



e-Newsletter



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Stakeholders present Inputs on the GoN's Draft NHRAP (2014-2017)

LALITPUR: The National Human Rights Commission organized an interaction among the representatives of various government offices and civil society organizations on the draft of the fourth Five Year National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) prepared by the Government of Nepal.

Addressing the program Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai, as the chair of the program, said that the plan would be vitally significant to guarantee for the development of human rights culture in the country. Pointing out the ignorance of the government authorities about the third NHRAP implemented in the past, he urged the plan to hit the target sector in different way this time. The district level authorities ought to work on the plan with proper understanding of the norms and values of the plan to help human rights reach to the grassroots level, he stressed.

...the Commission has provided 22 advisory inputs on the draft NHRAP along with the suggestions provided by the representatives of the Government agencies, NGOs, CSOs and sent to the Government of Nepal.

Stating about the NHRC monitoring being carried out on the implementation of the plan since formulation period of the plan, he called on all the stakeholder representatives to provide suggestions and inputs from the side of their organizations and agencies.

Making the presentation on the draft NHRAP, Human Rights Officer Shyam Babu Kafle said that the draft NHRAP is inclusive of as many as 18 themes. In the draft, focus is also made on Resolutions 1325 and 1820. The Resolution calls on all member states to increase women's participation in the formulation of policies for conflict resolution, management and prevention, protect and address the special needs of women and girls during and after conflict.

At the program, Advocate Som Luitel said that forthcoming NHRAP should touch upon the issues of the rights of migrant workers and their families. He also stressed on the need of building the regional level standard in the SAARC. The draft also needs to provide space on the issues of the nomadic community such as Route and Chepangs with due realization of their rights, he urged.

Similarly, Advocate Meera Dhungana said that the information about conceiving of the NHRAP on the part of the Government should be disseminated to the district level people for better implementation of the plan. She stressed on the disabled

friendly infrastructures in both public and private hospitals. She also drew attention to the problem related to birth registration under the circumstances that the biological father is at large after having relationship with woman by making false promises of marriage.

Dalit Rights Activist Bhakta Biswakarma expressed his reservation about the listing of the issues to be addressed within NHRAP. He urged the action to be taken on priority basis. He also expressed his anxiety about the monitoring team headed by the government representatives

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Accession to the Rome Statute of ICC stressed

KATHMANDU: The attention of the National Human Rights Commission has been drawn to the incident of fast-unto-death staged by Human Rights Activist Krishna Pahadi placing his demand before the government to accede to Rome Statute (International Criminal Court). The Commission carried out on-the-spot monitoring on the health condition of Mr. Pahadi.

With the use of jurisdiction availed by the Statute, it would suffice ways to promote and strengthen human

rights and help in ending the state of impunity and also help bring the perpetrators involved in serious nature of crimes such as genocide, crime against humanity and aggression into legal action.

The House of Representatives reinstated after the 2006 popular uprising had passed a resolution and directed the government to arrange for the ratification of the Rome Statute. The Commission would like to remind that prior to this, the Commission had recommended to the Government of

Nepal to accede to the Rome Statute.

The Commission has, therefore, urged to the Government of Nepal to ratify the Rome Statute, to establish the mechanisms related to it, to appropriately address the demands put forward by rights activist Krishna Pahadi staging fast-unto-death and also to the implement the recommendations of the Commission, a press release quoted Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai as saying.

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Stakeholders overwhelmingly present

such as Chief District Officer. He laid his emphasis on the solution to the problem centric plan rather than mere monitoring on the incident.

HR Activist Hom Kant Chaulagain, on the other hand, commented on having the other vital international human rights instrument such as Rome Statute signed within the implementation period of the NHRAP. He also stressed on the prompt incorporation of human rights education in the school level curriculum.

Journalist Sahajman Shrestha said that since the country is heading towards federalism, the rights of citizens over natural resources should be ensured together with the right to live in clean environment.

Indigenous rights activists duo Prithvi Raj Mukarung Bantawa and Chandra Singh Kulung urged that since the country is heading towards federalism, political rights provisioned on the basis of the federalism should also be included in the NHRAP.

Representative from Blue Diamond Society Manisha said that the longstanding issues of the sexual minority should be addressed through NHRAP. She also laid her emphasis

on the use of the term 'santan' (kin) in the place of son and daughter in the NHRAP draft.

HR Activist Bishnu Pukar Shrestha, expressing wishes for the strong and effective implementation of the plan, said that life of people, dignity and equality ought to be placed at the core of the plan.

Ganesh BK, another Dalit Rights Activist said that the monitoring on implementation of the NHRAP should be independent led by the NHRC.

Kabindra Burlakoti, a youth human rights activist, said that the issues related to all age groups have been addressed through the would-be implemented NHRAP, but the matter related to the youths have been somehow ignored. While we talk about the human rights education, the scholars of VSW may be mobilized to evoke the sentiment of the mass for human rights education.

Kamala Panthi of Sancharika Samuha said that the plan should have the agendas that would duly address the participation of women and violence against women. She also stressed on the media mobilization for both implementation of the NHRAP and

monitoring on the implementation status of the NHRAP.

Indira Ranamagar, another rights activist working for the children of the inmates serving their jail term, said that redressing of the rights of the children sheltered along with their prisoner parents should be included in the NHRAP as one of the agendas.

Charimaya Tamang, the women rights activist fighting for the rights of the victims of human trafficking, victims of unwanted pregnancy and born children etc. urged the human trafficking and various problems related to these should be included in the NHRAP drafting.

Sarita Gyawali, Human Rights Officer of NHRC, advised that the objective falling short in the draft, it would not yield expected result. She therefore urged to have the listing of activities bearing the appropriate objectives.

Meanwhile, the Commission has provided 22 advisory inputs on the draft NHRAP along with the suggestions provided by the representatives of the Government agencies, NGOs, CSOs and sent to the Government of Nepal.

Role of Stakeholders stressed for safeguarding the Rights of Senior Citizens

PALPA: The NHRC Sub Regional Office Butwal jointly organized the program on the Role of Stakeholders in Safeguarding the Rights of Senior citizens in coordination with the Association for the Rights of Senior Citizens, Senior Citizens Society, Human Rights Alliance and Federation of NGOs in Palpa on March 23, 2014.

Thirty five participants from different organizations working for the rights of senior citizens participated in the program. At the program, the participants were made aware of the functions and mandate of the NHRC including situation of the senior citizens with main focus on the role of stakeholders to promote and protect the rights of senior citizens. Chaired by Mr. Dwarika Sharma, the chair of the Association for the Rights of Senior Citizens, the program was held at the presence of Chief District Officer Mr. Shivraj Joshi as the chief guest.

During the program, Head of the NHRC Butwal Sub Regional office Mr. Dipak Jung Dhwoj Kakri stressed that the rights of the senior citizens must be on the rights based approach instead of principles of welfare. He also laid

his emphasis that there be need of amendment in law and government has to implement its decision to provide fifty percent concession in public transport for senior citizens.

At the program, the central member of the Network Mr. Pom Narayan Paudel presented the paper on the rights of senior citizens. He quoted in his presentation that as compared to the realizations of the rights provisions in other sectors, government is keeping issues of the senior citizens in shadow and the role of NGOs, on the other hand, is not effective to ensure the rights of senior citizens. He demanded that there must be ambulance and hospital in Devghat and Chitwan where thousands of elders are dwelling for religious reason.

The chief guest of the program CDO Joshi made commitment that the CDO



Resource persons and participants at a program entitling safeguarding the rights of senior citizens held in Palpa district

Photo: Regional Office, Pokhara

office would be dedicated to ensure the rights of the elders. He added that effective monitoring was conducted to have vigilance over edible milk and instructed to the milk producers to keep milk processing unit in their farms. He also shared that the CDO office has issued the instruction to Banks, Electricity and Telecom related offices to provide speedy service to the senior citizens with additional management of separate queue for those senior citizens seeking public service.

NHRC Drivers hone skills through HRs Training

BHAKTAPUR: The NHRC conducted a training entitling 'Transport Safety and Human Rights Friendly Conduct' among eleven drivers working with the Commission.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the program, Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai said that the drivers working at the commission should have different working style with high degree of discipline maintained during and after their work hours. The program was facilitated by Human Rights Officer Lok Nath Bastola.

