

# **Project Proposal**

## **Partnership between NDC, DNF and Local Dalit Organizations**

**Title: Strengthening Public Awareness and Advocacy to End Untouchability and Caste Based Discrimination in Nepal**

**Duration: July 2013 to December 2013**

### **Submitted by**

**National Dalit Commission (NDC)**

**Dalit NGO Federation (DNF)**

**Rastriya Dalit Network Nepal (RDN Nepal), Dhangadi (Far-west)**

**Dalit Development Society (DDS), Salyan (Mid-west)**

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## **1. Rationale**

The practice of untouchability and caste based discrimination is considered as a major barrier for unequal socio-economic development and inequality among different groups in Nepal. Even economically and politically powerful Dalits bear the brunt of this discrimination. Almost one-fifth of the total population are therefore directly under the brunt of caste based discrimination and untouchability. Besides, even within the Dalit community, there is a practice of discrimination. Dalit groups who are in lower social echelons bear greater discrimination from the Dalit community as well as from the non-Dalit groups. Minority Dalit groups such as Badi, Gaine, Dom, Khatik and Madhesi Dalits are most vulnerable from the discrimination due to the rigid social system and religious dogma. The development progress has been uneven for different Dalit groups. The impact of exclusion is higher on the Madhesi Dalits who have the lowest per capita income amongst all groups.

Acknowledging exclusionary practices as one of the major reason for increasing poverty and inequality, the Government of Nepal (GoN) has made many efforts over last few decades to transform Nepal into an inclusive and just state. Starting from National Civil Code 1963 which outlawed untouchability and caste based discrimination practices to ratification of the International Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) in 1971; Nepal has taken several steps towards addressing caste based discrimination. However, the concept of social exclusion/ inclusion gained prominence in Nepal's public discourse only over the past few years—especially since the Tenth Five-Year Plan (2002–2006), also known as the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) which had social inclusion as one of the four pillars.

Later, the Interim Constitution of Nepal (2007) also included provisions to support social inclusion by stating caste based discrimination as punishable by law. The Three-year Interim Plan (2007–2010) also had a separate section for inclusiveness toward Janajatis, Dalits, Madhesi, Adhivasi, women, and person with disability. Similarly, the National Development Strategy Paper (2009) and the Three Year Development Plan (2010–2013) also recognized the issue of inclusion. Moreover, the GoN has also shown its commitment to, social inclusion and non-discrimination by signing a number of international conventions. It has also established and implemented several institutional mechanisms and programs to incorporate different aspects of Inclusive governance.

Recently, Nepal has passed the Caste Discrimination and Untouchability Act (Offence and Punishment) 2011 in order to recognize the cases of caste based discrimination as illegal practices under the legal framework. The Act was a result of long struggles and pressures from Dalit actors, civil society organizations and international community. Despite the promulgation of Caste Discrimination and Untouchability Act (Offence and Punishment) in 2011 that has made caste based discriminations legally punishable offence, several case of caste based discrimination are continuously reported in the media. It indicates a lack of public awareness and lack of effective enforcement of the law. There is a need for strong partnership between the government and civil society actors to raise public awareness and enforce the law to stop caste based discrimination.

Realizing the need for a more comprehensive approach and collaboration amongst the key stakeholders to more effectively address this issue National Dalit Commission (NDC) and Dalit NGO Federation (DNF) have jointly facilitated the development of a Ten-Year Strategic Plan

(TYSP) to End Untouchability and Caste Based Discrimination in Nepal. This plan aims to end all kinds of untouchability and caste-based discrimination by supporting the government in implementing relevant laws and policies as well as by facilitating collaboration amongst the civil society and other stakeholders to raise awareness. TYSP has come from restless efforts of the NDC and DNF with the support of ESP. This plan provides a more organized and systematic approach for achieving the overall goal of eliminating caste based discrimination and untouchability. ESP has been remained hopeful for its successful implementation.

Dalits need a strong agenda, a united voice and the capacity, not just to participate, but to influence the state as well as civil society to practice non-discriminatory behavior. For this, Dalits need to be empowered and engaged with appropriate bodies and mechanisms at the national level and people centered advocacy. In partnership with other stakeholders, Dalits themselves must lead, direct and control the advocacy actions that will ultimately bring about change, equality and realization of their rights. Before, empowering individual citizens, it is necessary to strengthen the institutional structure that supports, protects and empowers Dalit community.

It is also encouraging that there are growing numbers of Dalit activists and civil society organizations dedicated to work towards ending caste based discrimination, and the government committed to support these efforts by more effectively enforcing the law. ESP considers that this Ten Years Strategic Plan (TYSP) will help guide different actors including the government and its ministries, public bodies, National Dalit Commission, Dalit right activists, Dalit community and civil society organizations to work together in implementing the act against untouchability and caste-based discrimination in Nepal. In line with the Ten Years Strategic Plan on contributing to raise public awareness and enforce the law to prevent caste based discrimination in Nepal; National Dalit Commission (NDC), Dalit NGO Federation (DNF) and other Dalit NGOs working at the local level as ESP/RDIF partners – propose the activities at national and district level.

The activities will be implemented jointly at the district level with the leadership of Dalit Development Society in mid-west region, Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) in far-west and Dalit Jana Kalyan Yuba Club (DJKYC) at east region.

## **2. Project overview**

This project contributes to eliminate untouchability and caste-based discrimination by implementing relevant laws and policies as well as by facilitating collaboration amongst the civil society and other stakeholders to raise awareness in nine districts of Nepal.

The TYSP to End Untouchability and Caste Based Discrimination in Nepal provides a more organized and systematic approach for achieving the overall goal of eliminating caste based discrimination and untouchability. It recognises that 'work together against untouchability' in Nepal requires collaboration and trust between state and non-state actors: the courts and police, local administrators, local and national level civil society and citizens groups. A transparent and responsive mechanism is required to implement the Caste Discrimination and Untouchability Act (Offence and Punishment) 2011 at ground level.

This proposed project will enhance the scope and scale of action, and therefore the skill set of the Dalit activists, members of Dalit watch groups, government officials and Dalit NGOs committed to addressing and eliminating caste based discrimination, to enable them to do effective policy advocacy through engagement with state institutions. The activities defined in the project reflects the role of different actors including the government and its ministries, public bodies, National Dalit Commission, Dalit NGOs as a part of larger Dalit community, non-Dalit civil society organizations to stop untouchability and caste discrimination into the society. Within a rights-based framework, this project will strengthen the capacities of and bring together members of Dalit vigilance centres and Dalit NGOs on a common platform to engage effectively with the state and National Dalit Commission to eliminate the untouchability and caste based discrimination.

## **2.1. Project Approach**

NDC, DNF and ESP POs at local level working with Dalit issue bring to this project a unique combination of experience and skills on issues of caste discrimination and untouchability in Nepal. They have a comprehensive knowledge of the on-the-ground reality in both urban and rural areas, and an extensive network of Dalit activists and other civil society members and organizations that span the entire country. At the same time, they are able to work effectively in policy advocacy, taking into account government, donor, and civil society sensitivities.

