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Capacities for Peace Nepal

EWER Quarterly Report - III

Based on information collected for September - November 2015

Background

This report provides an overview of the situation of civil rights, the possible sources of conflict and ways to mitigate them in Nepal for the period from 1 September 2015 through the end of November 2015. It is prepared on the basis of information provided by five civil society representatives from the five development regions of Nepal. Information was gathered under the headings of Governance, Social Cohesion/Tension, Political Tensions/Mobilization Resource Conflicts, Transitional Justice/Access to Justice, Post-earthquake aid distribution and recovery-related tensions/conflicts, and Trends. The information received under these headings has been analyzed and the findings are presented in the following report.

Summary findings:

- **Due to strikes and bandas called by political parties, public access to administrative services was affected and citizens were not able to receive said services. Similarly, obstruction created by United Democratic Madheshi Front (UDMF)'s sit-in program along the Indo-Nepal border entry points and the blockade was also found to affect access to services.**
- **Impunity and patriarchal social norms hindered an effective fight against incidents of discrimination and violence against women. Thus, cases of physical and sexual violence against women and children continued to be reported for the period under review. There were also some cases of ill-treatment against women for allegedly practicing 'witchcraft'.**
- **Similar to previous reports, caste-based discrimination and the issue of 'untouchability' were still prevalent. In particular, some Dalits were discriminated against; as a result they were treated poorly and in some instances humiliated publicly.**

- **Public opinion was highly divided in regards to political strikes and agitations in the Madhesh, protests and the obstruction at border check-points. An undercurrent of bitterness is reported to have developed within the community as a result. Public debate was polarized either for or against these political activities. However social relations among various groups remained largely amicable. Some attempts for maintaining social harmony were also observed.**
- **As previously reported, violence in the Terai increased in the context of the movement called by UDMF and the state's response, resulting in death, serious injuries to demonstrators, and damage of physical property during this period.**
- **Many victims of the armed conflict were found to have received partial relief, though some have yet to receive any at all. However their hope for justice still prevails despite relative inaction of state authorities to address their problems.**
- **Though earthquake-affected survivors received immediate relief, many are yet to receive short-term and long-term relief. Survivors suffering from the risks associated with rain, hailstones, landslides, etc. during the monsoon season were facing problems such as lack of warm clothes and food, among other things, with the start of winter.**

Section 1- Governance-related issues

Due to strikes and bandas called by political parties, public access to administrative services was affected and citizens were not able to receive said services. Similarly, problems created by UDMF's sit-in program along the Indo-Nepal border entry points and the blockade was also found to affect provision of services.

UDMF were enforcing their indefinite strike which started 17 August 2015 and continued throughout this reporting period (1 September - 30 November 2015). As a result, service seekers were deprived of a number of government services, since the government offices in the southern belt of the Madhesh remained closed (Quarterly report- Peace Action Group [PAG], Mid-West University, and Informal Sector Service Centre [INSEC]'s Central Region, Western Region and Far Western Region).

Facilities provided by the state were also badly affected due to strikes and the blockade. The Chief of the Vaccination Section within the Public Health Office, Kalaiya mentioned that pregnant women and infants in 19 Village Development Committees (VDCs) in Simraungadh area were unable to get immunizations as a result of the vehicular strike and the shortage of vaccines (Quarterly report- INSEC Central Region). Reportedly, government's activities in the southern VDCs of Rupandehi district were halted and in six VDC offices, agitators attempted to burn, demolish or padlock the office buildings. The Information Officer in Rupandehi District Development Committee (DDC) reported that the VDC offices in Marchawar area were padlocked and some VDC Secretaries complained about the insecure working environment (Quarterly report- INSEC Western Region).

The education sector in the Madhesh was also affected due to the on-going agitation and it was said that there was negative impact on the children's education. Though there was no vehicular movement within the districts in the Madhesh, local administration was found to have managed long distance travel by providing additional security to escort vehicles (Quarterly report- PAG, Mid-West University, and INSEC's Central Region, Western Region and Far Western Region).

In addition, UDMF's sit-in program at border check points created a fuel shortage, which directly or indirectly affected a variety of state-services to the citizens. Health posts and hospitals across the country suffered from reduced supply of medicine and oxygen. There were problems in health posts all over the country due to shortage of medicines that the government provides free of cost. Ambulance services were also affected. For instance, a woman with a needle stuck in her uterus during delivery operation in Jajarkot district was brought to Nepalgunj only after 14 days (Quarterly report- Mid-West University).