At the training, Director Subarna Karmacharya, Chief Accountant Janardan Badal, Human Rights Officer Ghanshyam Bhandari, Security Officer Pradyumna Kattel, Advocate and Human Rights Defender Laxmi Rai and Traffic Police Inspector Sitarma Hachhethu facilitated the sessions in the training held for two days.

On the second day, Yadav Prasad Poudel, from among the participants presented the recap of the previous day. During the training, Inspector Hachhethu shed light on transport related legal provisions, lane discipline including other traffic rules related topics. Urging the drivers working at the Commission to be exceptionally disciplined and exemplary, he briefed on the minimizing of incidents. Meanwhile, an incident related documentary was screened which was followed by comprehensive discussion.

Director Subarna Karmacharya, conducting the final session, called on the participants to be positive to evade unnecessary stress and pressure while on duty.



Resource person Traffic Police Inspector Sitaram Hachhethu, Director Subarna Karmacharya, Human Rights Officers Ghanshyam Bhandari and Loknath Bastola along with the trainee drivers at a training held in Kavre.

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

TJ Mechanisms to be at par with International Standard: NHRC

LALITPUR: The expert task force called on the Office of the National Human Rights Commission and had discussion on the vital transitional justice mechanism related draft bill prepared by the government. The mechanisms as such are meant to address the incidents of armed conflict period of the past.

The Commission has stressed that the transitional justice mechanisms (Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Commission on Enforced Disappearance) should be formed in consistent with the internationally recognized practice to be independent, impartial, full of authority and capable of delivering justice to the victims of human rights violations and sustaining the environment for reconciliation in society apropos the

Supreme Court order and the NHRC recommendations. Also stressed is the guarantee for such mechanisms to be autonomous and independent in nature.

The Commission has facilitated advisory inputs on several provisions to be incorporated in the TJ mechanisms that would ensure action against the human rights violators with the environment created for truth seeking, respect for victims' rights while providing the relief, compensation and reparation to them, criminalizing of the heinous human rights violations such as enforced disappearance and torture. The law in the TJ mechanisms is also sought to ensure security with dignity shown to the victims, witness/s and informants contacted during the time of the investigation.

Similarly, the NHRC advisory on the draft bill is also provided for incorporating the provision that ensures the addressing of the UN Resolutions 1325 and 1820 related to the gender issues. The TJ mechanisms should also duly internalize the spirit of truth, prosecution, reparation, vetting and institutional reform with the promulgation of laws that ensures justice delivery to the victims.

The Commission has also suggested to ensure the ample participation of the victims' in law making process until the implementation phase, to carry out larger consultation with the concerned stakeholders and include the suggestions facilitated by them prior to the enforcement of the law.

Access to Justice and Human Rights of Women Stressed

PALPA: A program on human rights education entitling 'Access to Justice and Human Rights of Women' was organized at the premises of the district prison of Palpa.

Coordinated by the district prison authority of Palpa, the program was jointly organized by NHRC Sub Regional Office Butwal, House wife Nepal (Grihni Nepal) and YAD Nepal.

The program was chaired by the Chief of the district prison Jailer Dharendra Raj Panta. Similarly, Chief of Butwal Regional Office Deepak Jung Dhøj Karki threw light on the function, role and duties of the NHRC and shared the rights of the detainees including the prison and detention center monitoring guidelines.

Mr Karki added that the prisons need to be reformed into a house of reformation and also elaborated the need of amendment in criminal laws. He also focused that state must enact the policies and program for open air jail.

Gita Sharma, advocate of the House wife Nepal (Grhini Nepal) shared that her organization was giving free legal

advice to the women inmates as per need. During the program, Raj Kumar Khiuju of Nepal Police shared with the participants that how police carry out crime investigations.

The jailer and chair of the program Mr. Panta assured that the office of district prison was fully committed to providing rights and facilities to the detainees and inmates. He shared about the insufficient resources of the jail and requested the NHRC to initiate for the recommendation of the adequate amenities' to evade resource crunch.

During the discussion, some of the female inmates shared that they were not tortured or inflicted upon with any inhuman degrading treatment inside the jail. They, however, revealed that they were victimized in the police custody with physical and mental torture and were deprived of meeting their family members. They said that nobody shared about the legal process and legal aid. The inmates expressed that the program was quite fruitful and recommended for the continuation of such human rights education program in days to come.



NHRC Sub Regional Head Dipak Jung Dhøj Karki facilitating a program held on the access to justice and human rights of Women in Palpa district.

Photo: Sub-Regional Office, Butwal



Speech delivered by Acting Secretary Mr. Bed P. Bhattarai during the Opening Session of Nepal National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Community Dialogue (22nd April 2014, Kathmandu)

Honorable Minister Khaga Raj Adhikari (MoHP), His Excellency Mr. Peter W. Bodde (USA), Nepal Representative of UNICEF Ms. Haana Singer, UNDP Country Director Ms. Shoko Noda, Representative from LGBT Community, Distinguished Guests, Human Rights Defenders, Journalists, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It's indeed a privilege for me to be here with you all, on behalf of the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal and I would like to thank the organizers for inviting me to share a few words in this National Dialogue on LGBT community today.

At the outset, we know that as a human being, all LGBT people have the same rights as those of the other individuals. Rights regarding equality or non-discrimination are to be highly emphasized for the enjoyment of human rights of this community-people. This principle is enshrined in various international human rights instruments including Universal Declaration of Human Rights-1948 (UDHR), providing for a wide scope in its application. As per the provisions of International Human Rights Law and the constitutional provision set forth in the Interim Constitution of Nepal, any kind of discrimination on the basis of sex and gender is strongly prohibited. Despite that, it has been frequently reported that the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) people are perpetually discriminated and stigmatized due to their sexual orientation.

The rights situation of those belonging to LGBT group is very critical as many cases of the rights violations perpetrated on them go unnoticed and unreported. Similarly, the conservative outlook, customs, traditions and notion of gender discrimination, prevalence of violence and in-born sexual status of these people have curtailed their freedom of expression and movement in society. At times, they also become victims of rape and violence or sexual harassment. LGBT community people are frequently deprived of their identity and dignity. The National Human Rights Commission of Nepal has been, therefore, strategically engaged

has been gradually improving in Nepal. The proactive initiatives taken by the Supreme Court, the NHRC, Government of Nepal and the LGBT rights activists themselves have contributed to bring positive indicators in the areas of their identity and recognition of the LGBT people including the issues related the issuance of their citizenship certificates, passports, complaints forms and others.

Responsible to ensure human rights in the country with great deal of determination and persistence; the Commission has taken the rights of LGBT people as one of the major areas of intervention with due seriousness. In this regard, I take it as a pleasure to share that the Commission is going to publish a report on the human rights status of LGBT people in Nepal very soon. As of now, the LGBT community people are working in a very close coordination with the Commission to embark upon having their rights protected and promoted with due priority.

Before I wind up my remark, I hereby wish that this National Dialogue on the rights of the LGBT community-people, to be a success and also hope that the event as such would hit upon the roadmap needed to create a human rights friendly environment in society for the LGBT people in Nepal.

Thank you!

“The proactive initiatives taken by the Supreme Court, the NHRC, Government of Nepal and the LGBT rights activists themselves have contributed to bring positive indicators in the areas of their identity and recognition of the LGBT people including the issues related the issuance of their citizenship certificates, passports, complaints forms and others.”

in protecting and promoting the rights of the vulnerable and minority groups of people including those belonging to LGBT community.

In recent days, it has been realized, however, that the enjoyment of human rights of this community

Advocacy launched through Exhibition and Signature Campaign

PARVAT: The NHRC Western Regional Office, Pokhara in collaboration with Right Action Nepal and Conflict Affected Victims Rights Society organized a signature campaign and stall exhibition on the occasion of the district carnival 2014 held in Parvat district.

The objective of the signature campaign was to advocate for the transitional justice and public

accountability in order to ensure for compensation and reparation to the conflict victims, to promote human rights through the implementation of the policies adopted for the conflict victims and to call for the formation of the longstanding transitional justice mechanisms namely Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Commission of Disappeared and to ensure the end of deep rooted impunity and to guarantee for sustaining rule of law in the country.