In order to bring the strategic plan into action, partner organizations contribute in the following areas:

- Identify appropriate strategic activities for each actors [NDC, Public bodies (mainly through UDDC), Civil society (mainly DNF and other Dalit NGOs)] along with activities that needs every actors complete and uniform effort;
- Identify different resources needed for effective implementation of the plan including human, financial, technical, physical and social resources;
- Achieve maximum benefit from limited resources by effectively and efficiently optimize resource allocation, thereby reducing waste and redundancy;
- Make the process easier for requesting additional funds from government and development partners;
- Help forge alliance and joint effort between different stakeholders for the cause of elimination of caste based discrimination and untouchability;
- Assist in organizing a well-planned mass awareness campaign on elimination of caste based discrimination and untouchability (helps in declaration of Dalits right Decade);
- Helps in joint monitoring of progress made by different sector;
- Conduct of activities in a rapid, coordinated, and cost-effective fashion, and responsive to changes in the fluid political situation.

Only prioritized activities will be conducted within a very tight timeframe, in a volatile political environment, and covering a vast expanse of territory in remote regions of the country. PO will meet regularly to review and reflect the progress, identify emerging opportunities, and revise approaches as necessary for maximum output. This will include regular meetings with ESP to review strategies and adjust the project approach and activities as necessary, especially during the first two months of the project.

To maximize reach and local effectiveness, ESP regional office will engage with local partners to implement project activities at the district level. These will include organizations such as the Oppressed Community Upliftment and Awareness Development (OUADF) in Achham, Equality Development Society (EDC) in Doti, Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) in Kailali and Kanchanpur, Dalit MahilaEkata Kendra (DMEK) in Dang, FEDO district chapter in Dailekh, Dalit Development Society (DDS) in Salyan, Dalit Jana Kalyan Yuba Club (DJKYC) in Siraha and Dalit Network inSaptari. To ensure a unified and effective approach, NDC and DNF will play the essential role at the national level and will provide coordinating efforts with government and donors. RDN, DDS and DJKYC will play the essential and leading role in far-west, mid-west and east region respectively (at the local level).

## **2.2. Implementation Strategies**

The project takes a three pronged intervention strategy to achieve the desired project impact. At the policy level it sets up institutional mechanism, at the operations level it enhances capacity and at the wider public level it raises public awareness and enforce the law to prevent caste based discrimination. Networks and synergies at local and national levels will enhance for a better enforcement of law and act against caste discrimination and untouchability.

This project will seek to work closely with government ministries and administrative bodies such as the district administrative offices, the police and other public service providers (health care, education, legal etc.). DNF member organizations and other Dalit organizations at the local level will therefore work closely with beneficiaries, local community members, and government officials during needs identification, planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of the project. Dalit organizations will work with the government bodies to impress upon them to mainstream Dalit issues in their practices and at the policy level without any discrimination and biasness. The project will promote and form Dalit vigilance center at the local level to monitor the level of adherence of the act against untouchability. A method on a reporting system of rights violations will be put in place. The project will also conduct untouchability awareness campaigns aimed at implementing the act which establish society free from discrimination and untouchability. Specific attention will be paid to the issues of harmful practices i.e. witchcraft accusation to *dalit* women.

As a result, practice of untouchability will be reduced and victim-survivors will access legal services thus showing positive impact from the mobilization of vigilance centers at the district level. This impact will be documented and shared for multiplier effects and communities will be better informed on Dalit right issues.

## **2.3. The project's working principles**

POs strongly believe in following principles for the success of the project:

- Engaging non-Dalit communities, civil society and government to prevent caste based discrimination
- Building capacity of Dalit vigilance centers, government officials and Dalit and non-Dalit organizations

- Strong linkage between government institutions for institutionalization and long term sustainability
- Encouraging ‘work together against untouchability’

#### **2.4. Project Proposal Development Process**

The project design process incorporated the views from a wide range of stakeholders including consultants, Dalit think tank groups, and leaders of Dalit and non-Dalit civil society organizations working at the grass root level. Rounds of meetings were held between DNF, NDC and ESP officials to ensure that the project would fit in to ESP Exit Plan as well as address the need of the area.

As part of the proposal development process, informal consultative meetings and discussions were held with NDC, DNF and other Dalit organizations at national level and relevant stakeholders to solicit their views on priority areas of Ten Years Strategic Plan (TYSP) to End Untouchability and Caste Based Discrimination in Nepal jointly prepared by NDC and DNF.

At the district level, potential ESP partner organizations who would implement the activities were consulted. Their local needs in terms of capacity, awareness and other resources have been accessed and built in to the project activities. The organization profile, track record and willingness for partnership of the potential partner organizations have been accessed to implement the project at the district level. The target project districts have been selected jointly in consultation with ESP and taking into consideration the districts with low socio-economic indicators and the prevalence of CBD. These districts are also considered having low general public awareness on the issue of UCBD.

### **3. Project Impact, Outcome, Outputs**

#### **3.1. Impact**

##### **Contribution to eliminating caste-based discrimination and untouchability.**

The project is expected to contribute towards elimination of caste-based discrimination and untouchability. The activities will bring about increased recognition and appreciation by the government, that Untouchability and Caste Based Discrimination (UCBD) is a major human rights problem which is a precondition for their policies and strategies to reflect an institutional concern to eliminate untouchability and caste based discrimination.

#### **3.2. Outcome**

**First year of the Ten Years Strategic Plan (TYSP) and action plan on CBDU implemented through constructive engagement between the government and the civil society.**

The project will contribute to promote constructive engagement between the Government and CSOs and increase the level of community awareness and cooperation between Dalits and non-Dalits against UCBD.

### **Outcome Indicators**

1. Advocacy capacity of Dalit organizations and activists enhanced to claim for their rights.
2. Dalit and non-Dalit communities have increased knowledge on legal provision in eliminating caste based discrimination and the available legal options provided by the government of Nepal.

### **3.3. Outputs**

**Output 1: Increased action against untouchability and discriminatory practices towards Dalits and the level of compliance of none discriminatory practices established at the local level.**

#### **Output 1 Indicators**

- 1.1. #of Dalit vigilance centers established and Dalit human right violation cases reported to the police from VDC to district level.
- 1.2. # government stakeholders endorsing roles, responsibilities and accountability for enforcing the law to prevent caste-based discrimination and untouchability.
- 1.3. # of people aware and sensitized on the issues of caste based discrimination and untouchability.

#### **Activities under Output 1**

##### **1.1. Untouchability free society campaigns**

This activity is planned to build on the current government's momentum of promoting equality, peace and tolerance among the various communities and caste groups in Nepal. This activity has been chosen because the declaration of Nepal as a discrimination and untouchability free society is not totally a new ideology. The Interim constitution of Nepal has provisions regarding the same. However, there is little knowledge and implementation regarding the same provision. The method of public awareness has been chosen because it is cost effective and has the potential of reaching many people in large areas. The method will also disseminate information beyond the project coverage area. The activity is expected to raise knowledge and popularise the meaning of the said proclamation based on anti-discriminatory law. This will be done in the form of public lectures and rallies to declare untouchability free society, dissemination of information through printed pamphlets/ posters/letter dispatch/banners and act print.

Under the campaign, RDN and DJKYC will publish pamphlets and posters based on the act against caste based discrimination and disseminate these materials in targeted districts and beyond the working area also. During the time, 12 working VDCs of 4 districts (Achham, Doti, Kailali and Kanchanpur) will be declared as Untouchability and discrimination free society. More than 4800 people from Dalit and non-Dalit community as well as various stakeholders will be mobilized. DJKYC and Dalit Network will conduct campaign against untouchability and caste-based discrimination covering a total of 12 district and ilaka level vigilance centers in Siraha and Saptari.

