



2019

FORUM for PROTECTION of PUBLIC INTEREST (Pro Public)

Quarterly E-Bulletin: April-June, 2019

Capacity Building

Year - I
Issue - II

 Message from President

Capacity building of the local government, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), political party leaders, media organizations, academia, networks for social issues and community people in different areas such as peace building and conflict transformation, gender equality and social inclusion, human rights, governance, rule of law, environmental justice and so forth, is one of the major areas of work of Pro Public. As such, between April and June 2019 some of the capacity building activities were carried out. They are as follows:

Training on Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation

Pro Public organized the Dialogue Facilitation & Mediation training for 40 Dialogue Facilitators and Mediators as the third round of the training from June 25 to 29, 2019 in Pokhara of Kaski under its Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation for Peace and Social Harmony project. The main objective of the third round of the training was to enhance skills and knowledge on mediation and dialogue. The training was facilitated by Advocate Ms. Kabita Pandey (lead trainer) and Mr Babu Ram Poudel, Program Manager of the project. The co-facilitators were Mr. Nahakul Sanjayal, Mr. Sudarshan Adhikari, Ms. Seema Mahara, Mr. Rudra Bk and Ms. Manju Mahato who were trained and engaged by Pro Public in the previous Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation interventions. The training was focused on deepening the knowledge and skills on mediation and refresh the dialogue facilitation skills that they had learned in the previous two rounds of the training. The first training was more focused on dialogue, second on mediation

It's our pleasure to circulate this second quarterly e-bulletin to all of you with the latest activities of Pro Public. This e-bulletin briefly provides information about our activities related to capacity building, social dialogue, community dialogue, enacting dialogue, community envisioning, litigation and advocacy carried out during these three months. We feel happy that the activities we have carried out in different communities have been able to enhance peace and social harmony among the people from different backgrounds.

At this point, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to all national and international partners for their esteemed support for the implementation of these activities under different projects. Similarly, Pro Public would like to express its gratitude, especially to the local government, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Police Offices, media organizations, political parties, networks, intellectuals and other community members for collaborating and participating in the efforts we have made during this period.

Last but not the least, Pro Public would like to appreciate the work of staff members for the successful implementation of the activities and efforts made by them to bring out this e-bulletin. I would like to invite you to read about the work of Pro Public and hope these few pages will inspire you to join us in our journey.

We look forward to hearing your comments and suggestion for further improvements of the bulletin.

- Sr. Advocate Mr. Prakash Mani Sharma
Executive Chair



Group Photo of the Dialogue Facilitators and Mediators during the third round of the Training

& third on deepening mediation and refreshing on dialogue. So, participants reviewed and reflected on what they have learned and practiced in the communities after first and second rounds of the training. The first training was more focused on dialogue, second on mediation and third in deepening on mediation and refreshing on dialogue. So, participants were reviewed and reflected they have learned and practiced in the communities after first and second rounds of the training.

Training on Community Mediation in Gorkha

Pro Public technically supported an eight-day long basic training on community mediation organized by the Chumnubri Rural Municipality of Gorkha district from May 26 to June 2, 2019. The objective of the training was to train



Mr. Babu Ram Poudel (Deputy Executive Director of Pro Public), Trainer of Mediation addressing opening session of the training

selected candidates on mediation and establish them as mediators, as a part of the Judicial Committee, for resolving the local disputes through facilitation of them as per the provision envisioned in clause 47 of Local Government Operation Act (2074). Sr. Advocate Mr. Kumar Regmi and Mr. Babu Ram Poudel and Ms. Bidha Poudel, National Trainer on Community Mediation, facilitated the training. Total of

23 participants from different wards of the Chumnubri Rural Municipality attended the training. Trainer on Community Mediation, facilitated the training. Total 23 participants from different wards of the Chumnubri rural municipality attended the training.

Refresher Trainings on Playback Theatre



Group Photo of the participants and the trainers after completion of the training in east cluster

Pro Public organized two rounds of five days long Refresher Training on Playback Theatre for the 20 Dialogue Facilitating (DF) Artists from the Eastern Cluster (Bateshwar of Dhanusha and Bardibas of Mahottari) and the Western Cluster (Tulsipur of Dang) as one of the major activities under the Chautari Natak-Storytelling for Promotion of Social Cohesion in the Community of Nepal project.



