

Government of Nepal
 Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development
Local Governance and Community Development Programme (LGCDP)
Regional Coordination Unit, Hetauda

UGE Monthly Accomplished Activity Report
 (Covers both Birgunj Sub-Metropolitan City + Pokhariya Municipality)

Name: Bitu Babu Shreevastav

Month/Year: December 2015

Position: Urban Governance Expert

Duty Station: Birgunj Sub-Metropolitan City

A.	Accomplished activities in the month
1.	<p>Daily office business:</p> <p>Due to intensive and continuous bandha, strike by madhesh based different political groups, parties since last four and half months till date, the overall ground situation of both Birgunj Sub-Metropolitan City (SMC) and Pokhariya Municipality shows that the socio-economic life of the people is extremely hampered and being crossing the climax level of depressed. In between ample clash between agitating groups and security forces occurred resulting more than a dozen of people injured seriously/ died, and disabling people. Nowadays people willingly feel to have progressive talks between agitating parties and government for opening of strike as soon as possible. A vacuum and termoidal situation in Birgunj and surrounding areas due to long awaiting series of unsuccessful talks/dialogues between the ruling parties / government and dialogue committee of agitating groups. Still the market remains closed (opens only in evening time), no any private and public vehicles (except two wheels and battery rickshaw, tempo) are running, and educational institutions allowed to open in morning time only without operating school buses. Local bodies (DDC, institutions, public locations, government offices (except administration and security), non-government units, public transportation etc. are totally closed since the starting time of strike and affecting directly the public services. The essential lifesaving items such as : medicines/drugs, gasoline, petroleum etc. are in massive shortage and the essential commodities prices such as rice, vegetables, lentils, and other food and non-food items are massively hiked price. Municipal main office and Ward offices not operationalized yet so that people would get easy and accessible public services. Ward secretaries are not in position to open their ward offices due to agitations and intensified strike. No tax, revenues are collected since last 4.5 months which created economically low performance (approximately 5 crore NRs loss) of municipality.</p> <p><i>Despite to intensive strike, continued bandh in municipal and surrounding areas, the following daily office business and programme activities are carried out in this month with UGE facilitation/coordination supports by following overall security of the working environment:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UGE facilitated and coordinated programme <i>planning and review meeting of overall social mobilization and upcoming programme planning and other development aspects of the municipality work</i>, organized by Birgunj SMC on 29th December 2015. The meeting decided to organize Bal Bhela of all wards on 2nd January 2016 for upcoming programme planning process for the f.y. 2073-74. • Social mobilization work is being continued at wards, CAC level with mobilization of LSPs. UGE facilitates the programme by following our safety first principle. UGE frequently coordinates and facilitates EO, municipality staffs, sectional focal persons/reporting persons and other sectional heads for functioning of LBs to continue providing public services even in strike period. • The preparation and completion of UCPA reports with indicator based information systems with final UCPA report (Both municipalities) prepared and shared with RCU/PCU/MoFALD; • UGE facilitated and coordinated LSPs coordinators, CSO, SM to assess the overall social mobilization works,



