

Annual Report 2020



'Strengthening Local Governments'

Letter from the Executive Director



Dear COMMITTED Supporters,

I am pleased to present you with our Annual Report for the year 2020.

I would like to begin by thanking our generous patrons for your continued support throughout the difficult times of 2020. It has been a very difficult year for all of us, yet we have all braved the dire situations and come out of it stronger and more determined to do better in 2021.

It gives me great pleasure and pride to say that COMMITTED has strived to perform their best and have completed all projected activities of 2020 regardless of the long pandemic lockdown and fear of the virus looming over our head during the last ten months of 2020.

During the first few months of the pandemic, our GIS team was able to produce vital maps and information needed for Covid-19 preparedness in Tikapur, Tansen, Waling, Damak and Bhimeshwor municipalities. This information was very helpful and effective in planning for the distribution of relief materials and identifying people in need of critical care.

We have successfully completed the preparation of Comprehensive Plans of all five municipalities after an intensive process of SWOT analysis, priority and policy validation and public hearings on the issues relevant to the municipalities. The final comprehensive plans have been printed and officially handed over to the respective municipalities.

We have also worked extensively on reviewing their past and current Municipality Revenue Improvement Plans (MRIP), conducted workshop on enhancement of Transparency and Accountability Mechanism in Public Finance Management (PFM) and interaction meeting on role of Subjective Committees in PFM with focus on gender responsive budgeting. Some of these activities were conducted via Zoom during the lockdown period, while some activities were conducted on site, keeping in mind the safety measures of Covid-19.

We were also able to conduct orientation and training on Municipal Information Management System to all five municipalities. The Municipal Information Management System is a digital database system which supports municipality in proper resource management, organized service delivery, disaster management, effective planning and decision-making process.

A special thank you goes out to our staff members who have worked relentlessly during these difficult times, trying to meet deadlines and accomplish goals that were set out in the beginning of the year, not knowing the disruptions that were to follow in the coming months. Our deepest appreciation also goes to our Board Members who have supported and guided us throughout these difficult times.

Lastly, we wish to offer our sincere gratitude to our donors; Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs (DFAT) and The Asia Foundation (TAF), who believed in our work and kept us motivated and encouraged throughout this difficult times.

We wish everyone a successful and productive 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ritima'.

Sincerely,
Ritima Pradhan

About COMMITTED

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)