Group Photo of the participants and the trainers after completion of the training in west cluster

First round of the refresher training was organized in Lalgadh of Dhanusha from April 10 to 14, 2019 for the 10 DF artists (five Maithili and five Nepali speaking) of eastern cluster. Theatre Trainers Ms. Sirjana Adhikari and Ms. Renuka Karki Dholi facilitated the training. One Maithili-speaking actress/theatre trainer Ms. Sarita Sah joined the team as a co-facilitator to strengthen intercultural-learning and balance the trainer team in regard to the conflict lines

as planned. Similarly, second round of the refresher training was organized in Tulsipur of Dang from April 17 to 21, 2019 for 10 DF artists (five Tharu and five Nepali speaking) of western cluster. Theatre Trainers Mr. Suresh

Chand and Ms. Saraswati Chaudhary facilitated the training. The trainers in both rounds were guided and supported by Ms. Anne Dirnstorfer, an International trainer of playback theatre from Germany.

Capacity Building of the staff members



Ms. Sophie Schmitt, Peace Advisor and Ms. Ajita Pokhrel, Local professional in the photo along with other participants

As a part of the capacity building of the staff members Ms. Sophie Schmitt, Peace Advisor and Ms. Ajita Pokhrel, local professional attended a three-day training entitled “Using Restorative Justice to Address Gender and Family Violence” from May 29 to 31, 2019. The training was organized by Nepal Forum for Restorative Justice (NFRJ) in cooperation with Nagarik Aawaz and Hawaii Friends of Restorative Justice in Kathmandu.

Restorative Justice is one of the globally growing movements trying to shift the paradigms of dealing with the violence and harms. The United Nations has already come up with resolutions on Restorative Justice in 2000 and 2002 and has developed various documents urging member states to work towards restorative justice when it comes to addressing violence, harms, and crimes. This three-day training helped to learn about the use of Restorative Justice mainly on gender-based

violence, i.e. changing the narratives of gender and family violence; needs for healing and accountability; and why violence shouldn't be seen as disputes. Similarly, it also helped to understand restorative justice; its theoretical and practical applications; designing and facilitating transition circles for survivors of gender and family violence.

Likewise, Ms. Ajita Pokhrel attended a three-day training on Integrating New Deal Principle and SDGs in Peace Building/State Building organized by Asian Academy for Peace, Research and Development (Asian Peace Academy) in collaboration with Collaborative Learning Circle from June 22 to 24, 2019 in Kathmandu. Concepts of peace, conflict, violence, conflict analysis, conflict transformation, theory of change, new deal principle and localization of sustainable development goal in Nepal were covered by this training.

Dialogues

Pro Public organizes and facilitates different dialogues, i.e. Social Dialogue, Community Dialogue and Theater/Lab Dialogue that are presented as follows organized during the period of April to June 2019.

Social Dialogues

After completing all the seven steps of the dialogue of 16 Social Dialogue Groups (SDGs), out of 40 SDGs, the same of the another 40 SDGs



A meeting of Social Dialogue Group in Lahan Municipality of Siraha

were facilitated between April and June 2019 in all the four project locations under Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation for Peace and Social Harmony project. The dialogues were facilitated by the trained Dialogue Facilitators in the presence of the mentors. As per the settings and norms of the dialogue, a team of three DFs was made responsible and a team of two mentors was made responsible for every group whose presence was meaningful to ensure the quality of the facilitation in all the seven steps of the dialogues. The DFs were responsible primarily to facilitate the dialogue sessions and the mentors were for guidance and backstopping before, during and after the dialogue meetings. All the dialogue meetings went very well and responses of the members of the SDGs were very positive during the monitoring and

Community Dialogues

A Community Dialogue entitled “Drug Addiction and Alcohol Drinking: Its Social, Economic and Cultural Impacts” was organized in the last week of April and the first week of May 2019 in all the four project communities. Drug addiction and alcohol drinking is one of the burning social problems in Nepal, especially in the urban areas, and as youths are mostly involved in this it has affected their families and societies. Elected representatives of the respective municipalities, police officers and collaborative partners were selected as panelists. Other key stakeholders, including women,

supervision visits. Most of them have said that the meetings have been a very strong means to be connected with each other and go forward in a collaborative way for their family and societal life.

