



KATHMANDU, NEPAL



# ANNUAL REPORT

(2018-19)



*Strengthening Local Governments*

# Who Are We ?

Community Members Interested-COMMITTED is a tax-exempt non-profit Non Governmental Organization (NGO) in Nepal founded in 2006. COMMITTED is also registered in the United States under section 501 (c) (3) of the US IRS code with the intent to raise funds to support COMMITTED’s work in Nepal. These organizations are separate entities but work in unison for the purpose of supporting Nepali communities. COMMITTED relies on a holistic approach to development that is centered on local governance.

## Core Program Areas



### Local Governance and Service Delivery (LGSD)

Local Governance and Service Delivery (LGSD) program aims to help local governments in their services through tested planning, development process, and resource generation methods. The three areas covered are service delivery, education, and economic development.



### School Improvement Program (SIP)

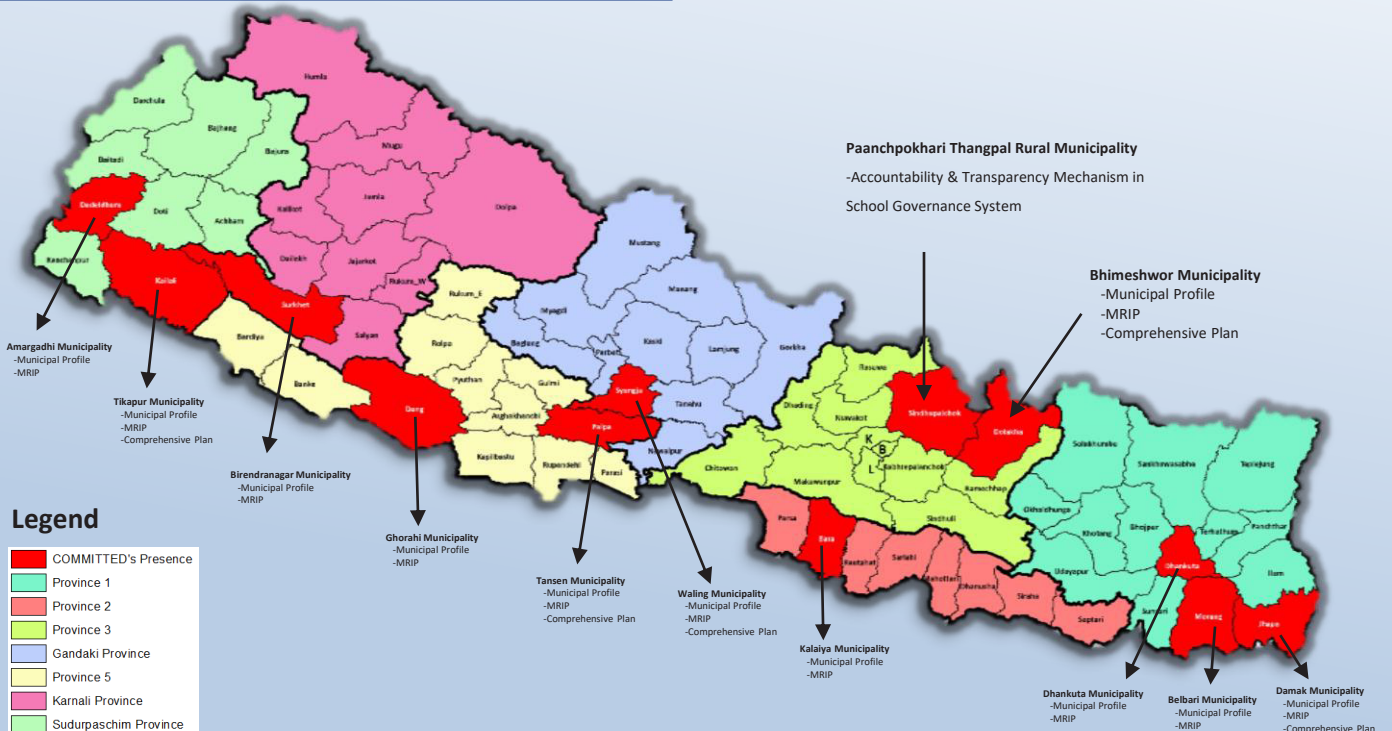
Improvements in the infrastructure, facilities, curriculum and extra-curricular activities are the primary focus of COMMITTED’s School Improvement Program. In addition to other school related improvements, the program also attempts to align with Nepal Government’s Department of Education’s School Improvement Plan requirement.