UGE facilitates Programme Review and Planning Meeting organized by Birgunj SMC

	<p>institutional supports to CAC, WCF, status of LIP, SIP, its linkage with other working agencies, programmes as well as writing of success cases stories of the programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The municipal website updated and progress report (quarterly) is being prepared and in process of updating on WBRS and municipal websites of both municipalities. • The introductory meeting organized with LSP of Gadhimai Municipality to get and well aware about the overall programme, progress status updates of the municipality. • Monitoring and supervision of the Program activities at field level are being continued in aligned with SD sections and coordinated with LSP coordinators also; • Monitoring and supervision works being made to assess the overall status of LIP, SIP, linkage with other agencies, working partners at ward level in both municipalities; but such initiations being made time to time by looking other overall security situation of the areas. • Municipal level interaction meeting and initiations are continued to analyze the key areas of MCPM indicators of the last evaluation and suggest for the running fiscal year; • A joint meeting of UGE and CSO organized to assess the overall status and work progress of LGAF at both municipality level; • Due to current intensive strikes, agitation and protests in madhesh, some planned activities could not accomplish. However, the meetings with LSP and CSO were accomplished over the period. • Oriented SMs adjoining with LSP coordinator to strengthen existing CACs, WCFs and other LIP activities ; • Regular follow up support/facilitation to SM, CACs,WCF, all concerned sections of Birgunj SMC for effective and timely public service delivery system smoothness; • Presentation, inputs and reports (quarterly of current F.Y. and last FY status), issues and challenges, accomplishment etc. prepared and participated in "Mentoring and Interactive meeting organized by LGCDP/RCU, Hetauda in Sauraha, Chitwan, dated 18-19 December 2015. • Regular support the RCU/PCU-MoFALD for providing information, reports as per needed and strengthen coordination linkage... 	
2.	<p>Field visit and observation: The present security situation is not providing the environment for field visit and observation freely. Despite of such things an occasional field visit and observation made jointly with SD section and LPS coordinators forward level activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Visited to municipal wards/communities to assess overall CAC, WCF status, orient about group strengthening, LIP, SIP smooth implementing and linkages with other working agencies for further in situation development; ➤ Field visit carried out in some wards, and briefed about bal bhela and its linkage with bottom up programme planning process ; ➤ Visited to key non government line agencies/offices , projects (NGO CC, DDC, DFO, CBOs) for their coordination, cooperation with CAC, WCF and ward level development activities and strengthening public accountability ;. ➤ Visited to STIUEIP/ADB (implemented by Birgunj SMC) project office and participate the progress review and planning meeting; 	<p>For DGE</p> <p>a) Visited VDC in this month: (Name of visited VDC,.....)</p> <p>b) Visited VDCs so far (Cumulative)</p> <hr/> <p>For UGE:</p> <p>a) Visited CAC/WCF/Ward Office in this month...5 CAC, 4 WCF (Ward no.1,2,3,12, 15)</p> <p>b) Visited CAC/WCF/Ward Offices so far 30 (Cumulative)</p>
3.	<p>Interaction and meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UGE facilitated and coordinated programme <i>planning and review meeting of overall social mobilization and upcoming programme planning and other development aspects of the municipality work</i>, organized by Birgunj SMC on 29th December 2015. The meeting decided to organize Bal Bhela of all wards on 2nd January 2016 for upcoming programme planning process for the f.y. 2073-74. • Bal bhela organized in Pokhariya Municipality on 31st December 2015 in coordination with UGE. • UGE frequently coordinates and facilitates EO, municipality staffs, sectional focal persons/reporting persons and other sectional heads for functioning of LBs to continue providing public services even in strike period. • UGE facilitated and coordinated LSPs coordinators, CSO, SM to assess the overall social mobilization works, institutionalizational supports to CAC, WCF, status of LIP, SIP, its linkage with other working agencies, 	