Similarly, DJKYC will also conduct campaign against untouchability through peaceful rally, submission of memorandum, press conference etc. They will also conduct mass communication and awareness campaign to aware people about act against UCBD.

DDS will develop and publish bulletin and the brochure to convey the message of Dalit rights and non-discrimination at the local community. DDS will develop and broadcast Radio program on social practices and legal provision against untouchability and observe the International Human Right day on 10th December to protect and promote Dalit rights in Salyan, Dang and Dailekh. It will also conduct the sensitization program at VDC level.

### **1.2. Establish and scale up *Dalit* vigilance center**

*Dalit* vigilance center will be established at district and VDC level in Dang, Salyan and Dailekh; district and Ilaka level vigilance center in Siraha and Saptari and only district level center in Achham, Doti, Kailali, and Kanchanpur for protecting the rights of *Dalits* and making Dalit communities aware about their rights and duties. The methodology for selecting participants will be based on the existing local structures. There will be equal representation on the centre by both men and women. Since the *Dalit* communities are not homogenous, there will also be equal representation in these vigilance centers by members of the various *Dalit* sub-castes. Another criterion for selecting the participants will be gender.

The work of *Dalit* vigilance center will be to monitor the level of compliance of the government declaration of Nepal as a discrimination and untouchability free country and implementation of act against untouchability. They will also monitor the level of compliance to other laws related to Dalit rights. *Dalit* vigilance centers will carry surveys and keep vigilante on any cases of rights violations and untouchability towards *Dalits*. Any cases of rights violations and caste-based discrimination will be documented and reported to the necessary authorities for action through providing legal aid for filing public interest litigation and FIR.

### **1.3. Legal rights training for the members of *Dalit* vigilance centers**

Legal rights training for members of *Dalit* vigilance centers is intended to increase the level of human rights knowledge and information on act against untouchability so participants can give advice to victims of rights violations and caste-based discrimination. The duration of training course will be of a three days. POs will conduct this training in 9 districts. This training/orientation will ensure that members of vigilance centers are equipped with basic legal rights knowledge and skill to enable them to probe and take necessary action in regards to Dalit rights violations and caste based discrimination based on legal provision.

### **1.4. Sensitization workshop to front line officers/individuals from CDO, DDC, Police office, Dalit leaders, lawyers, teachers, religious leaders and political leaders on caste-based discrimination and inclusion**

Sensitization workshop will be conducted for frontline officers/individuals of line agencies, police, political parties, *Dalit* leaders of political parties, lawyers, teachers, social workers, religious leaders on caste-based discrimination and inclusion through cohesive approach by all regional POs. The main objective of this sensitization workshop is to equip them with the necessary skills to adequately deal with the elimination of caste-based discrimination and untouchability, raising



inclusion issues with the tactic of social cohesion. One of the major stumbling blocks towards *Dalit* communities in the development process is lack of skills and knowledge among decision makers. It is important to have this orientation for them so that they can facilitate change of structures and methodologies that keep *Dalits* from participating in key development projects and social services. The police would particularly benefit from skills on being responsive to eliminate the discrimination and untouchability towards *Dalits* when victim seek support from their offices. One of the reasons *Dalits* do not report cases of rights violations is because of the cold reception and lack of seriousness in investigating their cases by the police.

#### **1.5. Interactive discussion with CDO, DDC, VDC, Police, Service providers and VDC leaders**

The interactive discussion will be organized with key government decision makers so that *Dalits* issues can be mainstreamed in government bodies and bureaucracies. The topic for discussions shall be “eliminating caste based discrimination and untouchability to mainstream *Dalit* issues in development”. During the discussion, *Dalit* leaders will have an opportunity to interact with various government representatives at district level. The discussion will centre on increasing Dalit peoples access to essential social services and other government services. This interactive discussion will also be used as an occasion to increase the level of understanding between the *Dalit* community and the service providers. As a result of this discussion, it is expected that the various stakeholders involved will develop pro *Dalit* policy frameworks and practices within their institutions/ bureaucracies so that the said community can have increased access to services and in the development process.

#### **1.6. Seminar on caste based discrimination with victim-survivors**

DJKYC will conduct seminar with law enforcement and judicial authorities, CSOs, civil servants responsible for CBD, selected victim-survivors of caste-based discrimination. Victim-survivors of CBD will share their experiences and their cases will be presented with evidence to sensitize responsible bodies/individuals in terms of providing justice and redress to them.

### **Output 2: Enhanced institutional capacity of NDC, DNF and local Dalit organizations along with their improved governance.**

#### **Output 2 Indicators**

- 2.1. NDC, DNF and local Dalit NGOs defined a clear and distinct role of their own to make their effort more valuable against untouchability and discrimination.
- 2.2. # cases of CBD and human rights violations against Dalit monitored and documented.
- 2.3. Developed policy, guidelines and rule and regulations of partner organizations.

#### **NDC Activities under Output 2**

##### **2.1. Review and advocate for amendment of NDC Act as per the recommendation**

NDC is an independent and autonomous body as per the Act developed to establish National Dalit Rights Commission (2064 and 2066). The act is made in order to protect and promote the right of Dalit community and to endorse practices that helps create social equality in the country, through the establishment of NDC. The act includes issues related to tenure, criterion for selection of members, roles and responsibilities, privileges and authority of NDC's chairperson and members,

decision making process through executive body meeting and so forth. Therefore, NDC act should be reviewed in order to revise the issues that need further explanation such as in the case of tenure, criterion or decision making process or in order to bring clear demarcation of roles between NDC, DDC and DNF, or give NDC a constitutional status, or to make it autonomous entity.

## **2.2. Develop an operational guideline/directive for NDC**

Although NDC has been established since 2002 (BS 2058), it does not have an operational guideline. It works only on the basis of the NDC Act (BS 2066). The lack of operation guideline has significantly affected the work consistency of NDC. Therefore, in order to make the operation of NDC more effective, there is a need to develop an operational guideline. A standard operating guideline [SOG] is a step-by-step instruction that tell how a job or task should be performed. It is necessary to enhance the quality, efficiency and consistency of the organizations work. It will illustrate what each department/individual should do, within what time and how in order to accomplish the list of activities or the organizations objective. It also provides a basis for result based job description, employees' trainings, and performance review.

## **2.3. Develop HRD policy implementation guideline and provide capacity building support to NDC staffs**

The major challenge for NDC is to ensure competent and committed workforce to achieve organizational goal in a changing environment. HRD policy and policy implementation guideline of NDC should be developed in order to ensure a positive working environment and good team dynamics (solve out potential conflicts) and integrate the plan into the systems, policies, and management practices of NDC to procure, maintain and develop employees for meeting the organizations desired goals. A comprehensive human resources system provides a framework and tools to achieve higher levels of staff performance and employee satisfaction on a sustainable basis. Moreover, based on the plan, the members and staff should be provided with trainings, exposure visits, and other capacity development support. Focus should be given on M & E training in this year. NDC's staffs and members should be strengthened and their technical capacity enhanced to record and monitor issues of untouchability and caste based discrimination and violations of Dalit human rights, identify problems in enforcement of national anti-discrimination law and engage with the enforcement agencies.

## **DNF Activities under Output 2**

### **2.4. Scoping the roles and responsibilities of DNF and MOs**

Although DNF is an umbrella organization of more than 200 member organizations with 5 regional chapters and 18 district chapters working for the cause of Dalit empowerment, and eradication of caste based discrimination and untouchability, the institutional arrangement of DNF is still in dire state. Need for scoping the roles and responsibilities of DNF and MOs is essential not only for proper execution of its own role but also of its member organizations. If DNF is strong enough to perform its role then it will further enhance the implementation of its MOs to get the desired result through the defined roles and responsibilities of DNF and MOs. Thereby, the current project will primarily focus on the scoping roles and responsibilities of DNF and MOs in order to identify clear demarcation between DNF and its MOs to develop implementation plan of TYSP.

## **2.5. Develop a basic operation directive of DNF to support for the implementation of Act (offense and punishment) against untouchability and caste-based discrimination**

The project will then focus on strengthening the capacity of Dalit pressure or watch groups. It has been noted during the consultation that the strengthening the capacity of Dalit activists and pressure groups or watch groups has been essential for protecting the rights of Dalits as well as in making them aware about their rights and duties. However, Dalit groups working for their rights and fighting against untouchability lack uniformity and are operating without proper guideline. Therefore, a basic operation directive will be developed in order to strengthen and scale of Dalit watch groups or vigilance centers to support for the implementation of Act throughout the country.

## **2.6. Develop monitoring system at DNF**

Monitoring system will be developed at DNF to record and monitor the issues of CBDU and violations of Dalit human rights, identify problems in enforcement of national anti-discrimination laws and engage with the enforcement agencies. It will also help to collect and document the cases of untouchability and caste-based discrimination. The documentation will provide evidence of the depth and scale of CBDU, the functioning of the existing administrative, judicial and accountability mechanisms, implementation of the law and the gaps in each of these areas which would require a new policy response or corrective actions in the existing systems. Monitoring system developed within DNF provides evidence based information to establish conclusively, with authoritative data, the depth and pervasiveness of CBDU across the country.

## **2.7. Conduct study of best practices and challenges on CBDU**

The study will attempt to establish and analyse best practices and innovative ways to address CBDU and social exclusion from policy, strategy and implementation perspective, as well as identify key challenges. This will be based on the efforts so far of the state and non-state actors. The study will collect information based on the documentary evidence and through meetings with I/NGOs, bilateral and multilateral agencies, government agencies. Data from the fact finding reports will also be analysed to draw out best practices and learning in implementation and monitoring aspects. The study report will be shared at a workshop and disseminated among law enforcement agencies, judicial authorities, government departments/ministries/civil servants responsible for addressing CBDU directly or indirectly, NHRC and CSOs addressing CBDU. There is a critical need for collecting best practices and innovative ideas, both to inform policy and development programs, and to adopt those in the campaign against caste based discrimination and untouchability. The findings from such a study will be useful for CSOs, the government, multilateral and bilateral agencies to support the issue of CBDU and victim-survivors from violations of Dalit human rights.

## **Local level POs activities under Output 2**

### **2.8. Scoping the roles and responsibilities of local partners**

Organizations working together against untouchability in the district and regional level need to have a clear and distinct role of their own in order to make their effort more valuable as well as to enhance a healthy coordination and cooperation among implementing organizations. Scoping the roles and responsibilities of local partners will identify the management gap that has obstructed

the execution of the role of local partners and review their roles and responsibilities in effective and efficient manner. Through the workshop, the implementing partners (RDN and DJKYC) will define their roles and responsibilities to do advocacy for the elimination of caste based discrimination in their working areas.

### **2.9. Develop basic operation directive for the establishment of *Dalit* vigilance center**

RDN, DDS and DJKYC will develop a basic operation directive in order to strengthen district level *Dalit* vigilance center and scale of *Dalit* vigilance center at VDC level. This basic operation directive will help to put uniformity and operate vigilance centers with proper guideline. One expert or consultant will be hired to develop the basic operation directive. For this process, two days consultation meeting will be organized by POs in targeted districts. After the conclusion and facts and findings of the meeting, one comprehensive document (operative directive) will be developed. It will be guideline to operationalise the Dalit rights vigilance center at the district level in Achham, Doti, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Salyan, Dang, Dailekh, Siraha and Saptari.

### **2.10. Prepare a detail advocacy implementation plan and strategy and advocate for elimination of untouchability**

Partner organizations (RDN, DDS and DJKYC) along with their co-partners will be supported to prepare a detail implementation plan and advocacy strategy and advocate for elimination of untouchability through alliance among *Dalit* and *non-Dalit* organizations. In order to support campaign against untouchability, both *Dalits* and *non-Dalits* will make equally active. Detailed advocacy plan for 'elimination of caste-based discrimination and untouchability' will be developed and supported for its implementation. For the sustainability and institutionalize the best practices of the project, POs will organize a workshop for review and reflection process in targeted districts. Workshop will be conducted at the mid of project to prepare an advocacy plan as well as strategies to eliminate the caste based discrimination and untouchability during and beyond the project also.

### **2.11. Training, workshop and meeting**

DDS will conduct two days training on presentation skills, inclusion and advocacy for board, staffs and volunteers from Salyan, Dang and Dailekh. Project start-up workshop, review and reflection and inter sector meeting will be conducted by DDS to smoothly run the project activities. RDN will conduct planning, review and reflection meeting. Similarly, DJKYC will conduct the start-up workshop.

### **2.12. Legal support**

DJKYC will provide legal support to victims of untouchability and caste-based discrimination and human rights violation. The networks of human rights organizations, human rights defenders, lawyers, police officers etc. will be mobilized in legal support. An important objective of this activity is to monitor the key human rights violations against *Dalits* and support the victims in accessing justice. Given the history of prolonged delays in delivering justice, these cases will be in the judicial process with a low probability of reaching the stage of final judgement during the action. Other government data on pending cases will be assessed to arrive at the comprehensive situation. The vigilance centers will accompany the victims to ensure that the procedures are

followed, compensation and rehabilitation is fulfilled, and the administration of justice mechanisms function.

### **Output 3: More effective policy advocacy and execution of their role by NDC, DNF through enhanced partnership and support**

#### **Output 3 Indicators**

3.1. Government, donors and INGOs are receptive to support implement the TYSP for the elimination of caste based discrimination.

3.2. Coordinated efforts and commitments provided by CSOs and government bodies for better enforcement of existing laws and mechanisms and for necessary changes to achieve equality.

#### **NDC activities under Output 3**

##### **3.1. Develop a policy implementation guideline of legislative provisions of Caste-based discrimination Act to adequately protect victims of CBD**

The Caste based discrimination and untouchability (offence and punishment) Act 2011 is an act that has been made to provide for provisions on caste based discrimination and untouchability offence and punishment. It includes what caste based discrimination is, and what type of behaviour and attitude might be considered as an offence under caste based discrimination. It also includes ways to file a complaint, process during the investigation of such case, penalty that shall be imposed on person who commits such offence or to those who cause an obstacle during the investigation, compensation and its level based on type of offence, limitation to file case, and so forth. During the consultation, although many people were content with the newly formulated Act, quite a number of people recommended that there should be an implementation guideline for most of the sections under the Act in order to bring more clarity in the procedure. Therefore, a simple step by step guideline should be developed for making the execution of the Act more clear and understandable in terms of defining additional compensation for Dalits and punishment for the perpetrators who discriminates Dalits based on caste.

##### **3.2. Develop partnership with NHRC, NIC and National Women commission and promote joint institutional arrangements among different organizations**

NDC will develop partnership with NHRC, NIC, women commission and other institutions to make effective implementation of law and act against caste based discrimination. According to the NDRC Act (2066), NDC already has a mandate to work in close cooperation with different organizations that are already working for the elimination of caste based discrimination and untouchability. Through partnership, NDC will involve these stakeholders in campaign, awareness raising and capacity building for the cause of elimination of such discriminatory practices.

##### **3.3. Publication of UCBD Act, guideline and HRD policy**

NDC will publish the Untouchability and Caste-based Discrimination Act to disseminate and reach into the concerned individuals and organizations in order to aware and sensitize them with the legislative provisions of the Act. Guideline and HRD policy will also be published to use within NDC.

### **DNF Activities under Output 3**

#### **3.4. An alliance/consortium (a national level advocacy forum)**

An alliance/consortium (a national level advocacy forum) will be promoted at the national level through constructive engagement of civil society organizations from Dalit communities, National Dalit Commission, Dalit Development Committee, Badi Development Board to share and monitor the enforcement of policies and legislation of the state and undertake advocacy for effective implementation of anti-discrimination law and policy based on evidence. This national level alliance will be a platform for knowledge and experience sharing for advocacy to address the issue of UCBD. It will demonstrate a commonality of purpose and coordinated action by CSOs and government bodies for better enforcement of existing laws and mechanisms and for necessary changes in them to achieve equality with international and UN standards as embodied in the various UN covenants, treaty bodies and special procedures. A periodic bulletin (JanautthanMasik) from Jana UtthanPratisthan will be published to capture interventions on Dalit issues from different corners and share it different stakeholders.

#### **3.5. Advocate with private sector, media, human rights groups and religious groups**

Constructive engagement for advocacy will be initiated with private sector, media, human rights groups and religious groups to focus on elimination of caste based discrimination. There will be dialogues and interaction as advocacy initiative to raise the visibility of UCBD and encourage constructive dialogue for collective action to address UCBD, violence and tackle its root causes. This event will have widespread national media coverage – TV, print, electronic and radio.

#### **3.6. Coordination and collaboration with police offices (officers) and law makers**

An effective coordination and cooperation will be made with police offices and law makers to effectively implement the act and provide immediate support to victim-survivors of caste-based discrimination. Very strong strategies on coordination and collaboration will be adopted to engage with law makers and police officials at the national and district level. Training manual will be developed to sensitize police personnel and regular meeting between high level police authorities and DNF will be conducted to monitor the implementation of act.

#### **3.7. Launching the Ten Years Strategic Plan (TYSP)**

DNF will advocate with donors and INGOs for changing their plans and policies including the provision of budget for the cause of elimination of caste based discrimination and untouchability in every plans and project or create a policy for basket fund and so forth. DNF in the consultation and coordination with NDC and other Dalit organizations will formally launch the Ten Years Strategic Plan to end the untouchability and caste-based discrimination and do advocacy/lobbying (through dialogue and interaction) with donors and INGOs to collect support for implementing the strategic plan.

#### **3.8. Media mobilization**

Media will be mobilized at national level to monitor and reporting the incidents of caste-based discrimination and human rights against Dalits. Some of the active DNF member organizations (JUP and DHRO) will take the responsibilities of media mobilization - print, electronic and

radio.Capacity building of journalists (national and local) in investigating and reporting of cases of untouchability(training in KTM) and Sensitization of news editors/publishers of Kathmandu (both print and electronic media) in coordination with *SancharikaSamuha* which has also implementing similar program on GBV.

### **3.4. Wider Area of Changes**

The primary beneficiary of the project will develop a common understanding and consensus on ways of eliminating untouchability and castes based discrimination and endorse a basic operation directive. This will create an environment for access to justice for victims of caste based discrimination and encourage reporting of cases. It will also bring about clarity at anti-discrimination law and linkage of law enforcement agencies and service providers gets endorsed.

### **3.5. Contribution to ESP strategic theme Objectives**

The project contributes to the equitable access to service delivery theme of ESP's Implementation and Exit Plan (2012-13) in which constructive engagement between CSOs and government is prioritized as a key area. This initiative will be supporting Dalit civil society organizations and Dalit activists to engage constructively with government (National Dalit Commission, UUDDC, NHRC, Women and Muslim Commission, Police Administration) for ending caste discrimination. The government bodies and civil society organizations are committed to support Dalit communities by more effectively enforcing the law.

Therefore, the project linked with the equitable service delivery theme of ESP fits into of Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper-PRSP of the Government of Nepal (GoN), the Caste Discrimination and Untouchability Act (Offense and Punishment), Three Year Interim Plan (2007-2010) and on-going Three Year Plan to recognize the issue of Dalit inclusion.

## **4. Project partners and beneficiaries**

### **4.1. Target Groups/Beneficiaries**

Primary target groups/beneficiaries: The government agencies Ministry of Law, National Dalit Commission, Office of Prime minister, Nepal Police, the judicial system as well as the key civil society stakeholders will be the primary target group of this project. They will find an institutional mechanism to enforce law to prevent CBD.

Secondary target groups/beneficiaries: DNF, local level Dalit NGOs, and government agencies including Upekshit, Utpidit, and Dalit Development Committee (UUDDC) and NDC, general public (Dalits and non-Dalits) along with people victim from untouchability and CBD will benefit at the secondary level from the project.

**Targeted Districts:** Achham, Doti, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Salyan, Dang, Dailekh, Siraha and Saptari

### **4.2. Partner organisations and focal districts**

- i) National Dalit Commission and Dalit NGO Federation at the centre
- ii) RDN in Kailali, Kanchanpur, Doti and Achham
- iii) DDS in Salyan, Dang and Dailekh

iv) DJKYC in Siraha and Saptari

Thus the project will cover the five terai districts (Kailali, Kanchapur, Dang, Siraha and Saptari) and four hill districts (Achham, Doti, Salyan, Dailekh) in the Far-west, Mid-west and East regions of the country. These districts are selected due to their poor socio-economic indicators, high prevalence of caste based discrimination but a very negligible reporting of the cases of Dalit rights violations. RDIF initiatives were also implemented in these districts.

Untouchability and CBD is a core working area for all the POs and all are very active in the targeted districts. Overall, the objectives and experience of the POs align closely with the overall aims of the project. The POs are NGOs with defined organisation structures, governing boards, operational staff and their own offices at the district level. All have mixed sources of finance including from running donor funded programs. The POs at district level were selected on the basis of their track record of working at the grassroots level on Dalit issues, their basic understanding, their capacity to work on untouchability, their experience of running donor-funded programmes, and their project management skills.

A formal MOU will be signed mainly with RDN Nepal in far-west covering four districts (Achham, Doti, Kailali and Kanchapur), with DDS in mid-west covering three districts (Salyan, Dang and Dailekh) and with DJKYC in east region covering two districts (Siraha and Saptari). Each partner organisation will offer a full time and part time staffs when required to oversee the project implementation. RDN Nepal will have EDC in Doti and OUADF in Achham as district implementing co-partners. Similarly, DDS will have DMEK in Dang and FEDO district chapter in Dailekh as well as DJKYC will have Dalit Network in Saptari as implementing co-partners. Besides these, the POs will offer existing logistic support for the project implementation if possible from their existing organisational resources including providing training facilities and conducting meeting/workshop from within their offices.

#### 4.3. Stakeholder Analysis

A multitude of organizations are undertaking critically important work to eliminate untouchability and caste-based discrimination in Nepal through awareness and advocacy, prevention, relief and support. The current project will form collaboration with key stakeholders. That includes:

**High Level Mechanism at Prime Minister Office:** A high level mechanism for promotion and protection of Dalit's rights and eradication of caste based discrimination and untouchability has been established at the Prime Minister's office. The committee aims to address the policy as well as implementation issues regarding elimination of caste-based discrimination in Nepal. Three levels of institutional mechanisms have been created for this purpose, which includes an Advisory Committee, Central Directive Committee, and coordination Committee. At the local level, there is a provision of district level Coordination Committee and Local Watch Centre. There is an urgent need to activate the high level mechanism at both central and local levels.

**Upekshit, Utpidit, and Dalit Development Committee (UUDDC):** UUDDC which was established in 2054 BS works under the Ministry of Local Development. Its primary mandate is to improve the



socio-economic condition of Dalit community through implementation of income generating activities, providing scholarships to Dalit students and organizing different awareness campaign in the country. However, the district level committee, formed under the chair of DDC, have a mandate to conduct activities and programme that address the issues around caste based discrimination and untouchability.

**Badi Development Committee (BDC):**BDC was formed in 2012 with chairperson from Minister for Local Development. The committee has been mandated to formulate and implement concrete policy and programmes for the development, uplift and protection of the country's Badi community and also to undertake initiatives for improving their living standard. It is also to run various development programmes for bringing the Badi community into the national development mainstream.

**Law enforcement agencies:** Nepal Police and CDO under Ministry of Home Affairs are the focal point with authority to maintain law and order in the country. These institutions are the main law enforcement body who come in close contact with issues related to caste based discrimination and untouchability. District Police Office in this regard is directly concerned with FIR registration, conducting investigation and holds in custody those who commit crime against discrimination. If the police office do not register the FIR then the FIR can be submitted to CDO, then the case sent to higher police office. A district level Dalit watch committee under the chair of CDO also looks after the issue of caste based discrimination and untouchability.

**Major ministries and public service providers:**Dalit issue is a cross cutting issue in every sector/ministries as it is imbedded deeply in the culture of Nepali society. However, major ministries which are directly concerned with caste based discrimination are Ministry of Education, Forest, Agriculture, Land Reform, employment, and Health. Dalits face the direct brunt of discrimination on forest product distribution in community forestry, land tenure issues, untouchability in school and health office and so forth. However, there are no provisions especially related to Dalit issues in most of the ministries.

**National Dalit Commission:**NDC is a high level government agency responsible with dealing with the elimination of all form of racial discrimination. It is expected to work with all line agencies to address the issue of caste-based discrimination. In addition, NDC is believed to play a proactive role on the formulation of policy and program to end caste based discrimination in Nepal. It has also been assigned the role to monitor activities related with caste based discrimination. However it has many challenges (See Strategic Priority 2 for detail).

**Dalit NGO Federation including other Dalit NGOs:**DNF as a credible organization of Dalit civil society have a major role in Dalit upliftment and elimination of caste based discrimination and untouchability. DNF has significantly contributed in developing CBDU act by holding series of discussion with policy makers and concerned stakeholders. Besides it has significant experience in mobilizing its member organizations' for conducting nationwide campaign in order to fight against caste based discrimination and untouchability in the country. However other Dalit NGOs not under DNF's umbrella should not be undermined for contributing in eradicating caste

based discrimination. DNF and other Dalit NGOs have a major role in Dalit upliftment and elimination of caste based discrimination and untouchability.

**Media and Human Right activists:** A number of human right organizations and media are working in all districts of Nepal. They have helped in investigation of human right abuse cases by unpacking the incidences in order to provide justice to the victim and punish the culprit. However, both media and human rights have not conducted significant work towards elimination of caste based discrimination and untouchability. According to the Dalit community, human right organizations have given relatively low attention towards the human right abuse case related to Dalit community such as inter-caste marriage, untouchability and caste based discrimination, physical violence to Dalits etc. The case of Dalit right has not been raised as much as women rights. Similarly, media has not been systematic in its approach towards raising the issues against caste based discrimination or using media for awareness raising.

#### 4.4. Capacity Assessment and requirements

Due to the engagement of DNF, NDC and other ESP POs working with Dalit issues at local level has become wider and varied. It is now at the crossroads where it needs to be steered with more strategic thinking and create a long term vision in selecting priority activities to prevent caste based discrimination. One of the key capacity building areas for POs would be enhancing its overall capacity in organization development and program strengthening. Similarly at the operational level, POs would like to enhance capacity of their staffs in project management including a sound procurement and financial management system with zero tolerance to fraud and misuse of funds and that integrates early declaration of conflict of interest, monitoring and evaluation system and procedures including results reporting, report writing, results framework approaches, etc.

From the perspective of Partner Organisations, there is a variation in capacity in the different district. These will be identified during the monitoring and capacity assessment that takes place at project level. The other area, in order to strengthen the project monitoring and reporting capacity is to build the partner organisation's skills in use of information technology.

#### 4.5. Implementation Plan (July – Dec 2013)

Activities	1	2	3	4	5	6	Coverage	Implementing Partners
<b>Output 1: Increased awareness against untouchability and discriminatory practices towards Dalits and the level of compliance of none discriminatory practices established at the local level.</b>								
1.1. Untouchability free campaign								
1.1.1. Pamphlets and posters							Achham, Doti, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Siraha, Saptari	RDN and DJKYC
1.1.2. Declaration of untouchability free society/VDC							Achham, Doti, Kailali, Kanchanpur	RDN
1.1.3. Campaign against untouchability							Siraha, Saptari	DJKYC
1.1.4. Mass communication program							Siraha, Saptari	DJKYC
1.1.5. Publication of bulletin and brochure							Dang, Dailekh, Salyan	DDS

1.1.6. Radio program						Dang, Dailekh, Salyan	DDS
1.1.7. Sensitization program						Dang, Dailekh, Salyan	DDS
1.1.8. International human rights day observation						Dang, Dailekh, Salyan	DDS
1.2. Establish and scale up Dalit vigilance center (VDC, ilaka and district level)						All nine districts	DDS, DJKYC, RDN
1.3. Legal rights training to the members of vigilance centers						All nine districts	DDS, DJKYC, RDN
1.4. Sensitization workshop to front line officers/individuals from CDO, DDC, Police Office, Dalit leaders, lawyers, religious leaders						All nine districts	DDS, DJKYC, RDN
1.5. Interactive discussion with CDO, DDC, VDC, Police, service providers and VDC leaders						All nine districts	DDS, DJKYC, RDN
1.6.Seminar on caste based discrimination with victim-survivors						Siraha, Saptari	DJKYC
<b>Output 2:Enhanced institutional capacity of NDC, DNF and local Dalit organizations along with their improved governance</b>							
2.1. Review and advocate for amendment of NDC Act as per the recommendation						National level	NDC
Conduct Interactive discussion on the Review and advocate for amendment of NDC Act							
2.2. Develop an operational guideline/directive for NDC						National level	NDC
2.3.Develop an operational guideline/directive for NDC							
2.4.Develop HRD policy and implementation guideline/directive						National level	NDC
2.5. Scoping the roles and responsibilities of DNF and MOs to develop implementation plan of TYSP						National level	DNF
2.6. Develop basic operation directive/guideline of DNF to support the implementation of Act (offense and punishment) against UCBD						National level	DNF
2.7. Develop monitoring system at DNF and document the cases of UCBD						National level	DNF
2.8. Conduct study of best practices among state and non-state actors						National level	DNF
2.9 – 2.10. Scoping the role and responsibilities of local partners						Siraha, Kailali	DJKYC and RDN
2.11. Develop basic operation directive for the establishment of Dalit vigilance centers						Three organizations for nine districts	RDN, DDS, DJKYC
2.12. Prepare a detail advocacy implementation plan and strategy						Kailali, Salyan, Siraha	RDN, DDS, DJKYC
2.13. Training, workshop and meeting						Kailali, Salyan, Siraha	RDN, DDS, DJKYC
2.14. Legal support						Siraha, Saptari	DJKYC

<b>Output 3: More effective policy advocacy and execution of their role by NDC, DNF through enhanced partnership and support</b>								
3.1. Develop a policy implementation guideline of legislative provisions of caste-based discrimination Act to adequately protect victims of CBD							National level	NDC
3.2. Develop partnership with NHRC, NIC and National Women Commission							National level	NDC
3.3. Publication of UCBD Act, guideline and HRD policy and Media Advocacy							National level	NDC
3.4. An alliance/consortium (a national level advocacy forum)							National level	DNF
3.5. Advocate with private sector, media, human rights groups and religious groups							National level	DNF
3.6. Coordination and collaboration with police offices (officers) and law makers							National level	DNF
3.7. Launching the Ten Years Strategic Plan (TYSP)							National level	DNF
3.8. Media mobilization							National level	DNF

## 5. Project implementation

### 5.1. Inception Period

The project will start from July 2013. The first month will be the project inception period as this time will be used to set up the basics of operation like finalising the project activities and budgeting by tailoring them according to the need of the district. This period shall also take secure MOU from POs at regional and national level.

### 5.2. Risks, Assumptions and Mitigation/Management of Risks

<b>Assumptions</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mutual understanding between Dalit organizations and NDC to overcome patterns of distrust and non-communication</li> <li>• NDC and DNF will be willing to work together to raise public awareness and enforce law to prevent caste based discrimination and untouchability</li> <li>• Receptiveness of the government of Nepal to end the caste based discrimination and Dalit inclusion</li> <li>• Conducive environment to support improved collaboration between government officials and Dalit NGOs</li> <li>• Dalit vigilance centers or watch groups and Dalit activists will actively be mobilized in this creativity</li> <li>• Local security conditions permits to carry out pilot activities</li> </ul>				
<b>Risks and Risk Management Strategies</b>				
<i>Risks</i>	<i>Impacts on the project</i>	<i>Probability</i>	<i>Severity of impacts</i>	<i>Management strategies</i>
<i>Political/Societal Risks</i>				

Strikes and political instability and disruptions	Affects timeline and budget		Medium	If visits to field level become impossible, information could be obtained from VDC office, district government officials, police offices and NGO representatives. Efficient communication; field monitoring and review plan to match with political disturbances.
<i>Project Operational Risks</i>				
Power outage, weather conditions	Affects day to day office work and access to district	Medium	Medium	Power back-up strategy and flexible working hour for district staff; field visit plan as per seasonal variations
Delay in fund disbursement will limit availability of fund for particular activities	Disrupt to complete the implementation plan on time	Medium	Medium	Careful planning and budget/expenditure monitoring Adjust activities in consultation with ESP Financial reporting on time ESP to pre-finance if required (pre-approval)
Contribution and time management of lead partners at district level	Affects project implementation schedule, reporting deadlines etc.	Medium	Medium	Monitoring, and technical support from lead partner to targeted districts/co-partners at the implementation level

### 5.3. Sustainability of Impact

The project intervention is need based and timely in the context of Ten Years Strategic Plan (TYSP) to end the untouchability and caste based discrimination in Nepal. Strategic plan is a road map or long term guideline to involve target groups on the campaign of awareness and advocacy against caste based discrimination and untouchability. The project implementation therefore fits well within the TYSP and expects high level of political support. The institutional strengthening of NDC,

DNF and other Dalit organizations and the increased knowledge and public awareness on Dalit issue opens long term benefit to responding to caste based discrimination.

Sustainability of the impact will be ensured by strengthening the capacity of Dalit individuals/organizations to end untouchability and caste based discrimination. The formation of alliance/network and Dalit vigilance center will contribute to the critical mass that required for sustainability. The activities are all planned, prepared and undertaken by DNF, NDC and local level Dalit organizations currently working on the issue of untouchability and Dalit rights. The people who are leading the project activities come from the same communities and experiences and continue to have strong roots in the community. Hence there is a strong bond between the staffs and members from POs who lead the project and Dalit movement.

The implementation of an advocacy plan of action and strategy to be developed after meeting/training/workshop would get support from the local leadership since preventing and responding to the human rights violence and atrocities against Dalit is one of their performance rates. Dalit organizations at the local and national level will continue their efforts even after the completion of the project activities with minimum support from external source.

#### **5.4. Management and Communication**

The project will have an advisory committee between NDC and DNF in Kathmandu. It will be consisting of the representatives from NDC, DNF, UUDC and ESP and with occasional participation as relevant by donors, experts, and local implementing partners, will meet on a monthly basis, or more frequently as the project demands, to set project priorities, agree on project agenda, and review project performance.

POs (NDC, DNF and local implementing partners will be responsible for overall management of the ESP grant negotiated and awarded to each of them.ESP's role will include coordination, technical support, and due diligence. Each PO will, with oversight from ESP, work through agreements at the district and national level. ESP from regional and central level will provide technical support on activity development, coordination, monitoring of partner activities, and the charting and adjustment of project strategy.

A monthly action plan will be charted and team meetings will take place to monitor the progress. The district coordinators will communicate through phone and email with the ESP at both the regional and central level. POs will be responsible for providing progress reports to ESP on a quarterly basis.

#### **5.5. Coordination and Linkages**

Coordination and linkage is considered to play vital role in the formal recognition of UCBD, changing the societal norms and ending impunity. Horizontal and vertical linkages will be created between organisations at all levels. Engaging with the local authorities and government bodies forms an important part of this project. The authorities include policy and decision makers, civil servants (administrative and welfare), judiciary, police and National Dalit Commission. It is the authorities who must make or change the law and ensure accountability of the police, judicial and

constitutional mechanisms for implementation. The second layer of coordination with the similar local authorities takes place at the district level.

The implementing partners would be high level mechanism at Prime Minister Office, UUDC, Badi Development Committee, Nepal Police, National Dalit Commission, major Ministries and public service providers, Media and human rights activists. As the major thrust of the project is in creating coordination between government and civil society stakeholders, one of the major achievements of the project both in terms of project outcome and sustainability would be institutionalising the linkages.

### **5.6. Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting**

The execution of project activities will be done in accordance with a project implementation schedule defining the specific time frame for each activity. These activities will be monitored on a continual basis by project staffs and responsible board members to ensure that the project is on track. In addition, evaluation or the measuring of the extent to which the results have been achieved will be carried out at the end of each activity. Relevant evaluation tools will be developed and applied for all project activities.

The overall monitoring and evaluation of the project will use the log frame as a tool. A baseline survey could be carried out in the project area. Baseline data on the capacity of POs, extent of UCBD, availability of legal and medical services for victim-survivors, and the level of awareness and empowerment of Dalits and non-Dalits against untouchability could be collected. POs will provide technical support in data collection and analysis for the baseline if required. The project will prepare quarterly physical and financial report as per the requirement of ESP and ESP M&E framework. Quarterly reports will be submitted to ESP.

The project will conduct a mid-term review meeting with its district POs, so as to check the progress of the project towards attaining its objectives and extract basic learning for better improvement of project performance. ESP as part of its end of programme evaluation will carry out an evaluation of this project during Dec 13-Jan 14.

### **5.7. Budget and Justification**

The overall project budget is designed with an objective of achieving maximum output with the optimum utilisation of resources. There are three major outputs of the overall estimated cost of GBP 131,886 (NRs. 17,804,582.00).

The implementation of the activities is supported by project staffs at district and national level. POs will hire external consultants or provide advisory services from their organizational level wherever applicable. POs are more responsible to facilitate the work efficiency and expedite the monitoring/reporting mechanism.

The budget for POs will be channelled through ESP central and regional office. They will receive 6 percent management fee for the activities they will handle at the district level. A separate budget will be worked out for each of POs (in consultation with POs).

## **6. Institutional Capability**

The **National Dalit Commission** was established in March 2002 as a section under the Ministry of Local Development. NDC is a high level government agency responsible with dealing with the elimination of all form of racial discrimination. It is expected to work with all line agencies to address the issue of caste-based discrimination. The Commission's core mandates includes creating an environment in which Dalit groups would be able to enjoy their rights; provide policy recommendations and advocate for amending existing legal provisions; provide recommendation to government and advocate for formulating policies and strategies for the implementation of international covenants and conventions; guide and monitor the effort of NGOs towards upliftment of Dalits.

In addition, NDC is believed to play a proactive role on the formulation of policy and program to end caste based discrimination in Nepal. It has also been assigned the role to monitor activities related with caste based discrimination. Although entrusted with huge responsibilities, the NDC's governance structure, human resource, budget allocation, infrastructure is quite weak and, as a result, has affected in prompt execution of its roles and responsibilities.

### **Dalit NGO Federation**

Dalit NGO Federation (DNF) as a credible organization of Dalit civil society has a major role in Dalit upliftment and elimination of caste based discrimination and untouchability. DNF has filed more than 500 cases of Dalit atrocities into the court for pursuing justice process towards Dalit and prosecute culprits in the past. It has significantly contributed in developing CBDU act by holding series of discussion with policy makers and concerned stakeholders. Besides it has significant experience in mobilizing its member organizations' for conducting nationwide campaign in order to fight against caste based discrimination and untouchability in the country. However other Dalit NGOs not under DNF's umbrella should not be undermined for contributing in eradicating caste based discrimination.

DNF and other Dalit NGOs at the district level will have a major role in Dalit upliftment and elimination of caste based discrimination and untouchability. DNF along with other Dalit NGOs can play a major role in the implementation of the current strategic plan. Other Dalit NGO's, it works for the elimination of caste-based discrimination, protection and promotion of Dalit human rights, and strengthening the capacity of Dalit NGOs, and in areas such as institutional development, capacity building, lobbying and advocacy, and programme interventions. RDIF POs have already been doing advocacy for Dalit rights and inclusion at the district level. They have formulated alliances/networks in order to promote inclusion and empowerment of Dalits.

**Rastriya Dalit Network Nepal (RDN Nepal)** is a network of Dalit NGOs working with Dalit wings of political parties, Dalit NGOs and pro-Dalit activists through rights based approach to development in Nepal. It was formed as 'Regional Dalit Network' in 2001 to address different issues like discriminative social dogmas, untouchability, social injustice, and social exclusions. Initially, this network functioned as a mass-based organization. After all, it was registered as a non-governmental organization in district administration office, Kailali and subsequently affiliated in social welfare council. RDN Nepal is a campaign and advocacy based organization and it creates



pressure to governmental and other sectoral organization so as to address the issues related to Dalit rights. Dalit's parliament is one of the forums to provide pressure to policy makers through submitting the alternative concepts and policies for the issues like reservation. It has gained success to publicize the issue of *Haliyas* both at national and international level. RDN Nepal has 20 district chapters (nine in far west region and 11 in mid-west region) and 5 regional chapters. *Haliya* Rights Forum, Dalit Student Network and Dalit Women Council are its sister organizations. RDN has both, organizational and personal membership system. Currently, it has above 600 members including 100 organizational and 500 personal.

**Dalit Development Society (DDS)** is a non-profit, non-partisan and non-governmental organization working in the field of social development for more than a decade after registration in Salyan District Administration Office, in 2001. The main purpose of DDS is to improve the socioeconomic and education status of the Dalits, and other poor and disadvantaged groups, including women and children. Our goal is to create an equitable society by reducing caste discrimination and social injustice. Since its inception, DDS has been a part of the Dalit Movement and has been active in advocating for Dalit's rights. DDS has experience in implementing various programs with the support of the Nepali government and I/NGOs, including the District Development Committee of Salyan, Care Nepal, SPDI/UNDP, CAR-NWG, CIRCLE Project Asia, WINROCK International, Danida/AEPC, Save the Children/US, DNF, ECHO/Tdh, DLGSP, APPSP, FAO, PAF and UNDP Nepal. DDS has been affiliated with the Social Welfare Council, NGO Federation, Dalit NGO Federation, and Collective Campaign for Peace (COCAP), and Alliance Nepal. DDS works with OHCHR and INSEC to reduce incidents of human rights violations. DDS has also made progress towards peace building, social justice, equity, and conflict resolution in 27 VDCs of Salyan.

DDS has an experience of implementing various programs related to children and their education. These programs include conducting non-formal classes, providing education materials and scholarships to Dalit and conflict victim students to commence or continue their studies, psychosocial counselling, and supporting block grant in school, supply of teaching and learning materials to schools. NFE classes were conducted for child workers, campaign made against child labour and children supported with school kit materials to continue their education. DDS established peace library and mobilized the youth as volunteer for conflict transformation. Families were oriented through effective parenting care training.

**DalitsJankalyanYuwa Club (DJKYC)** is a non-governmental organization, registered at District Administration Office (DAO) of Siraha in 2000 (2057 BS) and affiliated with Social Welfare Council (SWC). DJKYC, formed by Dalits, is located at Gudigau ward No. 10 of Lahan Municipality of Siraha district. DJKYC was formed to address different issues of Dalits in the district and the region to some extent. It has focused its focus primarily in women rights, Dalit rights, child rights, education, income generation and right based movements on the issues of Dalits and Dalits communities. Besides, it has experienced empowerment and advocacy to the Dalits, women, child, conflict victims, landless people in Siraha, Saptari and Udaypur districts. Poverty Alleviation program is its on-going activity in the Siraha district.

DJKYC has been continuously implementing Dalit Empowerment campaigns after getting its legally registration in 2001 in activeness of Dalit youths, DJKYC, organizing Right-based campaign

programs like grouping meeting, discussion, workshop, interaction, training, opposition, slogan, rally and unveiled for social justice along public advocacy on Dalits collective issues e.g. Caste-based discrimination and untouchables, mainly issues of rights and rights related to Human Rights with Dalits, poor, Women and children has been promoting through ever circulating result oriented campaign of them. In that's way, it has been circulating awareness campaign, empowerment campaign and income generating. Dalit Janakalyan Youth Club has targeted transformation of current conflict of country in peace, conflict victim women, men and children for awareness generating campaign, skill Development training for income generating, organizing for peace through group formation and mobilization and micro-finance program. It has been affiliated in SWC (social welfare council) at 2001 and in Eastern Region Dalit NGO federation (DNF) at 2003.