### Social Business for Education (SBE)

Social Business for Education (SBE) program assists in generating income for both schools and members of local communities. Profits from the SBE projects are used to make schools self-sustainable as well as support their local communities.

## Our Working Districts for 2018-19



## Letter from the Executive Director



Dear COMMITTED Supporters,

Thank you for your generous support throughout 2018-19 (Fiscal Year 2075-76). It has been quite a significant year as we completed some major milestones in our projects. The first quarter of 2018 saw the successful completion of - 'Accountability & Transparency Mechanism in School Governance System' project funded by Give2Asia. This project, initiated in April 2016 and the first of its kind, is considered extremely useful and innovative as it helped develop a five year Rural Municipality Education Plan of Paanchpokhari Thangpal Rural Municipality of Sindhupalchock District.

The last quarter of 2018 also marked the completion of wrapping up municipal profiles of five of eleven municipalities under the Enhancement of Local Government Service Delivery & Economic Governance (EnLoG-SDEG) project funded by The Asia Foundation / Australian Government – Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT). This was a complicated project and involved large number of household census along with institutional and GIS data collection, validation and intense involvement of the local citizens and municipal officials. We were also able to train and help create Municipality Revenue Improvement Plans (MRIP) of three municipalities (out of total eight) in our goal to assist municipalities improve own resources for enhanced service delivery.

The first and second quarters of 2019 has been challenging as we fervently worked towards completing Municipal Comprehensive Plans of five municipalities, that involved setting up a unique Citizen Advisory Council (CAC) at each municipality supported by Ward Level Thematic Committees (WLTC). With support from WLTC & CAC, intensive Focus Group Discussions were held at each ward of all five municipalities. Local citizens participated to provide input towards their Comprehensive Plans.

All of this would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our staff members who spent many days working relentlessly to fulfill the goals and objectives of our project. Our sincere gratitude goes to our supportive Board Members as well as to the local municipal officials and relevant stakeholders.

Last but not the least, we thank our donors in Nepal and abroad for constantly believing in us and supporting us in our work. This trust and belief is the backbone that keeps us motivated to move forward and work for the betterment of our society, community and the country.

We look forward to another successful 2020.

Sincerely,

Ritima Pradhan

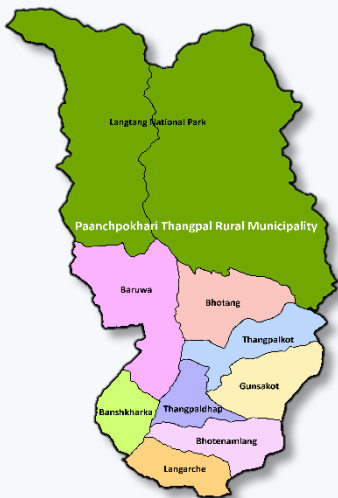
Executive Director

## Accountability & Transparency Mechanism in School Governance System



The project was initiated in April 2016 which worked to have in place and strengthen local education bodies and assisted them in developing their local education plan. Funded by Give2Asia, the project supported Paanchpokhari Thangpal Gaupalika (rural municipality) located in Sindhupalchok District. The effort helped to formulate a Rural Municipality Education Plan and provided necessary training and support to create a citizen driven vigilance system to ensure all actors involved in the education system are transparent, accountable and diligent in their duties. This was a two - year project and ended in December 2018.