	<p>programmes as well as writing of success cases stories of the programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A joint meeting of UGE and CSO organized to assess the overall status and work progress of LGAF at both municipality level; • An introductory meeting organized with LSP of Gadhimai Municipality to get and well aware about the overall programme, progress status updates of the municipality. • Municipal level interaction meeting and initiations are continued to analyze the key areas of MCPM indicators of the last evaluation and suggest for the running fiscal year; • A programme briefing , circulars, letters of instructions for the F.Y. 2072-73 (as sent from MoFALD) is briefed among all concerned staffs of all 3 municipalities (Birgunj, Pokhariya, Gadhimai) and work initiated to accomplish such set priorities/activities accordingly. • A programme planning meeting needs to be organized for how to initiate the efforts from community level/ward level for bottom up planning process for next fiscal year in both municipalities; • Regular meeting with SM (Social mobilizers) organized for their roles, backstopping to CACs, WCF and ward level functionaries regarding upcoming programmed planning process; overall public service delivery needs and delivery during strike period and how to provide public service even in strike time;
4.	<p>Training participation/Facilitation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ UGE coordinated and facilitated the orientation programme on “Approved programme of F.Y. 2072-73 and Social mobilization aspects” organized by both municipality (Birgunj and Pokhariya). ➤ UGE facilitated SM/LSP and CSO coordination meeting to assess the overall situation and gear up the programme activities in the municipal areas; ➤ Due to continuous strike by madhesh parties, no any formal training programs organized in municipality. But some orientation and review meetings continued about how to make effective public service delivery and smooth operation of LIP, SIP schemes etc.
5.	<p>Others (Specify): no any specific due to intensive strike...</p>
B. Issue and learning	
1.	<p style="text-align: center;">Major issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Due to Intensive strike, bandh, padlocked by diff. madhesh based political parties since last 4 and half months till date affects directly in following major actions : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Public service severely affected : Govt. public offices totally closed (except Security, administration, hospitals and some humanitarian wings..); school, market, transport, service center almost total closed; school opened in morning time (6-11:30 am) without transport since last 1 month... ❖ Ward offices, municipal office closed; emergency basis work-by personal contact; ❖ Infernal revenue swapped down by approximately 5 crores NRS. ❖ Regular sanitation work hampered due to petroleum and diesel scarce; ❖ Physical construction works not initiated/stopped since last 4.5 months. ❖ Programme planning process for F.Y. 2073-74 not initiated yet (except some work in national highway corridor...); ❖ Staff irregularity/long absenteeism in duty due to strike... ❖ Irregular meetings : WCF, CAC due to bandhs; ❖ Income promoting schemes (LIP, SIP) massively hampered due to bandh; difficult to collect and deposit installment amount due to closure of financial institutions... ❖ almost every means of livelihood of civilians closed; ❖ Loss of daily wagger employment; increase in criminality, theft, robbery... ❖ Triple times price hiked in every commodity; Scarce : petroleum, gasoline, ❑ Massive committee formation practices existed and for each and every theme EO should take chairmanship that creates EO overloaded , not in position to participate actively in all events, meeting, decisions... ❑ FRR (Fiduciary Risk Reduction) work not fully initiated; Accrual Accounting System not in function ❑ Social Security Allowance Distribution – Banking system still not functioning properly;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer of EO frequently; long absenteeism during bandh... <input type="checkbox"/> IT/reporting and communication functions still not internalized; <input type="checkbox"/> Matching fund for big/national level project (STIUEIP/ADB) <input type="checkbox"/> Attitude change of people & staffs ?? <input type="checkbox"/> E-governance not in full practices/ Red-tapism, Quality lab not working... <input type="checkbox"/> The scheduled program activities of Local Governance and Community Development (LGCDP) are also badly affected due to long intensive bandh and strike. The meeting of WCF is postponed. WCF members are not interested to held meeting but some members of CAC are participated in ReFLECT session. The economic activities of LIP and SIP are totally broken down.
2.	<p>Learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ After looking the intensive strike and overall security scenario , It is massive difficult to accomplish and manage programme activities when the situation is beyond our control; ➤ Despite of many circumstances, difficulties and shortages, the peoples coping the situation and struggling for the life survival by purchasing the essential items of black marketing paying 3-4 times more prices; ➤ LIP, SIP schemes supporting more to the life of women, excluded groups of CAC, WCF and ward level people.
C.	Way forward
1.	<p>Suggestions and recommendations:</p> <p>Looking the overall LGCDP programme and LBs regular programmes, it is important to hold the staff meeting of the LBs and discuss/talks about the existing situations, what can be done, what needs to be shifted for a bit, which is critical works etc. need to be completed within allocated time etc. A progress review meeting for the 1st quarter of calendar needs to be organized to share the progress and issues/challenges to be addressed soon. Such meeting should be organized with participation of LBs sectional heads, key staffs, UGE, ICTV, RCU representative to assess and review the overall situation, look the progress, re-designed and outline the programme implementation plan and schedule accordingly. In respect of time, the coordination meeting (with facilitation of UGE) between LSP,SM and municipality staffs is also required to normalize/resume the programme activities in working areas. And UGE is regularly facilitating such coordination and programbe meetings.</p> <p>Some key suggestions and ways forward/recommendations :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Mobilization initiations needs to be continued with full efforts for which LGCDP supports required conituously in present strike time and vacuum/absenteeism of local elected bodies to provide public service smoothly and effectively; • EFLG/CFLG/GESI and cross cutting issues/works/programmes – need to work in reality (real budgeting-implementation-impact.. Review...) • Study on ways and means/machineries for Internal Revenue increase. • Transparency/accountability tools implementation in full phase... • PPP concept implementation in most of the public service sectors (i.e. Sanitation, infrastructure construction/development. <p>In the same line, the Indo- Nepal relation should be revitalized through diplomatic ways/dialogue between two governments. Because it will help to continue supply of essential items for resuming the normal public life and operationalization of halted physical programme activities in the municipal areas. As well as it is observed that the existing situation is beyond the capacity of the LBs and program so that it is needed to review on the program activities that approved for the running FY and re-designed the new implementation plan for the remaining period with available time, capacity and resources in the local bodies/municipality.</p>

Date of submission: 1st January, 2016

Signature:

