

Annual Progress Report

FY 2023-2024 (2080/81)



**Institute of Local Governance Studies
(INLOGOS)**

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Acronyms

CDSG-II	Capacity Development Support to Governance-II
CIGP	Center for Innovative Governance Practices
CoP	Community of Practice
FG	Federal Government
GoN	Government of Nepal
HR	Human Resource
INLOGOS	Institute of Local Governance Studies
LG	Local Government
MoFAGA	Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration
MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MT	Mobile Team
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
NDRRM	National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
NSET	National Society for Earthquake Technology
PG	Province Government
PSD	Public Service Delivery
RIAP	Revenue Improvement Action Plan
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal

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I. Background

Institute of Local Governance Studies (INLOGOS) is a non-profit, non-political and non-governmental organization established in 2005. INLOGOS believes that the sustainable and holistic development of Nepal is possible only through the promotion of a decentralized local governance system. Hence, it is working to support local development through the promotion of local self-governance system over the last fourteen years. Currently, the institution has been serving the country to strengthen local governance in the federal system of Nepal. INLOGOS has been established and recognized institution in the field of federalism, decentralization and local governance in Nepal.



"Happy People Happy Nation" is our vision. Accordingly, decentralized local governance for strengthening democracy, efficient service delivery, and sustainable development is our mission and to promote local democracy through strengthening the local governance system is our goal. "Promote democracy, local governance, and sustainable development" is the motto.

This institution has been running by a team of expertise in the field of federalism, democracy, local governance and development. INLOGOS work with the agencies and stakeholders on the sectoral and cross-cutting issues including agriculture, health, education, women, children and disaster risk management. Research and Study, Planning and Monitoring, Organization Management, Training and workshops are the major areas that INLOGOS has

been focusing on.

It is definitely a challenge for INLOGOS to act according to its objectives in the present situation where still the federal system of governance has not been properly institutionalized. However, we have been

implementing the projects and activities even in a challenging situation. INLOGOS carried out research and studies and supported the governments to policy formulation through providing practical feedback to the policy makers. Also, supported to develop annual, periodic and sectoral plans, MTEF (Medium-Term Expenditure Framework), RIAP (Revenue Improvement Action Plan), Capacity Development Plan and SDG localization. Our support to Sudurpaschim Provincial Government helped to establish a mechanism of Province-Local Government consultation, coordination and collaboration. The resource book on shared mandates helped the sub-national governments to take responsibilities on sectoral issues especially education, health and agriculture.

This report briefly covers the activities carried out in fiscal year 2080/81 B.S. (2023/24) and the progress made so far.

2. Policy Research on Public Service Delivery and Citizen

Public Service Delivery (PSD) is a fundamental pillar of local governance. PSD serves as a foundation for fostering trust among citizens and bolsters political stability and citizen satisfaction. However, achieving efficiency in PSD is not an easy task that it involves navigating complex challenges such as budget limitation, physical access and procedural difficulties, data limitations and political constraints. PSD is a multifaceted concept that encompasses accuracy and reliability, strategies to bolster transparency, accountability. PSD ensures responsible stewardship of public trust, and has been an integral to fostering confidence in the government and means of building public image of LGs. Implementing well-designed legal framework and rules can serve as a guiding methodology in clarifying pathways to promote responsible PSD thereby enhancing government credibility.



In recent years, the role of the LGs in service delivery has substantially increased. Yet, they are yet to be established as institutions of public service delivery. However, the poor state of service delivery has been a cause of public concern. It is observed that the processes whereby resource availability, service provision, and the quality of its provision come about at facility level are largely ignored. All spheres of governments such as federal government (GoN), provincial governments (PGs) and local governments (LGs) are

responsible for providing health services. Some health facilities, for example, are devoid of essential medicines and equipment or the medical personnel to work at the facilities. The LGs have limited human and financial resources, which can hinder their ability to produce and deliver adequate public services. HR and budget constraints often lead to a lack of investment for infrastructure development, paying personnel salaries, and funds for service improvements.

However, people have a feeling that LG is offering good service and this motivation is due to their easier access to political leaders. The elected officials are accessible to them. On the other hand there may be a biasness considering the political ideology of the citizen. But, the very low participation of citizen in the local government planning process is observed. People feel that they have been excluded from the mainstream work. Representation is there but questioning on the meaningful participation of local citizen. The institutional and human resource capacity gap to function properly the constitutional and legal provisions for the LGs was observed.

3. Project Evaluation Survey of the Capacity Development Support to Governance-II Community of Practice-II and Mobile Team Modalities (CDSG-II) Project

The Capacity Development Support to Governance (CDSG-II) is one of the priority projects of the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA) to enhance the capacity of the Local Governments (LGs). The technical assistance to the project is provided by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (giz) GmbH and commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The project aims to strengthen the capacity of actors at various spheres of government to use improved political, institutional and methodical elements of the multi-level governance system. INLOGOS carried out an end-line survey of CDSG-II to assess the relevance, effectiveness and challenges of the programme for improvement and inform future programmatic decisions.

The CDSG-II has adopted 'Learning beyond Training: Community of Practice and Mobile Team' concept to enhance the capacity of LGs and to improve local governance practices. Out of the total 75.5% respondents have reported that CoP approach is highly relevance to discuss and identify measures to resolve



common issues as well as to share good practices among each other. Accordingly, the respondents of the Key Informant Interview in the end- line survey have reported MT service as highly relevance in overcoming barriers in implementation of plan and policies.