### Project Activities



**1153** Participants Received Trainings on RTI (Right To Information) and School Governance. Published & Disseminated RTI Manuals



**5** Libraries Built in Five Schools Severely Affected by 2015 Earthquake

**22** School Representatives Trained on Basic Computer Skills



**8** Ward Education Committees (WEC) Formed in all Eight Wards and 1 Rural Municipality Education Committee (RMEC) Formed at Gaupalika Level

**100** Copies of Rural Municipality Education Plan (RMEP) Printed & Disseminated After Intense Preparation & Formulation



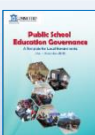
**43** Sets of Computers and Printers Along with Internet Access Provided to 34 Schools, 8 WEC & 1 RMEC



**1** Multi Media Projector Provided to Education Committee of Ward No. 5 (Gamskot)



**100** Copies of Public School Education Governance Template Printed & Disseminated After Intense Preparation & Formulation



### BENEFICIARIES

8 Wards

1 Rural Municipality



34 Schools



10605 Men



5233 Students



10255 Women

## Enhancement of Local Governments Service Delivery & Economic Governance



The project EnLoG-SDEG was initiated in July, 2017 in partnership with The Asia Foundation (TAF) and Australian Government - Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT). EnLoG-SDEG seeks to aid municipalities in addressing service delivery needs and economic development within their jurisdiction through tested planning development process and resource generation methods. The project is currently in its second phase and aims to execute citizen centric approaches in preparing comprehensive municipal plans. The plan will assist municipalities to recognize their strength, weakness, opportunities and threats, establish visions, and identify resources towards addressing their service delivery gaps. Additionally, the project will support development of Municipality Revenue Improvement Plans (MRIP) to bolster revenue generation, improved services and economic development.

**3854**



Community members participated in Focus Group Discussions (FGD) in five municipalities: Damak, Bhimeshwor, Waling, Tansen & Tikapur. FGDs were carried out in each wards of all five municipalities and included topics such as Land Use, Economic Development, Transportation, Public Works, Education, Health, Environment & Natural Resources, Disaster Emergency Management, Gender Equality & Social Inclusion and Good Governance. Key conclusions will be integrated in the development of their Comprehensive Plans.

**5**



Municipalities supported in SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunities & Threats) Analysis which was done based on the feedbacks and information received during FGD, national & local policies and international practice. SWOT Analysis helps representatives to evaluate municipalities' potency and limitations and further direct pathway for new projects.

### Working Municipalities

|              |                          |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| Province 1   | Belbari, Damak, Dhankuta |
| Province 2   | Kalaiya                  |
| Province 3   | Bhimeshwor               |
| Gandaki      | Waling                   |
| Province 5   | Tansen, Ghorahi          |
| Karnali      | Birendranagar            |
| Sudurpaschim | Tikapur, Amargadhi       |

### Project Activities

**500**



Municipal profiles published for remaining five municipalities out of eleven, 100 copies for each municipality were printed and disseminated.

**3**

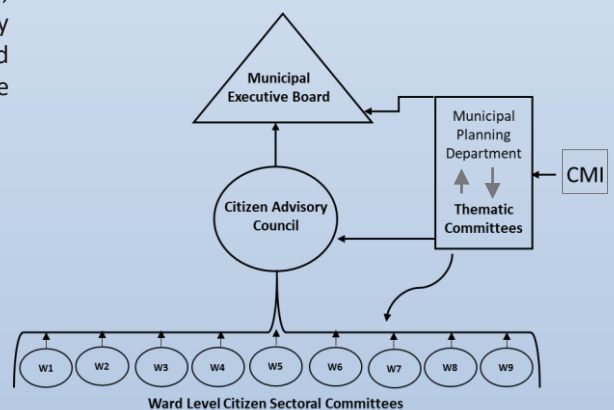


Municipalities (Damak, Dhankuta & Tansen) out of eight were supported in the formulation of their four-year Municipality Revenue Improvement Plans (MRIP). MRIPs were developed through discussions & meetings with citizen civil societies, municipal delegates and departmental heads in a three-day workshops held at each municipality.

**5**



Citizen Advisory Councils (CAC) and 56 Ward level Thematic Committees (WLTC) established as a part of the citizen centric structure that provides valuable input towards the development of their Comprehensive Plans.

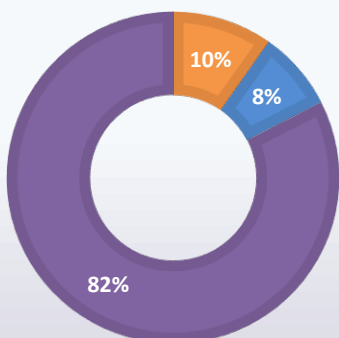




**COMMITTED Fosters Accountability & Transparency Practice In All Its Interventions**

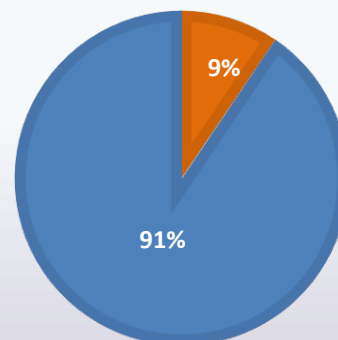
### DONOR-WISE FUND CHART

Donations (Orange), Give2Asia (Blue), The Asia Foundation (TAF) (Purple)



### 2018-19 EXPENSE DETAILS

Administrative (Orange), Project (Blue)



### INCOME / EXPENSE STATEMENT FOR FY: 2075-76

| INCOME:  | NPR                  | US\$= 110         |
|--|----------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Grants</i>  |                      |                   |
| Funds Received from Various Donors                       | 3,806,628.00         | 34,605.71         |
| Give2Asia  | 3,157,539.00         | 28,704.90         |
| The Asia Foundation (TAF)                                | 33,825,957.00        | 307,508.70        |
| <i>Interest Earned</i>                                   | 196,381.00           | 1,785.28          |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                                      | <b>40,986,505.00</b> | <b>372,604.59</b> |
| <b>EXPENSES:</b>   |                      |                   |
| <i>Admin/Operating Expense (Not Covered by Projects)</i> | 3,886,616.00         | 35,332.87         |
| <b>PROJECT EXPENSES</b>                                  |                      |                   |
| Local Governance   | 37,045,996.00        | 336,781.78        |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                                    | <b>40,932,612.00</b> | <b>372,114.65</b> |

## Ahead in 2019-20

### Development of Comprehensive Municipal Plan

COMMITTED is gearing up for the development of Comprehensive Municipal Plans of five municipalities - Damak, Bhimeshwor, Waling, Tansen & Tikapur.

The plan will establish citizen centric grass-root process to establish the vision, acknowledge needs and pave path towards addressing those needs.

Until now, various consultation meetings with municipal representatives along with citizen involved Focus Group Discussions in all wards of the

aforesaid municipalities have been completed.

Analysis of municipalities' Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats (SWOT) have been established.

The next step towards the Comprehensive Planning process will include policy formulation, vision statement making and compilation of sectoral plans based on data received from FGD, SWOT analysis, objectives and policy validation with inputs from sectoral experts. After the formulation of Comprehensive Plan draft, intensive discussions will follow in the form of

ward level town hall meetings. Draft plans will be followed by public hearing conducted by Citizen Advisory Council (CAC) to ensure all citizen have additional opportunities to instill ownership.

Comprehensive Municipal Plan will encompass various sectors of municipality such as: Land Use & Settlement, Health, Security, Disaster and Emergency Response, Transportation, Education, Local Economy Development, Public Works, Environment & Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation, Heritage Conservation, Gender Equality & Social Inclusion (GESI), Transparency & Accountability.



### Public Finance Management

As a part of development of Municipality Revenue Improvement Plan (MRIP), COMMITTED will continue to monitor such plans as well as conduct town-hall meetings with the intent to make public finance transparent to the general public. The objective of this activity is to garner citizen trust, thereby improving own source revenue.

### Commencement of Phase III of EnLoG-SDEG

Marked for 2020 is the commencement of the third phase of our ongoing multi-year project EnLoG-SDEG. Phase III project will comprise of activities based on Phase II Comprehensive Municipal Plans. The Phase III activities include Land Use and Development, Local Economic Development and Municipal Data Management.

## Community Members Interested - COMMITTED



400/41 Kamaladi Road  
GPO Box 2547 Kathmandu Nepal



+977 4259759 | 4221507



[admin@cmiNepal.org](mailto:admin@cmiNepal.org)



[www.cmiNepal.org](http://www.cmiNepal.org)



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