Acute shortage of fuel and food due to the blockade caused a state of crisis everywhere across the country. Black marketeering and price hikes for basic commodities were also observed in different parts of the country. Low quality fuel and food were openly sold in the market. Efforts of the local administration to curb such irregularities and punish those involved were found to be lacking or ineffective (Quarterly report- PAG, Mid-West University, and INSEC's Western Region and Far West Region).

In a number of VDCs of different districts, VDC secretaries, Health Post in-charges and Junior Technical Assistants were found to be absent throughout the reporting period, negatively affecting state services to citizens in the respective areas. The number of appointed VDC Secretaries in some districts is less than the positions to be filled. As a result, in some instances, one secretary has to look after 2 or 3 VDCs. For example in Rasuwa, there are only 7 VDC Secretaries appointed to look after all 19 VDCs in the district. In addition, in some instances citizens are compelled to travel to the district headquarters to seek state services as VDC Secretaries operate from the district headquarters, negatively affecting public services (Quarterly report- INSEC Central Region).

Section 2 - Social Cohesion/ Tensions

Impunity and patriarchal social norms hindered an effective fight against incidents of discrimination and violence against women. Thus, cases of physical and sexual violence against women and children continued to be reported for the period under review. There were also some cases of ill-treatment against women for allegedly practicing 'witchcraft'.

Cases of rape, attempted rape, public humiliation, manhandling and murder of women were reported in various parts of the country. In the Central Region under the period of review, a woman in Makwanpur district and a girl in Mahottari district were murdered after rape. Similarly, in Sindhupalchowk, one woman was raped, and a girl was found to be a victim of attempted rape. Altogether, 11 girls were reported victims of rape or attempted rape in the region, one case each in Dhading, Mahottari and

Chitwan districts and two cases each in Nuwakot, Makwanpur, Dolakha and Bara districts (Quarterly report- INSEC CR). Cases of rape and attempted rape targeting women and girls were also reported from other districts, such as from Taplejung, Ilam, Panchthar, Khotang, and Kaski, amongst others (Quarterly report- PAG, INSEC Western Region).

Similarly, the Nepal Police was investigating an alleged case of child marriage in Makwanpur and a polygamy case in Ilam. In both cases, women were the main victims (Quarterly report- INSEC Central Region and PAG).

Socio-cultural superstitions and traditions that oppress and discriminate against women continue to permeate Nepali society, with allegations of practicing 'witchcraft' being only one of them. Thus, cases relating to accusations of '*witchcraft*' and physical abuse targeting women in this context were found also in this reporting period. For instance, on 23 September 2015, a woman and her family members were physically abused by her neighbors at her home at Giddhabelapatti VDC-8 in Dhanusha district. According to the victim she was accused of being a *witchcraft* practitioner and of killing her neighbor's son, who had actually died of poisoning. A similar case was reported from Nuwakot district, where a woman from Samari-4 was beaten up and fed human excreta by some community members on 22 September 2015 who accused her of being a '*witch*'. Another woman at Latu of Chokati VDC-6 in Sindhupalchok district was also reported to have been physically abused for allegedly practicing '*witchcraft*'.

In Nepal, the practice of '*untouchability*' is practiced not only on the basis of caste, but also in terms of gender. Women are considered impure and as such treated as '*untouchable*' during their menstruation period. One case where a woman was restricted from touching the public tap during her menstruation cycle was reported from Kalikot district (Quarterly report- Mid-West University).

Similar to previous reports, caste-based discrimination and the issue of '*untouchability*' were still prevalent. In particular, some Dalits were discriminated against; as a result they were treated poorly and in some instances humiliated publicly.

Though caste-based discrimination and the practice of '*untouchability*' are legally punishable, these practices are still prevalent in Nepali society. One such incident was observed in Dolakha district, where a woman from a Dalit community, working as an assistant at a primary school, was reportedly publicly humiliated within the school premises because of her caste by a resource person under Kalinchok Higher Secondary School Resource Center on 11 September 2015. The resource person, a woman belonging to a traditionally upper caste, was there for school supervision and she drank water given by the school assistant. When she found out that the school assistant belonged to a Dalit community, the resource person proceeded to verbally abuse her for 'daring' to serve water to a Brahmin (Quarterly Report - INSEC Central Region).

Public opinion was highly divided in regards to political strikes and agitations in the Madhesh, protests and the obstruction at border check-points. An undercurrent of bitterness is reported to have developed within the community as a result. Public debate was polarized either for or against these political activities. However social relations among various groups remained largely amicable. Some attempts for maintaining social harmony were also observed.

There were many clashes between security forces and agitators during the on-going Madhesh movement. In Jaleswor of Mahottari district, security forces shot four people on 9 September 2015. In return, agitators requested local house-owners through a Dhanusha-based Youth Club to boycott police personnel and stop renting houses to them. Similarly, a journalist's house was vandalized in Janakpur Sub-Metropolitan city Ward-4 on 12 September 2015, as he had provided drinking water to Nepal Police personnel (Quarterly report- INSEC Central Region).

Additionally, there were contradicting views on the same incidents in various media outlets during the Madhesh movement. This led in some instances to tensions between journalists and agitators. There were instances where Madheshi protesters were involved in physical abuse of some journalists and media houses as they accused them of biased reporting, publishing and/or broadcasting news against their movement. An editor of a weekly newspaper published from Krishnanagar in Kapilvastu district was reportedly beaten by UDMF cadres on 28 September as they were not happy with the content of the newspaper. In a press release, the Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ) condemned this incident and also warned of boycotting the news of the Madhesh movement until UDMF punishes those involved in the physical abuse.

In another incident on 26 November 2015, a petrol bomb was thrown at the Radio Parasi station building in Nawalparasi district and a motorcycle parked there was burnt. According to the Managing Director of Radio Parasi, the incident took place hours after a threatening phone call was received where an unidentified person had complained about the news dissemination, which was perceived to be against the Madhesh movement.

Similarly, copies of a daily newspaper published from Kapilvastu and another daily newspaper from Butwal were reportedly burnt in Jahadi VDC of Kapilvastu district, due to an allegation of publishing and distributing newspaper whilst disobeying the strike called by the UDMF (Quarterly report- INSEC Western Region).

On 20 September 2015, Madheshi demonstrators vandalized FNJ's office building in Birganj. Similarly, Birganj bureau chief and a reporter of Avenues Television were physically attacked by demonstrators in Birganj on 9 October 2015. The demonstrators reportedly attacked them for mentioning that the participation of protesters in the Madheshi protests was in 'thousands' instead of 'hundreds of thousands of people' while reporting live from Adarshanagar Chowk in Birganj (Quarterly report- INSEC Central Region).

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Network of Civil Society for Peace and other organizations working for human rights monitored the demonstrations and requested that the protests are peaceful in order to ensure the basic rights of every citizen. In order to maintain the social harmony, a goodwill rally led by civil society was conducted in which various organizations in Kaski district participated (Quarterly report- INSEC Western Region). In the context of the perceived rising tension between Pahadi and Madheshi communities, an attempt to promote harmony was observed in Kathmandu. In order to maintain the social harmony, Madheshi and Pahadi individuals were paired in 35 pairs and were involved in invoking a traditional friendship relation (a Nepali cultural practice called *Mit Laune*) on 10 October 2015. According to All Nepal Free Student Union's Central-level Secretary, this '*mit laune*' program was conducted to reduce the bitterness arising out of the on-going Madhesh movement caused by dissatisfaction about the constitution and to convey a message that people from Madhesh and Pahad are brothers/sisters. Later, such initiative was duplicated in Birganj as well. Similarly, youth students belonging to different communities demonstrated during a rally in Baneshwor wearing Madheshi traditional clothing. This was organized to communicate the message of unity between Pahadi and Madheshi people. The participants in the rally carried placards written 'My Janakpur', 'My Nepal', 'My Lumbini' and similar slogans for other districts (Quarterly report- INSEC Central Region).

Section 3 – Political Tensions/ Mobilizations

As previously reported, violence in the Terai increased in the context of the movement called by UDMF and the state's response, resulting in death, serious injuries to demonstrators, and damage of physical property during this period.

After the promulgation of the new constitution on 20 September 2015, many political parties celebrated with candle lights to welcome the new constitution. Meanwhile, Madhesh-based parties and pro-Janajati parties demonstrated against it, stating that the new constitution did not address their demands. Madhesh-based parties had already been protesting the draft constitution through a joint front when it was released, the reasons of which were outlined in the previous EWER Quarterly report covering June – August 2015. Cadres from UDMF were reportedly seen with domestic weapons such as sticks, knives, swords, sickle, and spears during the demonstration and police were said to have used excessive force to control it. As a result of the security providers' use of force, demonstrators reportedly retaliated and vandalized government offices, public and private vehicles and also the house of some Constituent Assembly (CA) members (Quarterly report- PAG, INSEC Central Region, Western Region, and Mid-West University).

In Mahottari, Dhanusha, Rautahat, and Bara districts, agitators reportedly vandalized party offices of Nepali Congress (NC) and Communist Party of Nepal-United Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML). To control the protest from turning violent, District Administration Office declared Dhanusha, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Rautahat, Bara and Parsa as restricted zones. Reportedly the protestors defied the declaration, after which the local administration declared those areas as riot-hit areas. Further aggressive protests by the demonstrators in those areas apparently led the security providers to open fire (Quarterly report- INSEC Central Region).

Although UDMF were said to have claimed that the protests were peaceful, in many instances the protests took a violent turn. Adding to this, security providers' use of force to suppress the protests was seen to have contributed to an escalation of violence during the Madhesh protests. In one instance, Assistant Sub- Inspector Thaman Bahadur BK was injured at Shankar Chowk in Jaleswor of Mahottari district during a clash with UDMF protestors. According to the District Police Office, protestors stopped the ambulance carrying him, while he was being taken to Janakpur Zonal Hospital for further treatment, dragged him out and brutally killed him at Sonukhara in Mahottari district (Quarterly Report - INSEC Central Region).

In addition, many vehicles were vandalized and/or set on fire for defying the bandas. Even ambulances and trucks carrying medicines were reported to have been set on fire by the agitated demonstrators. During the three months (September –November) in the Central Region, the death tolls from clashes totaled 3, 6, 1 and 7 in Dhanusha, Mahottari, Bara and Parsa, respectively. Hundreds of protestors as well as security personnel were injured (Quarterly report- INSEC Central Region). UDMF's cadres were found to have vandalized and set fire to police posts in Dhanusha (7), Mahottari (4), Sarlahi (2), Parsa (2) and Kapilvastu (1) (Quarterly report- INSEC Central Region and Western Region).

Similarly, Limbuwan Struggle Committee including Federal Limbuwan State Council Party had called for an indefinite strike in nine districts located in the east of Arun River from 20 September 2015 protesting the new constitution. Claiming that their demands were not incorporated in the constitution, they burnt copies of constitution, staged torch rallies and organized a silent rally with black ribbon tied on around their mouth, among other means of protest. These protests had a negative impact on the market, mobility of people and the education sector for 3 days in those districts. Cadres of the Limbuwan Struggle Committee were found to have been involved in vandalizing a vehicle that was ferrying a physically-ill individual for defying the bandas. However, the market was declared open at a later date, as a result of forceful initiation taken by cadres from NC, CPN-UML and Unified Communist Part of Nepal (Maoists) [UCPN (M)] on 22 September 2015. NC, CPN-UML and UCPN (M) cadres also vandalized the office along with physically abusing some cadres of Federal Limbuwan State Council, while burning the flag of Federal Socialist Forum Party Nepal and chanting slogans against a single-identity federal state, i.e. Limbuwan state (Quarterly report- PAG). Another clash was reported to have taken place between cadres of UDMF and those of Chure Bhavar National Party while the latter tried to defy a bandas called by the former on 24 November 2015 in Fuljor of Sarlahi district (Quarterly report- INSEC Central Region).

Before the promulgation of the constitution, UDMF's movement was focused on street demonstrations. During these demonstrations, cases of violence as well as militarized responses from the state security providers were high, which resulted in increased death tolls and a comparatively high number of physical injuries. But, when the movement shifted to sit-in programs along the border check points, reactions from state security providers were reduced. Although the Madhesh movement was observed in all the Terai districts, it seemed to have gained more intensity in the east of Makawanpur district and west of Koshi River. Three rounds of negotiations and dialogues were organized between UDMF and the political representatives from the three parties (CPN-UML, UCPN [M] and RPPN); however, all of them ended inconclusively during this reporting period (Quarterly report- INSEC Central Region).

