

A summary of activities/partners supported since March 2017 under the Australian Government-The Asia Foundation Partnership in Nepal. The Partnership aims to promote an enabling environment for the development of strong, effective, and inclusive subnational governance in the country.

Note: The summary is not exhaustive and excludes activities under development.

Generating Evidence and Data on Subnational Governance

• Policy Dialogue Series

Regular series of informal policy dialogues among government representatives, development partners, and key stakeholders to identify and discuss salient issues in subnational governance.

• Survey of the Nepali People

Inter Disciplinary Analysts

An annual survey deployed during August-September, providing data on public perceptions of Nepalis that can be disaggregated to local government level.

• Reflections on a Survey of the Nepali People

Social Science Baha

A periodic companion volume to the annual survey that explores federalism and subnational governance issues in more depth.

Political economy audit of subnational governance

Nepal Center for Contemporary Studies

A biannual mixed-method audit of the political economy of ongoing governance transition in all seven provinces.

• Media Scrutiny for Local Governance

Center for Investigative Journalism (CIJ)

Production of a series of stories by monitoring and tracking the performances of newly elected leaders under a set of inquiries that will contribute to a broader narrative on federalism unfolding in the country.

Support for Nepal's Transition to Federal Governance

• Election Violence Monitoring

Collective Campaign for Peace; Democracy Resource Center Nepal Analyses and updates on electoral violence produced for each election cycle. Relevant reports can be found at http://democracyresource.org/political-violence-monitoring/.

• Election Observation

Citizens Campaign for Clean Elections

For phases 1 and 2 of local elections, 3,330 short-term election observers, 86 long-term observers, and 25 eminent observers were deployed.

Voter Awareness

BBC Media Action

Two episodes of Sajha Sawal program and seven public <u>service announcements</u> broadcast on Nepal Television, radio, and social media. \Box

• Engage Legal Practitioners

Nepal Bar Association; Office of the Attorney General

Examine and deliberate on major issues and intricacies of federal constitutionalism and the existing jurisdictional responsibilities of federal entities.

• Engage Human Rights Issues

Democracy for Freedom and Human Rights Institute

Support discourse between Former Commissioners Society and National Human Rights Commission on emerging challenges surrounding human rights provision, protection, and promotion in a federal context.

• Strategize Law and Order in a Federal Context

Samarpan Academy

Design comprehensive policy guidelines for law and order agencies to establish functional links across central, provincial, and local governments.

• Regional Dialogue Forums

Backward Society Education Nepal; Dhanusha Sewa Samiti; Sahara

Expansion of regional dialogue (Sambad Samuha) program to help manage socioeconomic and political disputes in conflict hotspots in all seven provinces.

Mediation

Community Mediators Society; Natural Resource Conflict Transformation Center-Nepal; Tamakoshi Sewa Samiti; Mandwi and Association of Community Radio Broadcasters Baseline research to ascertain the impact of state restructuring on mediators and mediation centers, capacity building for local mediators, and expansion of mediation to new local governments.

• Support Capacity Development of Subnational Governments Nepal Administrative Staff College

Support engagement of public and private sector actors in designing a comprehensive program of capacity development for governance and service delivery by subnational governments.

• Strengthening Skills and Capacity of Elected Women Representatives in Local Governance Samjhauta Nepal

A needs assessment study to identify the skills, capacity and operational knowledge of newly-elected women representatives to inform the development of training/skills development curriculum, that are responsive to identified priorities.

• Province-level Consultation Workshops with Elected Local Leaders

National Association of VDCs in Nepal

Provincial-level consultation workshops in Provinces 3 and 4 participated by newlyelected chairpersons and vice-chairpersons from most rural municipalities of the respective provinces. • Revision of National Association of VDCs in Nepal Charter and Model Laws for Local Governments

National Association of VDCs in Nepal

Revision of National Association of VDCs in Nepal constitution and its regulations to reflect the restructured context which has established rural municipalities as local government units. Work with other institutions under the partnership to develop content and draft model laws for local governments' legislature on identified thematic areas from the provincial-level consultation workshops to use as templates for law making.

Discussions on Fiscal and Monetary Policy

Nepal Administrative Staff College

Workshop on the "Coordination between Fiscal and Monetary Policy" held on 23 June 2017 to help strategize institutional and operational arrangements for coordination of fiscal and monetary policy in a federalized context.

Improving Urban Service Delivery and Economic Governance

Municipal Profiling and Planning

Community Members Interested

Profile emblematic municipalities and establish a tested planning and development process to address urban service delivery challenges through innovative approaches, particularly in education and health.

• Framework for Subnational Infrastructure Investment and Development

VRock & Company

Assist in establishing the framework within which subnational infrastructure investment and development can flourish.

• Legal and Regulatory Support for Subnational Economic Growth

Kathmandu University School of Law

Establishment of KUSL Chair of Economic Law; legal support for drafting local economic laws and policies for economic growth.

• Policy Research, Analysis, and Dialogue on Subnational Economic Governance

Samriddhi Foundation

Create conceptual clarity and common understanding of policies for economic growth in select municipal governments using economic research and analysis.

Data for Local Government Decision-making

Bikash Udhyami

Generate evidence and data on subnational governance to support program partners in the implementation of data-related activities in municipalities.