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National Alliance for Human Rights and Social Justice – Nepal
(Human Rights Alliance)

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Eighth Central Committee Meeting

Kathmandu

Human Rights Alliance conducted its 8th Central Committee Meeting on 24 April, 2019. The meeting passed the organizational progress report and financial report presented by general secretary Dr. Padma Khatiwada. Under the program report, the Alliance has drafted upcoming strategic objectives based action plans of the Alliance for five years along with initiatives to be assimilated to achieve them. They include; strengthening organizational presence in districts; accountability monitoring; institutional capacity building; localization of human rights; investigation and monitoring on human rights violations; prioritize transitional justice; monitoring, sensitization and initiatives; provincial, local level civic-political dialogues; utilization of technology, dissemination of achievements; prioritize sustainable development goals.

Discussion was also made in the meeting regarding the contemporary issues prevalent in the country concerning with human rights, civic space and humanitarian issues. The meeting decided to issue press release expressing condolences to those who died in 'tornado' that caused massive loss in Bara and Parsa districts on March 31, 2019. The press release would also state the recommendation to the government for speeding up the reconstruction process.



Dr. Netra Timsina Advisory member of HRA, the special guest of the meeting, shared recommendation views in the meeting. He asserted that the Alliance has to step up further in human rights social justice sectors in coming days. Dr. Bijaya Dutt, was congratulated being appointed the Chairperson of Madhesi Commission of Nepal by the chairperson of the programme on behalf of organization.

Sameer Nepal, Senior Vice-Chairperson of the Alliance asserted for carrying out initiatives on human rights and social justice at local level by strengthening district chapters of the Alliance. Along with Board Members, Central Committee members were present in the meeting. Min Bahadur Shahi, Chairperson of the meeting shared that possible campaigns will be carried out by the Alliance for contributing in CSO related policy amendment by the state. Chairperson concluded the meeting and thanked all the participants of the meeting.

Civic-Political Dialogue on Four Years of Post-Quake Reconstruction & Aid Effectiveness

Kathmandu

Human Rights Alliance and HAMI collaboratively organized civic-political dialogue marking the four year of earthquake-2015 in Nepal on 24 April, 2019. Other partner organizations were NGO Federation of Nepal, Right to Food Network Nepal (RtFN), and Food-First Information & Action Network (FIAN) Nepal. The program was concerned with four years of post-quake reconstruction being aligned with status of reconstruction from socio-cultural perspective. In the program, papers were presented by the experts on concerning areas associated with post-quake reconstruction. Dr. Padma Prasad Khatiwada, Human Rights Alliance; Manohar Thapa, Deputy Spokesperson of NRA; Lily Thapa, Women for Human Rights (WHR); Nirmal Upreti, Forum for Nation Building (FNB) Nepal.

In the program, Dr. Netra Prasad Timsina SAAPE presented a paper on aid effectiveness status in reconstruction with his critical observation in the post-quake reconstruction process in Nepal. He asserted for following Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action. Ownership, harmonization, law abiding, result, mutual accountability are major principles to be assimilated in foreign aid mobilization and utilization process. This applies in the post-quake reconstruction process as international support has been received by the government.

Hon'ble Min Bahadur Shahi, Member of National Planning Commission and guest of the program viewed that overall reconstruction progress has been satisfactory. Dr. Chandra Bahadur Shrestha, Executive Committee Member of National Reconstruction Authority and guest of the program addressed the issues raised in the program. Guests Bed

Bhattarai, Secretary of National Human Rights Commission Nepal, Gauri Pradhan, Former Spokesperson of NHRC and Civil Society Activist considered that despite efforts made by the government in reconstruction, still marginalized and vulnerable communities are left out. Now, they have to be prioritized.

Representatives from governments, federations, different organizations that are working in reconstruction, media also shared their views on reconstruction that has not been up to the progress that people have been expecting. They asserted that despite efforts made by the government in reconstruction, social justice-based reconstruction is necessary by prioritizing the vulnerable and marginalized families. Overall, the program was successful to explore gaps in policies and challenges in reconstruction process in the communities. Social justice based reconstruction has to be major priority prioritizing the marginalized and vulnerable at first. The program was chaired by Pom Narayan Poudel, Vice-Chairperson of Human Rights Alliance.



Dialogue on Existing Status and Socio-cultural Issues in Post-quake Reconstruction