Effectiveness is assessed against the usefulness of CoP to help each other solve day to day problems as well as sharing good practices in specific areas. Out of 5 areas considered to assess the effectiveness of CoP, respondents have reported CoP approach as highly effective in addressing the issues and sharing good practices in revenue projection, judiciary service, budget and programme formulation as well as in monitoring & supervision and less effective in information technology and communication sector of local government. The Provincial Center for Good Governance (PCGG) in partner provinces have integrated CoP and MT approaches in their annual plan, 2023/24. This is a significant step forward to provide better learning opportunities beyond traditional training to elected representatives and staff of LGs.

4. Support GoN/MoHA to develop a Plan for the Establishment of the National Disaster Management Training Center and Fire Management Unit

The entire territory of Nepal lies in high seismic hazard zone (<https://www.nset.org.np/nset2012/index>). It is exposed to a variety of natural hazards and human induced disasters. The country is among the 20th most disaster-prone countries in the world. Nepal is ranked 4th and 11th in terms of its relative vulnerability to climate change and earthquakes, respectively (Maplecroft 2011, BCPR 2004 cited in MoHA 2015). In addition, the country is also ranked 30th in the world for flood/landslide risk (MoHA, 2018a). More than 80



percent of the total population of the country is at risk from natural hazards such as floods, landslides, windstorms, hailstorms, fires, earthquakes and Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) (UNDP, 2017). The global climate change trends are highly likely to further worsen the disaster situation across Nepal. A study on disasters has recorded a total 25,849 disaster events in Nepal from 1971 to 2016 (DisInventar database, NSET 2018). Another report has recorded on average two events/day disaster and three deaths/missing persons per day (Jimee, et al., 2019). These trends are likely to continue in the future.

The National Disaster Management (NDM) Policy 2018 has included the establishment of the 'National Disaster Risk Reduction Research and Training Institute responsible for research and capacity development on disaster risks, disaster prevention, preparedness, search and rescue as well as post-disaster recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction. In addition, the NDRRM Act, 2017 has made the provision of enhancement of the institutional capacity of the Federal, Provincial, District and Local levels on disaster management. However, there is no specific legal provision in the Act or bylaws for the establishment of a national-level training center/institution. The government, however, has not implemented the NDM policy. In the absence of an umbrella organization, disaster-related training programs neither have been standardized nor have their quality and effectiveness been assured. As envisioned in the 2018 policy, Nepal need to give a top priority to establishing Disaster Training Center/Institution within the nodal ministry for strengthening the national institutional capacity involved in DRRM without further delay. In this context, INLOGOS supported the GoN/MoHA to develop a Plan for the Establishment of National Disaster Management Training Center with support from USAID-DIA-Tayar Nepal Project. Accordingly, we supported GoN/MoHA to develop a plan for the establishment of Fire Management Unit.

5. Preparation of Digital Profile and Municipal Periodic Development Plan of the Mandandeupur Municipality

The concept of systematic development planning in Nepal was started in 1956. After the introduction of development planning in Nepal, 15th development plans has been implemented. The same practices have been introduced at local level especially from the enactment of Local Self Governance Act in 1999. Under federal Constitution with three tier of government (federal, province and local level) are functioning independently but with proper cooperation, coordination and collaboration. The Constitution of Nepal clearly indicated the rights and duties of all the governments. The Local Government Operation Act (LGOA) clearly describes the role and responsibility of the Local



Governments (LGs). Among others, database management, plan formulation (annual, periodic, strategic, long term, etc.), resource mobilization (generating/getting tax and non-tax revenue, grants (equalization, conditional/non-conditional, special grant and matching fund and expenditure), plan implementation with proper M&E, social accountability and internal control mechanism, regulating functions, citizen participation and service delivery including social security and Sipharis/approval are the major roles of the LGs.

The ultimate goal of the LGs is attainment of sustainable livelihood, well-being of people and overcome of poverty. The residents of this Municipality are looking for better access to agro and non-agro based economic opportunities, information, markets, basic health, education, water supply, hygiene, roads, irrigation, electricity, other physical infrastructure and other basic service. It is nearly impossible to achieve those results without long term vision, goal and a long term integrated development plan. In this context, INLOGOS provided technical support to Mandendeupur Municipality, Kavrepalanchok is preparing Digital Municipal Profile and the Municipal Periodic Development Plan (MPDP), Municipal Transport Plan (MTP) and Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). The plan has been developed through a participatory planning approach where each of the stakeholders were involved. Besides, number of citizen representatives including women, farmers, children, disability, dalits and marginalized group participated the planning process to raise their voices on local need and priorities. It is expected that the periodic plan will support the municipal officials to address the citizen priorities through the optimum use of available resources. The five year's periodic plan have pictured the vision, mission, goal and objectives aligning with target indicators and responsibilities.

6. Others

Starting with its establishment in 2005 INLOGOS has been participating the meeting, workshop, seminar, talk programmes and others organized by the different institutions. INLOGOS signed a Memorandum Understanding (MoU) with CIGP (Center for Innovative Governance Practices) to promote the concept of partnership through mutual cooperation and collaboration. The regular office operation activities like office management, committee meetings, annual general assembly, auditing, renewal of the registration, calendar and other publications were happed as usual.