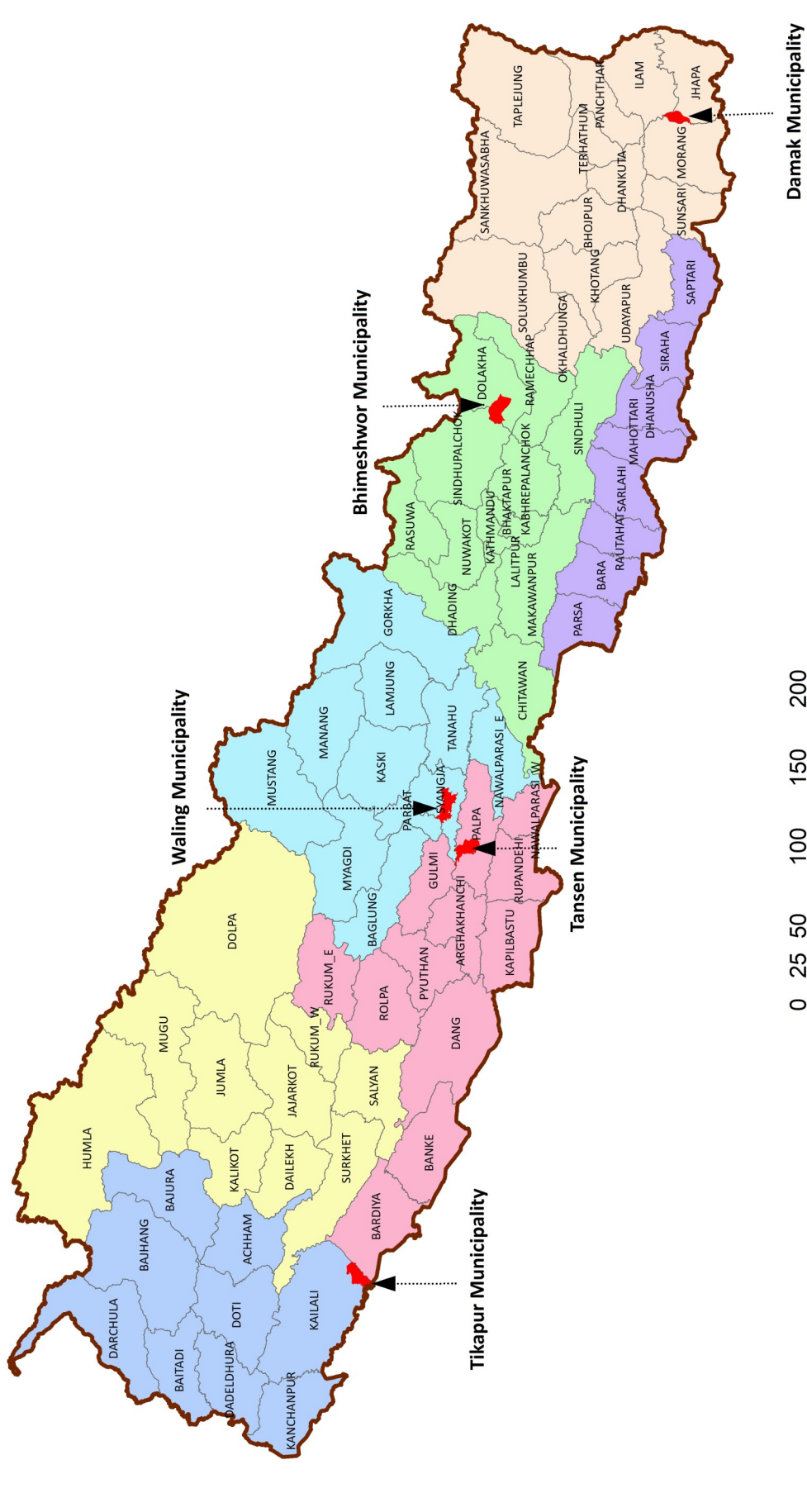
Improvements in the infrastructure, facilities, curriculum and extra-curricular activities are the primary focus of COMMITTED's School Improvement Program. In addition to other school related improvements, the program also attempts to align with Nepal Government's Department of Education's School Improvement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

COMMITTED Working Municipalities - 2020



Committed Working Municipalities

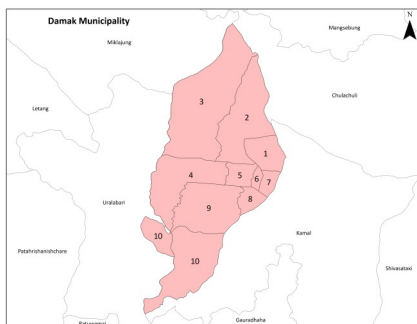
- Province-1
- Province-2
- Bagmati Province
- Gandaki Province
- Lumbini Province
- Kamali Province
- Sudur Paschim Province

Enhancement of local Governments Service Delivery & Economic Governance (EnLoG-SDEG) Project - Phase II & III

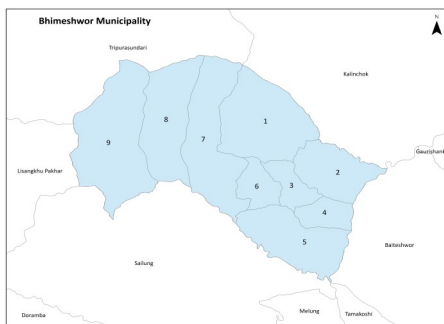


The project EnLoG-SDEG was initiated in July, 2017 in partnership with The Asia Foundation (TAF) and Australian Government - Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT). EnLoG-SDEG seeks to aid municipalities in addressing service delivery needs and economic development within their jurisdiction through tested planning development process and resource generation methods.

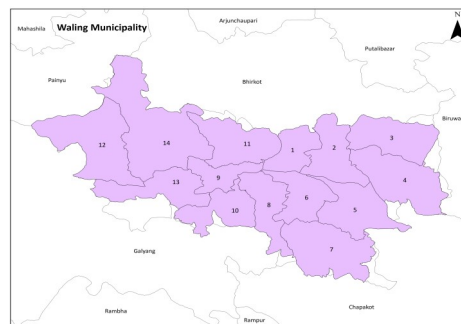
Working Municipalities



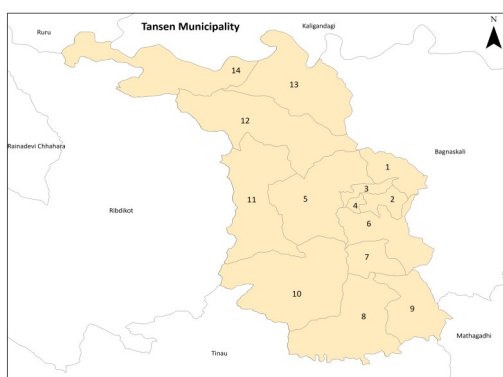
Damak Municipality– Province 1



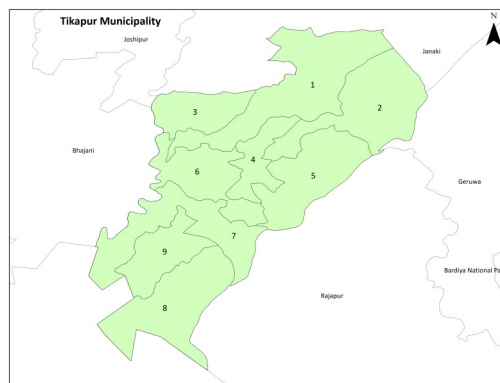
Bhimeshor Municipality– Bagmati Province



Waling Municipality– Gandaki Province



Tansen Municipality– Lumbini Province



Tikapur Municipality– Sudurpaschim Province

Municipal Comprehensive Plan

Municipal Comprehensive Plan is a legal and guiding document of municipalities sectoral policies, plans and programs. It was established through citizen centric grass-root process to establish the vision, acknowledge development needs and pave path towards addressing those needs. In the year 2020, COMMITTED published Comprehensive Plans of five municipalities namely: Damak, Bhimeshwor, Waling, Tansen and Tikapur.

These plans were prepared with extensive consultation meetings with municipal representatives, citizen involved Focus Group Discussions in all wards, analysis of municipalities' strengths, weaknesses, opportunities & threats, formulation of policies, compilation of sectoral plans, policy validations and inputs from sectoral experts.



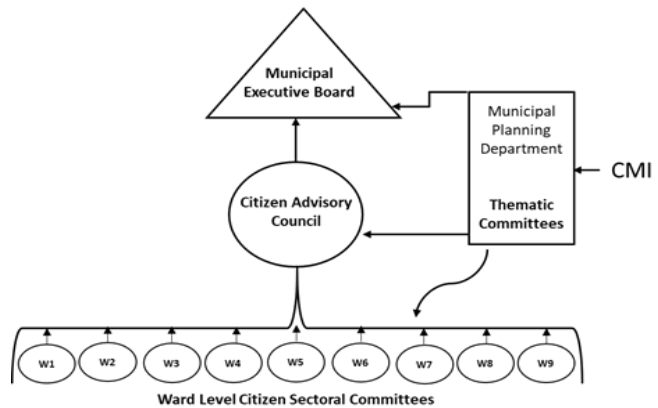
FGD in Waling Municipality



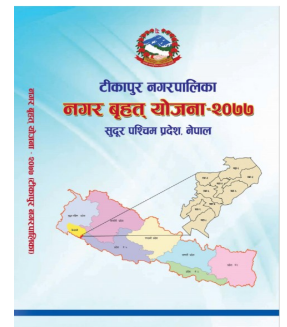
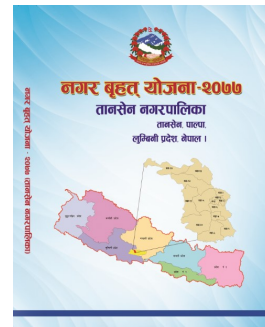
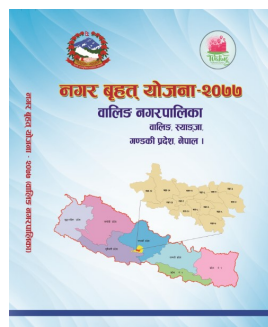
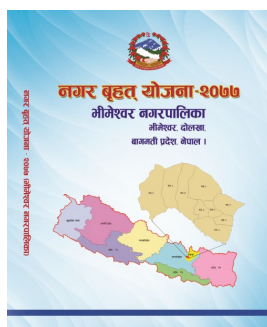
FGD in Bhimeshwor Municipality

Comprehensive Municipal Plan encompasses 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.

To ensure local citizens participation and ownership, Citizen Advisory Councils (CAC) were formed in all five municipalities and Ward Level Thematic Committees (WLTC) in each ward of the municipalities.



After the formulation of Comprehensive Plan draft, intensive discussions were carried out in the form of ward level town hall meetings. With necessary review and changes, draft plans were followed by public hearing conducted by Citizen Advisory Council (CAC) to ensure all citizen have additional opportunities to instill ownership. With final approval from the municipality, the comprehensive plans were printed and dispatched to the municipality office.



Public Financial Management (PFM)



Municipality Revenue Improvement Plan - Formulation & Review

COMMITTED assisted Tansen Municipality in formulation of its Municipality Revenue Improvement Plan (MRIP) and also supported Bhimeswor, Birendranagar and Amargadhi municipalities in the review of their MRIPs. MRIP helps municipality to acknowledge their existing revenue source, municipalities' expenditure heads and identification of own source revenue generation method.

Orientation on Role of Subjective Committees in PFM with Focus on Gender Responsive Budgeting

The municipalities of Nepal consist of subjective committees for various sectors such as 'Economic Development', 'Social Development', 'Infrastructure Development', 'Forest, Environment and Disaster Management', and 'Institutional Development and Governance'. However, even after three substantial years of decentralization, these committees were unaware of their roles in public financial management. Therefore, COMMITTED oriented all five municipalities on basic responsibilities of these subjective committees, their roles in sectoral implementation, and how the committee should function in Public Finance Management and Gender Responsive Budgeting. The session also included discussion on the available revenue generation source, how municipality can further bolster their revenue generation, execute their development needs and attain their priorities.

Due to Coronavirus disease and nation wide lockdown, these interaction meetings were conducted virtually via Zoom.

Enhancement of Transparency and Accountability Mechanism in PFM

COMMITTED conducted workshops on Enhancement of Transparency and Accountability Mechanism in Public Finance Management among five working municipalities. The major objective was to discuss on the ways to improve revenue transparency mechanism. As tax payers, citizens are concerned about how their taxes have been utilized by the municipality. Hence, it is very essential that the municipalities make their revenue sources, generated revenue and expenditures transparent to the general public.

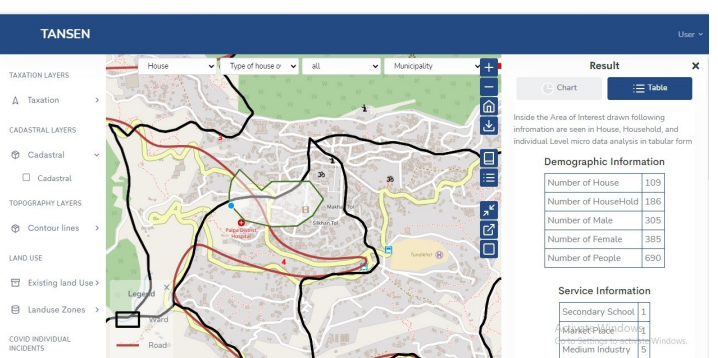
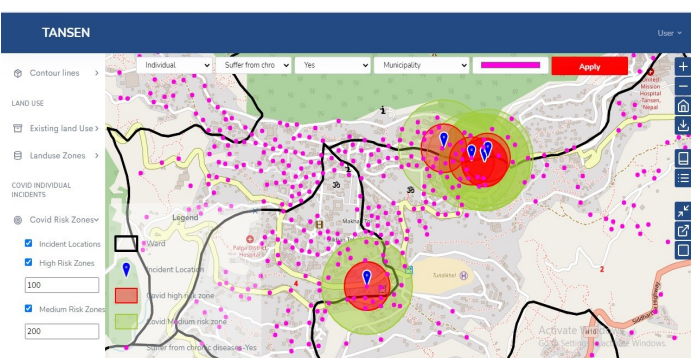
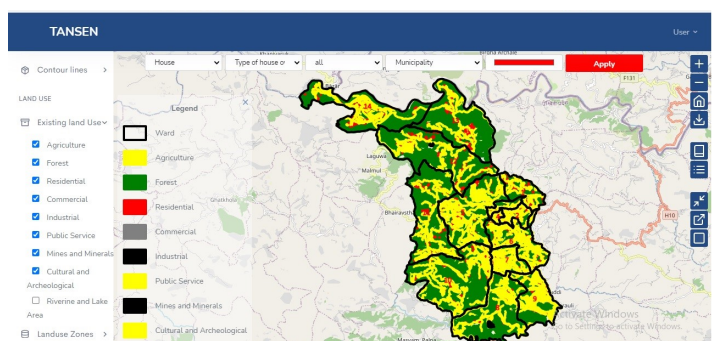
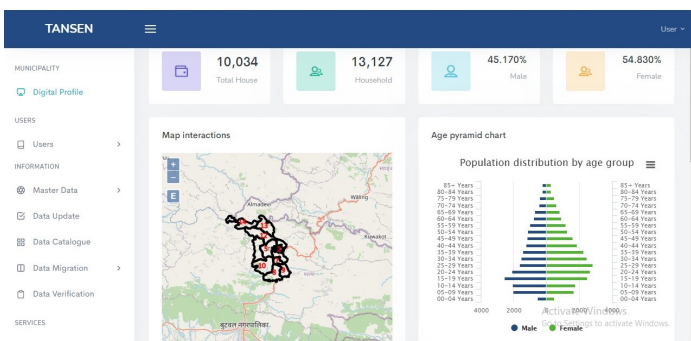
The session also included how municipality should address the needs and priorities of its citizen while executing development plans and also allocate budget accordingly during each fiscal financial forecast.

Municipal Information Management System



MIMS is a database management system that helps municipality to timely update and manage municipal data and also provides easier accessibility of required data in the forms of table, charts and maps. It is very instrumental for proper resource management, organized service delivery, disaster management, effective planning and decision-making process. COMMITTED conducted orientations and training on Municipal Information Management System (MIMS) at

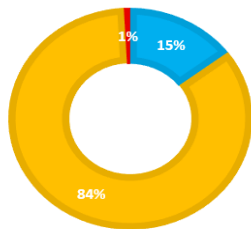
all five municipalities. The training was conducted among ward level participants including secretaries and computer operators, municipality staffs, sectoral heads, Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer. The orientation and demonstration of MIMS was conducted virtually through Zoom, whereas trainings and system handover were done in the respective municipality offices incorporating all COVID safety measures.



Financial Report



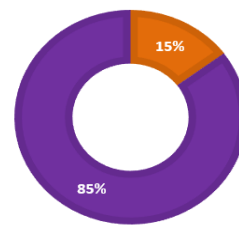
INCOME CHART



■ Donations ■ The Asia Foundation (TAF) ■ Interest Earned

EXPENSE DETAILS


■ Administrative ■ Project




Statement of Financial Income and Expenses		
July 17, 2019 - July 15, 2020 (FY:2076/77)		
INCOME:	NPR	US\$= 120
Donations	4,019,834.00	33,498.62
EnLoG-SDEG Project-TAF	23,023,460.00	191,862.17
Interest Earned	210,521.00	1,754.34
TOTAL INCOME	27,253,815.00	227,115.13
Administrative EXPENSES:		
Staff Salary & Provident Fund	2,441,030.00	20,341.92
Admin/Operating Expense (Not Covered by Projects)	1,578,804.00	13,156.70
PROJECT EXPENSES:		
EnLoG-SDEG Project	23,053,460.00	192,112.17
TOTAL EXPENSES	27,073,294.00	225,610.78



Community Members Interested - COMMITTED

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