Nuwakot

Human Rights Alliance, HAMI and Samaj Sachetan Kendra, Nuwakot collaboratively organized policy dialogue on post-quake reconstruction process: existing status and socio-cultural issues on 9 April, 2019. Dhanendra Rijal, SSK, Nuwakot presented a paper on 'Post-quake reconstruction status Nuwakot: Challenges in socio-cultural issues'. The paper covered the existing problems and challenges in reconstruction faced by the affected people due to policy challenges and their effective execution along with current situational status in reconstruction in the district. In the program, Bidur subedi, HAMI presented initiatives of HAMI with reference the social rebuilding perspective in reconstruction reflecting overall issues that have been observed in both policy and practice. Rajendra Lohani, former parliament member and the chief guest considered there have been noticeable gaps in reconstruction process due to policy hurdles; hence, revisions in those policies are necessary. Apsara Thapa, Vice-Chair of District Coordination Committee, Nuwakot and Biki Lakha, Head of DLPIU, NRA, Nuwakot also presented

existing status of reconstruction accepting still a lot has to be done. The program was successful for exploring issues based challenges faced by the people in the district due to gaps in reconstruction related policies along with making the concerned stakeholders accountable so that necessary revisions in policies and their effective execution could be ensured. In the program, earthquake affected people; representatives from local level governments, government bodies, CSOs (donor agencies and non-governmental organizations) and media sectors

took part in the program. Participants of the program representing local level governments, different organizations, media and earthquake affected families also shared their observation and experiences in post-quake reconstruction in the district. Overall, the meeting culminated that there is need of timely completion of reconstruction in the district by ensuring cultural identity as well as putting into the priority to the marginalized and vulnerable families. The program was chaired by Yam Kumar Khati, Chairperson of SSK, Nuwakot.



Dialogue on Current Status and Socio-cultural issues in Post-quake Reconstruction

Rasuwa

Human Rights Alliance, HAMI and HRCDCR, Rasuwa collaboratively organized policy dialogue on 19 May 2019. The program was able to assess socio-cultural issues and progress in post-quake reconstruction in Rasuwa along with role of CSOs working in the district. Representatives from government (including National Reconstruction Authority, Rasuwa), local governments, CSOs working in the district, earthquake affected people took part in the program. The chief guest of the program was Debarshi Sapkota, Assistant Chief of the District Administrative Office (DAO) Rasuwa whereas other guests were Babu Lal Tamang, Chairperson of Nepal Red Cross, Rasuwa; Dr. Padma Prasad Khatiwada, General Secretary of Human Rights Alliance; Dibas Acharya DLPIU, Rasuwa. The program was chaired by Hem Nath Khatiwada, Human Rights Alliance, Rasuwa. In the program, Working Paper was presented by Biswas Nepali, Human Rights Activist from Dolakha. The paper covered post-quake reconstruction status focusing current scenario regarding socio-cultural issues observed in the district. Despite efforts made by the

government in reconstruction, still there are several problems and challenges emerged in the communities as marginalized and vulnerable families are not able to return back to their permanent houses due to policy gaps. Guests and participants asserted that reconstruction progress has relatively slow despite efforts made in the district. They considered that lengthy policy procedural cycle for victims for receiving tranches has created problem. There is need of ensuring relocation or resettlement that has to be based on demand of the people. Marginalized and the most vulnerable families have to be prioritized in

the reconstruction; hence, all the stakeholders have to be work together. Assertion was made for collaborative effort among government, CSOs and private sector. However, other single women below of that age have been neglected. Hence, post-quake reconstruction in Rasuwa will be taking noticeable time from now despite efforts made by the government, CSOs and people from the district. CSOs' contribution in the district has been crucial; hence, there is need consolidated efforts to address the challenges that have been observed in the district for timely and meaningful reconstruction.



Dialogue on Current Socio-cultural Status and Issues after Windstorm in Bara and Parsa Districts

Bara

HAMI and Human Rights Alliance, HAMI and Protection Nepal Bara collaboratively organized policy dialogue on June 13, 2019. In the program, windstorm affected people; representatives from local level governments, government bodies, CSOs (donor agencies and non-governmental organizations) and media sectors took part. In the program, Bidur Subedi, HAMI presented overall objective of the HAMI that has been working in humanitarian accountability monitoring campaigns in disaster affected areas; whereas, Om Prakash Giri from Protection Nepal, Bara and Govinda Poudel, Human Rights Activist presented a paper on "Existing Reconstruction Progress in Bara and Parsa after Windstorm: Challenges in Socio-cultural Issues". The paper covered the existing problems and challenges in Nepal Army led reconstruction faced by the affected people due to policy challenges and their effective execution along with current situational status in reconstruction in the districts. The program was chaired by Krishna Lama, Chair of Human Rights Alliance Bara chapter



The chief guest, Hon'ble Dr. Bijay Dutt, Chairperson of National Madhesi Commission shared his concern over quality and timely completing reconstruction process. He also asserted for need of installing technology to inform potential disasters so that necessary and formation of Natural Disaster Management Authority or Commission. Dr. Padma Prasad Khatiwada, General Secretary, Human Rights Alliance shared recent and ongoing humanitarian monitoring activities by HAMI. Paras Shah, Province 2 Assembly Member reminded encouraging contribution in humanitarian activities in relief distribution phase. However, reconstruction progress has not been as per the expectation. Collective groups of committee could be formed so that all of the stakeholders' active engagement could be ensured. Other guests and participants considered that despite commendable support from all the sectors during rescue and relief distribution phase, reconstruction process of led by the Nepal Army has not been without at criticism due to lack of unanimity in identification of actual beneficiaries creating tension on the communities. In the meeting, guests assured that raised issues in this reconstruction process after the storm in Bara and Parsa will be taken to the policy makers or decision makers. Meanwhile, HAMI and HRA team



members visit the affected one of the communities of Kalaya-18, Bhalwain community of Motisar, Bara. A brief informal interaction was held with the representatives from Nepal Army who were mobilized in construction of houses, beneficiaries, and affected but not included in the beneficiary list. There has been apparent discrimination while collecting data of beneficiaries as noticeable

number of families have been left out just because they have different political faith than the newly elected local level representatives (mainly Ward Chairperson) resulting cases of tensions among the people. There is need of providing livelihood based support to the affected families and awareness activities have to be carried out as well.

Interaction with Networks and Federations



Kathmandu

Human Rights Alliance and HAMI collaboratively organized interaction program on the role of CSOs in the context of damage caused by recent windstorm in Bara and Parsa districts as well as role in post-quake reconstruction after the 4th year of April 2015 earthquake. It was organized in collaboration with HRA. The meeting was organized on April 7, 2019 in Kathmandu. In the program, representatives from different network federations and organizations including NGO Federation; Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal; Association of Community Radio Broadcasters Nepal (ACORAB) Nepal; Alliance for Social Dialogue; Community Electricity User Groups; Association of Family Forest Owner's, Nepal; School Management Committee Federation of Nepal; Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Nepal; Forum for Protection of Consumer Rights-Nepal.

Bidur Subedi, HAMI presented a fact monitoring report prepared by collecting information from district chapters of Human Rights and HAMI networks working from the districts. It covered facts about damage caused by the windstorm of March 31 in the districts, relief distribution status, role of CSOs coordination with local government, and event to be

organized marking 4th year of the great earthquake. In the program, Jit Ram Lama, NGO Federation of Nepal and guest of the program considered that role of CSOs is crucial. Constructing resilient structures have to be ensured focusing the most vulnerable or marginalized communities. Bijay Kumar Dutt, the chairman of the Madhesi Commission and guest of the program praised for reflecting humanitarian support in unity in diversity. Subash Khatriwada, ACORAB, DB Karki, All Nepal Peasant's Federation, Sushila Bhusal, FPCRN, Tilttam Poudel, HAMI presented asserted for carrying out monitoring activities in disaster affected areas.

The program was able to handover the project's legacy along with the assurance of carrying out dialogue forum in coming days with the leadership of DCC. Those shared project's outcomes were praised by DDC chairperson and other guests of the program. They assured to assimilate those results in their respective units so that their local levels would ensure human rights friendly policies and practices. The DCC assured that it will continue with its leadership under dialogue forum approach with the aim of playing key role for making the concerned stakeholders accountable for ensuring human

rights-friendly policies and practices in the district.

The meeting was able to explore issues related to need of CSOs' monitoring for effective relief distribution committed by the governments and others; landless and farmers to be prioritized in relief distribution; need of quality of materials in distribution; challenges faced by women and children at the districts; need of equity based relief distribution; carrying out event to mark 4th year of the great earthquake. Rem Bahadur BK, HAMI and chair of the program stated that collected suggestions with regards to relief distribution will be prepared as consolidated report. An interaction event will be organized marking 4th year of the great earthquake aiming to making government and other stakeholders accountable in post-quake reconstruction.

Interaction on Human Rights Status and Issues of Protection to Adolescents



Nawalpur

Human Rights Alliance, Nawalpur District Chapter organized interaction program on human rights status and issues of protection to adolescents on 14 June, 2019. Participants from government bodies, CSOs, local governments, local people were present in the program. Guest and participants asserted to improve condition of human rights along with providing equal priority to protect the rights of the adolescents. Participants and guests demanded that local governments, political parties, police administration, other stakeholders have to work in collaboration for reducing the cases of violence to children, women, and adolescents in the communities. Krishna BK, Vice-Chair of Human Rights Alliance chaired the program and Dipak Sharma, Secretary of HRA moderated the program. Bhupendra Khanal, Advocate presented paper on existing human rights condition in the district. He asserted that para-legal committees, other community based organizations, and individuals have to be active for supporting the government bodies and other stakeholders to be active in reducing the human rights cases; specifically, focusing adolescents and children. Collaborative efforts will contribute to curb the prevalent cases of rape, child marriage, sexual harassment and so on. And, political protection should not be to those culprits. Milan Dharel, Human Rights Activist viewed that all citizens are equal in front of the constitution and other policies; hence, reporting to the concern place for legal action in those violation cases have to be encouraged. In the program, Priti Bhusal, Sapane Poudel, Asha BK shared their views asserting adolescents have to be protected at home, school, community and public place so that they do not become victims of any violations. In the program, total 40 participants took part. Dhurba Poudel, Sub-Inspector of Rajhar Police Station shared his commitment to work for eliminating human rights based violations in the area. Khima Nanda Bhusal, Child-friendly Counselor; Raju Chapagain, HRA, Chandra Lamsal also presented their views in protection of rights of the adolescents.



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