In terms of other political parties and groups, no significant activities were reported during this period. Communist Party of Nepal – Maoists (CPN-M) Biplav faction's spokesperson communicated that his party had sent objection letters to film producers, distributors, cinema hall and cable channel operators to stop broadcasting Indian television and to ban Indian films as a form of protest against what they perceived was an India-enforced blockade. CPN-M Biplav faction were found to have lobbied to stop the transmission of Indian television channels right after the blockade stating that the blockade was a direct intervention that attacked Nepal's sovereignty. The cable operators, however, had to continue the transmission as they purportedly received pressure from the Ministry of Information and Communication (Quarterly report- INSEC Central Region). CPN-M Biplav faction called one-day bandas on 29 November to 'protest the Indian blockade'. A bus was set on fire for defying the bandas in Banke district (Quarterly report- Mid-West University). Cadres of the Biplav faction reportedly captured a private plot of land by hoisting their party's flag in Pyuthan Municipality's Ward no. 6 in Pyuthan district on 20 November (Quarterly report- Mid-West University).

Section 4 – Resource Conflicts

There were no significant reports on resource-based conflicts during this period.

Section 5 – Transitional Justice/ Access to Justice Issues

Many victims of the armed conflict were found to have received partial relief, though some have yet to receive any at all. However, their hope for justice still prevails despite relative inaction of state authorities to address their problems.

The Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction- formed after the Peace Agreement in order to lead on the peace process in Nepal- apparently lacks accurate data of conflict-affected victims even eight years after the Comprehensive Peace Accord. The conflict-affected victims have not secured justice even after the government formed the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and Commission on Investigation of Enforced Disappearances (CIED) in order to provide justice to them. According to the conflict-affected victims, these commissions became practically defunct just a year after their formation, since there have

been no regulations drafted for them so far (Quarterly report- PAG, INSEC Central Region and, INSEC Western Region). On 27 September 2015 a team from the NHRC visited the victims and relatives of deceased people of the bus explosion during the armed conflict at Bandarmude in Madi of Chitwan district. Victims from that incident complained to the team about the lack of justice. Though the families of deceased people were supposed to have received one million Nepali rupees as relief fund, they received only five hundred thousand. The injured people from two families received two hundred thousand at a time and seven thousand per month while the other 16 injured people received only 40 thousand rupees once. NHRC reportedly mobilized three different study teams in Ramechhap, Chitwan and Dhading districts in September 2015. According to a member of the visiting team, the victims and their family members demanded the perpetrators to be punished as part of the process to achieve justice since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission had already been formed (Quarterly report- INSEC Central Region).

The Appellate Court in Mid-West, Surkhet upheld the decision made by the District Court in the on-going trial of journalist Dekendra Thapa from Dailekh, who was brutally murdered by the Maoists during the armed conflict. As a result of this verdict, other conflict-affected victims in Dailekh were reportedly optimistic they would receive justice for their cases too (Quarterly report- Mid-West University).

Though Nepal has been declared free of land mines, bombs abandoned during the armed conflict were found in Bardiya and Jumla district during this period. The bombs were diffused by a team from the Nepal Army.

Nepal Police during this period were apparently successful in investigating and apprehending perpetrators of many incidents of rape, provided they were reported, in the Mid- Western region. However, cases of rape being mediated and/or settled outside of the court were still found; for example, a rape case in Mugu district was settled outside of the state security and justice mechanism with cash payment being meted out to the victim. There were no legal procedures followed thereafter by the victim and the family resulting in impunity and a weak rule of law (Quarterly report- Mid-West University).

Section 6 – Post-earthquake aid distribution and recovery related tensions/ conflicts

Though earthquake-affected survivors received immediate relief, they are yet to receive short-term and long-term relief. Survivors suffering from the risks of rain, hailstone, landslides, etc. during the monsoon season were facing problems such as lack of warm clothes, food, among other things, with the start of winter.

People who were highly affected by the earthquake on 25 April and 12 May in 2015 are yet to receive adequate relief. The state is seen to have distributed initial relief to the survivors during this period. Survivors had fears of heavy rain, landslide and hail stones during the monsoon season and as such, hail stones towards the end of October damaged roofs made of tarpaulin sheets in the temporary shelters of survivors at Selang VDC-8, Baskharka in Sindhupalchok district, which resulted in severe physical difficulties for the survivors (Quarterly report- INSEC Central Region).