Expressing solidarity, the INSEC, Woman Human Rights Network, media related Merojilla.com participated in the program as co-organizers. Such an advocacy launched with the solidarity expressed by the organizations working in the field of human rights did work to mount pressure on the state and the concerned authorities to ensure the transitional justice.

The participants of the district carnival comprised the representatives of civil society and concerned stakeholders of the area. As many as 1200 signatures were collected during the campaign.



Visitors at human rights publication exhibition and signature campaign organized in Parvat district.

Photo: Regional Office, Pokhara

At the exhibition, stalls were displayed with the photos of conflict period and the concerned representatives of the participating organizations facilitated the exhibition program with information sharing and the signature collection. Similarly, the human rights related publications of NHRC, INSEC and Right Action Nepal (Satkarma Nepal) were displayed in the stalls for free public distribution.



A participant giving signature during a signature campaign held in Parvat district.

Photo: Regional Office, Pokhara

Stakeholders raise Concern for Equal Rights

KAKSI: Participants at a program have insisted on ensuring equal rights of all castes for peace and stability in the country.

The participants raise this concern at a program entitled 'Racial Discrimination and Untouchability' jointly organized by National Human Rights Commission (Regional Office, Pokhara) and Human Rights Journalists' Association (HURJA) in Pokhara.

Speaking at the program, Yagya Prasad Adhikari, the head of Regional Office

Pokhara, said that Nepali society is yet to experience equal rights guaranteed by the constitution for all people.

He further added that racial discriminations and untouchability-related issues should be settled as soon as possible.

On the occasion, Narayan Adhikari, chair of Village Unit Committee of Kaski, emphasized on immediate emancipation of people from all forms of racial discrimination and gender-based violence.

Rajesh Parajuli, chair of HURJA-Kaski Chapter, informed that his organization would organize interaction in rural areas aiming at raising awareness against existing racial discrimination.

Participants including Shyamlal Pariyar, Rewata Sunar, Pinky Sunar, Ganga Bahadur Sunar, Sher Bahadur Sunar, Bhai kumari Pariyar, Kamal Pariyar expressed views on issues related to racial discriminations.



The resource person from the Law Enforcing Agency facilitating the session at an orientation program on human rights held among the junior officer of Police department in Rupandehi district

Photo: Deepak Jung Dhwoj Karki, Sub-Regional Office, Butwal

Representatives of Security Body oriented on Human Rights Education

RUPANDEHI: The NHRC Sub Regional Office Butwal provided orientation training on the theme 'Human Rights Education for Security Personnel' to the representatives of the security body including the Sub-Inspectors and Assistant-Sub Inspectors from the districts of Nawalparasi, Rupandehi and Kapilvastu district.

The objective of the program was to hone the skills and knowledge of the junior level officers of security body in the field of human rights, to familiarize the participants with the duty, power and functions of the Commission.

At the training, the NHRC Sub Regional Head Dipak Dhoj Jung Karki facilitated the training on the topic of human rights principles and standards whereas the Human Rights Officer Chandra Kanta Chapagain briefed

about the duty, functions and power of the Commission. Similarly, the resource person advocate Shiva Prasad Godyal facilitated the training session on the concept and development of human rights, the situation in which crime and human rights violation take place and its consequences. District Attorney Mohan Sagar Basyal, on the other hand, elucidated on the human rights instruments, the role of law enforcing agency in the protection of human rights.

During the program, the Chair of Nepal Bar Association of Rupandehi Budhi Bahadur Thapa threw light on the human rights provisions laid out in the Nepalese law while advocate Hema Neupane elaborated on the role of the security agency towards gender sensitiveness. Likewise, DSP Bharat Khaniya lectured on the role of police in the protection of the victims and

the people at risk while DSP Dinesh Acharya enumerated on the use of force and weapons, Advocate Om Prakash Aryal shed light on the significance of international human rights law and the international criminal court. District Attorney Dhruva Mani Gyawali made his presentation on the arrest, detention, search and seizure.

Senior Superintendent of Police Bijay Kumar Bhatta, the chief of the Western Regional Training Center gave away the certificates to the participants as the chief guest of the program.

Addressing the closing ceremony of the training, Mr. Bhatta, on behalf of the department, expressed his commitment for the respect, protection and promotion of human rights. He also said that the participants, some of them being resource persons themselves, would internalize the skills and knowledge received during the orientation-cum-training and would apply them in practical term. Adding that NHRC publications disseminated during the training were very useful for the trainees, he expressed his hope that the Western Regional Training Centre and the NHRC would go in for the same kind of collaboration for the prototype program of human rights education in future.

26 participants including one female participant took part in the training.



The resource person and the participants at an orientation program on human rights in Rupandehi district

Photo: Deepak Jung Dhwoj Karki, Sub-Regional Office, Butwal

NHRC Review Meeting held on Two-Quarterly Progress



The NHRC Policy, Research and Planning Division head Jayashor Chapagain' facilitating the session a NHRC review meeting held on quarterly progress

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

LALITPUR: National Human Rights Commission concluded its review meeting of its progress made against planned activities for the fiscal year 2013/014 and formulation of annual work plan for the fiscal year 2014/015. The review meeting was held from 11th to 12th April, 2014.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the meeting, Acting Secretary Mr. Bed Prasad Bhattarai underscored the need to review and assess the accomplishments made by NHRC on the stipulated time frame. He also

opined that time had come to evaluate the short-term and long-term effectiveness of the commission's activities carried out for the protection and promotion of human rights.

On the occasion, Director Subarna

Karmacharya described about the proposed briefing program. He stated that briefing program would incorporate information about the planned activities and objective of the commission, organizational pattern, and staff organogram among others.

At the program, Policy, Research and Planning Division Head Jaya Shor Chapagain made an analytical presentation on 8-month programs and activities of central, regional and sub-regional office. He also disclosed about the allocated budget for the fiscal year 2014/015 for all regions.

Human Rights Defenders trained on HR issues

KASKI: Kaski-based human rights defenders and the representatives of the government bodies have been trained on different aspects of human rights in a two-day long training organized in Pokhara.

Resource persons Yagya Prasad Adhikari, Khagaraj Acharya and senior advocate Tilak Acharya threw light on Human Defenders Guideline-2069, role of civil society on peace and reconciliation and fundamental rights stipulated in the constitution respectively.

Similarly, B.P. Bhandari, Yagya Adhikari and Dilliraj Acharya spoke on international practice on transitional justice, Complaints Handling Guidelines developed by NHRC, and state obligations on

protection and promotion of human rights respectively.

On the occasion, Police Inspector Ms Chandra Gurung, journalist Jamuna Barsha, and human rights defenders Dhiraj Thapa and Tara Maya Gurung and Advocate Bednath Bhandari expressed their views on different aspects of human rights.

40 representatives of agencies and non-governmental organizations working in Kaski participated the training. The training was jointly organized by National Human Rights Commission (Regional Office, Pokhara) and National Heritage and Human Rights Protection Committee.

HR Defenders ask for Early Appointment of NHRC Officials

KASKI: Human rights defenders working in Kaski has been trained on different contemporary issues of human rights. They were trained on human rights issues in a training organized by NHRC (Regional, Office Pokhara).

B.P. Bhandari, an expert on constitution, shared 25 years long East Timorese experience on peace and reconciliation on the occasion. Yagya Prasad Adhikari, Head of NHRC Regional, Office Pokhara shared on Complaints Handling Guidelines developed by NHRC.

In a separate context, participants of the training demanded to fulfill the seats of the Commissioners lying vacant for a long time now. The process of promotion and protection of human right will be expedited then, they said.

Consultation held on draft report on Human Trafficking

LALITPUR: A consultation was organized on April 30, 2014 with the purpose of assimilating suggestions and comments to the Annual Report on Human Trafficking 2012-2013 from various stakeholder agencies including government bodies at NHRC Hall.

Chaired by NHRC Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai, the program was attended by the representatives from Government bodies such as Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Ministry of Labor and Employment, Non-Government Organizations like Alliance against Trafficking in Persons especially on Women and Children including INGOs. The participants provided their invaluable suggestions and inputs.

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