The members of the SDGs further said that dialogue meetings became really helpful for them to change their mindset from negative to positive and extend their hands for collaboration with each other. They said that it has brought new hopes to them and that they will share their learning with other community members so as to connect with each other in a more



A meeting of Social Dialogue Group in Shivaraj Municipality of Kapilvastu

meaningful way. Now, the people from different backgrounds have started to accept each other very well, talking about them and the community, planning for the community problem and coordination in addressing and implementing the same and so forth.

representatives from marginalized groups and victims participated in the community dialogue.

To ensure more impact at the community level and increase the ownership among local concerned authorities, the program in each community was organized in collaboration with four different organizations: Municipalities, Area Police Stations, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and local Rehabilitation Centers. Thus, in Shivaraj/Kapilvastu, the partners were Shivaraj Municipality, ward Police Station, Siddhartha Social Development Centre (SSDC) and Rajesh



Ward Chair of Nepalgunj Municipality - 18 addressing an opening session of the community dialogue on drug addiction and alcohol drinking

Aastha Foundation. Similarly, in Nepalgunj/Banke, the cooperation was with Nepalgunj Sub-Metropolitan City, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Change Team (Pariwartan Samuha) and Naya Asha Rehabilitation Centre. In Tikapur/Kailali the partnering organizations were Tikapur Municipality, Area Police Station, Youth Peace Council (YPC) and Naya Bihani Rehabilitation Centre. In the same way, Lahan municipality, ward Police Station, Samagra and Mukti Nepal were the collaboration partners in Lahan/Siraha.

The presentations were made by respective municipalities, police offices and CSOs about laws, programs and interventions they have been carrying out to address the problem in

these communities. Later, many queries were raised regarding the planning, budgeting and implementation, including the challenges, to be facilitated by the local government. Panelists of the dialogue addressed all these issues. Similarly, many suggestions for the future interventions, pains and experiences were shared by the participants and the victims. Both participants and the panelists expressed the view that the dialogues were very fruitful to sensitize the people and also get the feedback from the intervening agencies so as to intervene further in a more effective way. At the end of each dialogue, separate Declaration Letters were signed and issued in all the four communities as the way forward.

Theater Lab/Dialogue

Second Theatre Lab and Theatre Dialogue Event in Kathmandu



Theatre Trainers performing play back theater in Kathmandu

A two-day second Theatre Lab and Theatre Dialogue event were successfully organized

from June 1 to 2, 2019 in Manjari Theatre, Kathmandu by Pro Public under "Chautari-Natak--Storytelling for Promotion of Social Cohesion in the Community of Nepal" project. First day of the event was utilized to exchange the experiences from refresher trainings organized in Dhanusha and Dang in April, 2019 and the experiences of first monitoring visits of both of the clusters conducted in May, 2019 among the team of Theatre Trainers. Through experience sharing, all Theatre Trainers basically updated the existing situation of

project communities, strengths and the issues to be improved of the DF Artists in each cluster. Theatre Trainers also reviewed the forms of playback theatre and demonstrated improvisation in the group as rehearsal. On the

second day, community level theatre dialogue event was organized and facilitated by theatre trainers for their own learning and practices in the Sisneri village of Luvu, Lalitpur.

Community Level Theatre Dialogue Events



Dialogue Facilitating (DF) Artists performing play back theater a community of west cluster

After attending the refresher training on

playback theatre, in the eastern cluster, DF Artist organized and facilitated community level theatre dialogue events (multiplication of performances) in a Bardibas municipality of Mahottari and Bateshwar rural municipality of Dhanusha. Similarly, in western cluster DF Artist organized and facilitated community level theatre dialogue events in the communities of Tulsipur sub-metropolitan city. During the period of April-June, 2019, altogether 16 events (8 each in eastern and western cluster) were organized out of 40 performances planned for 2019.

Community Envisioning



A group of community envisioning workshops presenting their plannig during the workshop

Pro Public organized Community Envisioning workshops in four communities (Lahan/Siraha, Shivaraj/Kapilvastu, Nepalgunj/Banke and Tikapur/Kailali) under the Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation for Peace and Social Harmony project in April 2019. The representatives of respective municipalities, leaders of political parties, intellectuals, members of Social Dialogue Groups (SDGs), representatives from NGOs/CBOs, media, academia, and other different groups like

mother groups, community forestry groups and so forth participated in the workshops. In this process Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis of these all four communities was done. After analyzing these four aspects of the communities the major development agendas were identified, through intensive discussion, group works and presentations, from the workshops. Agendas to be addressed by the next five years are as follows:

Lahan of Siraha	Shivaraj of Kapilvastu
• Irrigation and construction of agriculture road	• Irrigation and group farming
• Cold store	• Pure drinking water
• Blacktopping roads and construction of bridges	• Cold store
• Mitigation of drug abuse and alcohol drinking	• Construction of a child development center
• Pure drinking water	• Good health facilities by constructing good health posts
• End of caste discrimination	• Good road and drainage management
• Ensuring quality education and establishment of vocational training institute	• Establishment of a vocational training center
• Easy access to quality health service	• End of violence against women (VAW)
Nepalgunj of Banke	Tikapur of Kailali
• End of drug abuse problem	• Resolve of flood and the soil erosion problem
• End of child marriage and dowry system	• End of drug addiction and gambling from the community
• Irrigation facilities	• Eradication of child marriage
• Road, drainage and sanitation	• Ending unemployment problem
• Quality education and easy access to health facilities	• Establishment of a vocational training center
• End child labor	• Building black-topped road and concrete bridges over river
• Vocational training	• Establishment and upgrading of health post
• End of violence against women (VAW)	• Cold store

Advisory Committee



Participants posing for group photo after Advisory Committee (AC) meeting in Dhodna/Lahan

Advisory Committee meetings of Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation for Peace and Social Harmony project were held in all the

communities (Tikapur/Kailali, Nepalgunj/Banke, Shivaraj/Kapilvastu and Lahan/Siraha) during the month of April 2019. AC members in all the four communities were updated about

the latest activities carried out till that date and the activities to be carried out in the next couple of months.

The AC members, while being updated about different activities, suggested that the DFs should be more active in their respective communities for initiating dialogue and resolving the disputes by using knowledge and skills they have acquired through two

Litigation

Bagmati River System

In a case filed by Pro Public for the protection of Bagmati river and its tributaries from illegal encroachment and pollution, the bench of Hon. Justice Dr Ananda Mohan Bhattarai and Hon. Justice Sapana Pradhan Malla gave a show cause order to the government on why a new plan has not been made when their old plan of 2009-2004 has expired. The bench also ordered the government to produce report regarding waste disposition in the rivers, sand extraction from rivers and inventory of illegally

New Committee for Baghdurbar

In the case filed by Pro Public to protect Bagh Durbar (neo-classical historical building) Supreme Court of Nepal gave a verdict on March 19, 2019. Based on the court's order a committee, headed by Director General of Department of Archeology, has been formed to make the decisions for the protection of Bagh Durbar. Similarly, for the time being (until the conservation modality is fixed and decided), Department of Archeology has appointed a contractor to protect Bagh Durbar from any external factors.

Follow up on Underwater Ground Water

Follow up letters have been sent to the concerned authorities requesting them to implement the December 21, 2004 decision of the Supreme Court not to let exploitation of underground water of Kathmandu haphazardly without license. A meeting was held with the concerned authorities to obtain the status of implementation. Implementation status was not found satisfactory.

rounds of training. They also contributed for the conceptual preparation of the upcoming community dialogues on violence against women, Chhaudipadi, child labor, and role of the political parties in enhancing peace and social harmony. Their feedback helped in a meaningful way to move ahead for the preparation and organization of the dialogues in these issues.

summoned the Attorney General, Secretary of Prime Minister's and Council of Minister's Office, Secretary of Ministry of Urban Development, Secretary of Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, Head of High Powered Committee for Integrated Development of the Bagmati Civilization to the court for discussion. When the concerned authorities did not implement the decision of the court, Pro Public filed a contempt of court.

Advocacy/Campaigns

Advocacy and campaigns are major priority areas of Pro Public. During the second quarter of 2019, Pro Public prepared a four-minutes long documentary entitled "Journey of Promoting Peaceful and Inclusive Society in Nepal". This Video highlights a glimpse of Pro Public's activities, achievement, successes, challenges and sustainable approach in the journey of promoting a peaceful and inclusive society in Nepal through restorative dialogue, nonviolent communication, Playback Theater and so forth. In addition, the documentary also shows the linkages with Sustainable Development Goal 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institution. Link of the documentary is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oY-h0yaU3n2s&feature=youtu.be>

Monitoring and Supervision

Sr. Advocate Mr. Prakash Mani Sharma, Executive Chair of Pro Public and Sr. Advocate Ms. Rama Panta Kharel, Treasurer of Pro Public, visited one of the project locations (Siraha/Lahan) to observe the Social Dialogue Groups (SDGs) meeting in the third week of April 2019 under the Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation for Peace and Social Harmony. During the visits they met and discussed with Dialogue Facilitators and Mediators, observed meetings of SDG and also met and discussed with the elected representatives and government staff of the municipalities. They observed and heard the concerns of mediators and facilitators and encouraged them to keep up their nice work in making harmonious communities.

Similarly, a team of theatre trainer/s and project staff under Enacting Dialogue project travelled to the Eastern and the Western clusters as a first monitoring and follow up visit. The team observed preparation for the performances to be facilitated by DF Artists and backstopped by making a short demonstrated improvisation session before the performances to be facilitated by the DF Artists. The team also observed the performances facilitated by the DF Artists and



Executive Chair of Pro Public and Back-Stopper of the Project Sr. Advocate Mr. Prakash Mani Sharma and Ms. Rama Pant, Treasurer of Pro Public observing dialogue during the SDG meeting in Lahan of Siraha

also provided the technical feedback to be improved in the future performances. A team of Theatre Trainer Mr. Rajan Khatiwada and Project Coordinator, Mr. Jhabindra Adhikari made first monitoring and follow up visit in the western cluster (Tulsipur, Dang) in the third week of May 2019 and another parallel team of Theatre Trainer Ms. Sirjana Adhikari, Co-Theatre Trainer Ms. Sarita Sah and Senior Project Officer Mr. Ram Ashish Chaudhary visited the eastern cluster (Bateshwar, Dhanusha and Bardibas, Mahottari) in the fourth week of May, 2019.



Theatre trainer guiding/mentoring to the DF Artist before Community level performance

Staff turnover

Mr. Saroj Bhusal, Project Coordinator for Enacting Dialogue Project resigned from the position due to his personal reason in the first week of April 2019. In this context, Mr. Jhabindra Adhikari who was serving as Sr. Project Officer for the last four years in the same project was promoted as the Project Coordinator and Mr. Ramashish Chaudhary was recruited as Sr. Project Officer based on the procurement policy of Pro Public.



Mr. Saroj Bhusal



Mr. Jhabindra Adhikari



Mr. Ram Ashish Chadhary

Upcoming Activities (July to September, 2019)

Pro Public has planned the following activities under the following different projects for the next quarter (July to September 2019).

Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation for Strengthening Peace and Social Harmony

- Organization of Community Dialogues on violence against women, Chhaupadi, child labor and the role of political parties for enhancing peace and social harmony
- Production of documentary
- Monitoring and supervision
- Project closing and handover to the local government
- Social audit

Enacting Dialogue

- Multiplication of Theatre Dialogue events in the communities
- Monitoring/Mentoring visits
- External evaluation

Civil Peace Service Program

- Eight days training in Nonviolent Communication (NVC) and Facilitation Skills
- Three days NVC training for staff members of Pro Public
- Post Circle of Restorative Dialogue



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