Schools in Gorkha have so far operated in temporary shelters made up of zinc sheets, tarpaulin and bamboo. Students have reportedly started to fall ill as the classrooms were hot due to their structure during summer. Students from Himalayan Higher Secondary School in Barpak VDC, Mahalaxmi Higher Secondary School in Taple VDC and Saraswati Higher Secondary School in Borlang VDC were found to have fallen ill due to the high temperature (Quarterly report- INSEC Western Region). Earthquake induced land fissures caused landslides, resulting in the displacement of 155 families in Duragau VDC in Ramechhap district (Quarterly report- INSEC Central Region). In the later weeks of this reporting period, survivors were worried about the cold temperature and the challenges of winter months since they lacked warm clothing and sufficient food. Among the survivors, elderly people and children were already found to have respiratory problems due to the cold (Quarterly report- INSEC Central Region and Western Region).

Assistance provided by the state to the earthquake survivors is thought to not have reached on time and the victims were facing many difficulties as a result of this delay. Earthquake-affected survivors from VDCs including Jaisithok, Nayagaun, Neta, and Musikot in Gulmi district complained that they did not receive any relief from the government (Quarterly report- INSEC Western Region). Such complaints were also heard in Nuwakot and Chitwan districts, with some community members from Vandara in Chitwan district reporting dissatisfaction with their local authorities. During this period, NHRC highlighted to the District Administration Office that victims in Haldekalika VDC in Nuwakot district have been deprived of relief even after five and half months of the earthquake. Survivors from Haldekalika VDC organized a sit-in protest in front of the District Administration Office on 12 October 2015 citing that the government had neither been able to donate Nepali rupees 15,000 for temporary shelter nor distribute identity cards to them so that they could receive further assistance to overcome the impact of the earthquake (Quarterly report- INSEC Central Region).

In Lamjung, relief food items were found to have been stored for a long time at the District Development Committee office and communities in Lamjung attributed this to the reckless attitude of the VDC Secretaries. This mismanagement was revealed when a team consisting of civil society leaders, journalists and human rights activists conducted a joint monitoring visit on 5 September 2015. According

to the monitoring team, those food items which were allocated to three VDCs were found inedible (Quarterly report- INSEC Western Region). Survivors at Hardeni VDC in Udaypur district on 9 September 2015 visited District Administration Office and complained that they were deprived of relief due to the negligence of the VDC Secretary. According to them, the VDC Secretary did not recommend those that were genuinely affected by the earthquake in order to receive relief packages but rather recommended individuals that were unaffected by the earthquake (Quarterly report- INSEC Central Region).

Health post infrastructure in various places were either destroyed or damaged due to the earthquake and this has affected the healthcare services. An example of this was found in Khaniyapani VDC, Ramechhap district where the health service had been discontinued through the reporting period because of the collapse of their previous health post. This has had a negative impact on the local communities as they are forced to either walk for longer periods or to go on without access to basic healthcare (Quarterly report- INSEC Central Region).

Acronyms:

CA – Constituent Assembly
CIED – Commission to Investigate Enforced Disappearances
CPN-M – Communist Party of Nepal - Maoists
CPN-UML – Communist Party of Nepal-United Marxist Leninist
CSAS – Centre for South Asian Studies
DDC – District Development Committee
FNJ – Federation of Nepalese Journalists
INSEC – Informal Sector Service Centre
NC – Nepali Congress
NHRC – National Human Rights Commission
PAG – Peace Action Group
RPPN – Rastriya Prajatantra Party Nepal
TRC – Truth and Reconciliation Commission
UCPN (M) – Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoists)
UDMF – United Democratic Madheshi Front
VDC – Village Development Committee

"Capacities for Peace" is a project undertaken in 32 countries by Saferworld and Conciliation Resources funded by the EU under the Instrument for Stability. The project aims to support local actors to undertake or take part in early warning and crisis response processes. The project started in September 2013 and will run until February 2016.

The Capacities for Peace project specifically aims to: 1) strengthen skills of local NGOs in conflict analysis and response strategies through training and practice; 2) develop collaborative relationships between in-country actors through advocacy training, creating and supporting civil society networks, briefings for international actors, and organizing conflict analysis seminars; 3) encourage effective use of conflict information and the analysis undertaken in Nepal through accompaniment and coaching of in-country stakeholders; 4) learn and disseminate lessons about local actors' role in generating preventive action and in responding to conflict.

In Nepal, Saferworld has been working in collaboration with the Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC), Nepal Madhesh Foundation (NEMAF), Human Rights Network and Peace Action Group (PAG) Nepal, Collective Campaign for Peace (COCAP)- NepalMonitor.org, Centre for South Asian Studies (CSAS) and the Conflict and Peace Studies Department within the Mid-Western University, Surkhet.

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