through road construction projects has proper results as expenditure or not
- Be responsible, keep up the commitment
- Build on existing knowledge rather than creating new

Remarks from Chief Guest

Secretary Gogan Bahadur Hamal, Ministry of Social Development in his closing remarks appreciated the role of INGOs and stressed on the fact that **Government cannot work alone**; even in forming global policies in global governance, actors like civil society organizations and INGOs are needed. He expressed that Sudur Pashchim has many social problems which needs to be eradicated. There are many challenges in terms of resource duplication, programs are fragmented, need cost effective programs. There is a need to see and do capacity & expertise mapping. He stated that 'to facilitate one door system in the three layers is a big challenge, the **Laws have not yet been defined**' hence still there is no clarity at policy level. But some policies already say that the government need INGOs to work together hence there is some clarity on INGO's role. The Secretary added that the Ministry seeks to **facilitate at policy level with Provincial Government** but they are just doing functional coordination at Provincial level at the moment.

He reiterated that time has come to move ahead on a positive note, strengthen coordination by using **AIN platform to work together and improve** the key sectors like health & education to bring the social change. He added that the Development Dialogue has been a stepping stone to reach more milestones. He assured to do more dialogues in the coming days and agreed to fix a 'focal person' from the Ministry to fulfill the common efforts and development agendas. He also agreed to form a Development Dialogue Committee comprising of Ministry, INGOs and Media. He stated that if combined efforts are made there will be visible results soon. He concluded saying that AIN will be invited to discuss on Policy formulation before the Province budget is released. He appreciated that the event has been very effective and appreciated AIN for their energy and efficiency.

Closing Remarks

AIN Representative David Smith in his closing remarks thanked the Ministry for providing the opportunity to establish coordination. He assured that INGOs will try to align with the government plan and reduce duplication. He stated that AIN is committed to continue the process, time and energy and build on the synergy. He showed commitment to work on a transparent manner and follow up on the next steps. He remarked that the **Development Dialogue is the 'first step in a long relation.'** He showed gratitude to the Mercy Corps team for their support and appreciated all the participating INGOs for their solidarity.

Development Dialogue participants

