

# **A Pilot Study**

# **Situation of**

# **Aid Transparency**

# **in Nepal**

**Prepared for:**  
**Development Initiatives Poverty**  
**Research Ltd.**  
Wells, UK



**Prepared by:**  
**Freedom Forum**  
Kathmandu, Nepal



#### **Study Team**

**Coordinator:** Mr. Taranath Dahal

**Lead Researcher:** Mr. Basanta Lamsal

**Data Analyst:** Mr. Sugam Bajracharya

**Field Researcher:** Mr. Chiranjibi Kafle  
Mr. Siromani Dhungana  
Mr. Shambhu Gautam  
Mr. Bhumiraj Chapagain

#### **Support Team**

**Executive Director:** Mr. Krishna Sapkota

**Manager:** Mr. Anirudra Neupane

**Study Title:** Situation of Aid Transparency in Nepal

**Published By:** **Freedom Forum**  
Thapathali, Kathmandu, Nepal

**Edition:** Nov, 2012 First

**Printed Copy:** 1000

**Printing Consultation:** T N Ghimire

**Cover:** Sling Media P. Ltd.



## Contents

<b>Acknowledgements.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>III</b>
 <b>CHAPTER 1</b>	
<b>1. Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 General Background .....	1
1.2 Objectives of the Study .....	2
1.3 Methodology of the Study .....	2
1.4 Scope and Limitation of the Study .....	2
1.5 Management of the Study .....	3
1.6 Study Period .....	4

## CHAPTER 2

<b>2. Desk Review .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2.1 General Overview .....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1.1 Freedom Forum.....	5
2.1.2 Other Initiatives taken by CSOs.....	6
<b>2.2 National Acts, Policies and Plans on Transparency and Accountability .....</b>	<b>7</b>
2.2.1 RTI Act- Nepal .....	7
2.2.2 Financial Work Procedural (FWP) Act 2055 .....	7
2.2.3 Public Expenditure Financial Accountability Framework (PEFA) .....	7
2.2.4 Aid Management Platform (AMP).....	8
2.2.5 Foreign Aid Policy .....	8
2.2.6 Local Self-Governance Act, 1999.....	8
2.2.7 Good Governance (Management and Operation) Act - 2008.....	9
2.2.8 Others .....	9
<b>2.3 International Conventions, Declarations and Policies .....</b>	<b>9</b>
2.3.1 The High Level Fora (HLF) for Aid Effectiveness.....	9
a. First High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Rome Declaration, 2002) .....	9
b. Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Paris Declaration, 2005).....	10
c. Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Accra Agenda for Action, 2008).....	11
d. Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Bussan, 2011).....	11
2.3.2 International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) .....	11
2.3.3 Open Budget Initiative .....	12
2.3.4 Open Government Partnership .....	12
2.3.5 United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).....	12

## CHAPTER 3

<b>3. Study Design and Methodology .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>3.1 Study Design .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>3.2 Study Approach .....</b>	<b>14</b>

<b>3.3 Methodology .....</b>	<b>15</b>
3.3.1 Sampling Procedure and Sample Size.....	15
3.3.2 Methods of Data and Information Collection .....	15
a. Desk Review.....	16
b. Consultation .....	16
c. Field Survey.....	16
d. Key Informants Interviews (KIs).....	16
e. Case Studie .....	17
f. Secondary Information .....	17
<b>3.4 Data Collection Tools.....</b>	<b>17</b>
3.4.1 Questionnaire .....	17
3.4.2 Pre-testing of Questionnaire .....	17
3.4.3 Stakeholder Consultation.....	17
<b>3.5 Data Coverage .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>3.6 Data Entry and Processing .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>3.7 Data Disaggregation .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>3.8 Sharing of Major Findings.....</b>	<b>19</b>

## CHAPTER 4

<b>4. Results and Analysis.....</b>	<b>21</b>
4.1 General Overview .....	21
4.2 Disclosure Policy Mechanism .....	21
4.2.1 Information Sharing.....	21
4.2.2 Motivation for Information Sharing .....	23
4.2.3 Types of Information .....	26
4.2.4 Number of Projects.....	28
4.2.5 Project Information Sharing.....	28
4.2.6 Outreach Mechanism.....	32

4.2.7 Means of Information Sharing.....	34
4.2.8 Others.....	38
4.3 Audit Information.....	40
4.4 Request for Information.....	42
4.4.1 Frequency of Information Request.....	42
4.4.2 Information Requesting Institutions/Groups.....	42
4.4.3 Type of Information .....	44
4.4.4 Time Taken to Provide Information .....	46
4.4.5 Complaint Redressal Mechanism.....	47
4.5 Budgetary Information .....	48
4.6 Knowledge and Compliance Situation on Aid Transparency and.. .....	51
4.6.1 Knowledge on Aid Transparency and Accountability .....	51
4.6.2 Compliance Situation on Aid Transparency and Accountability .....	53
4.7 Documents on Aid Transparency and Accountability .....	56
<b>CHAPTER 5</b>	
5. Major Findings, Observations, Key Learning and Recommendations....	59
5.1 Major Findings.....	59
5.2 Observations.....	61
5.3 Key Learning.....	62
5.4 Recommendations .....	63
a. General .....	63
b. Policy/Strategy Level .....	63
c. Operational Level .....	64
<b>References.....</b>	<b>65</b>

## TABLES

<b>Table 4-1:</b> Information Sharing with Different Stakeholders - Central Level.....	22
<b>Table 4-2:</b> Information Sharing with Different Stakeholders - District Level.....	23
<b>Table 4-3:</b> Motivation for Sharing Information - Central Level .....	23
<b>Table 4-4:</b> Motivation for Sharing Information - District Level .....	24
<b>Table 4-5:</b> Type of Information Sharing - Central Level .....	26
<b>Table 4-6:</b> Type of Information Sharing - Beneficiary Level .....	27
<b>Table 4-7:</b> Number of Projects - Central Level .....	28
<b>Table 4-8:</b> Sharing of Project Specific Information - Central Level .....	29
<b>Table 4-9:</b> Sharing of Project Specific Information - District Level .....	30
<b>Table 4-10:</b> Sharing of Project Specific Information - Beneficiary Level .....	32
<b>Table 4-11:</b> Outreach Mechanism for Information Sharing - Central Level .....	33
<b>Table 4-12:</b> Outreach Mechanism for Information Sharing - District Level .....	34
<b>Table 4-13:</b> Means of Information Sharing - Central Level .....	35
<b>Table 4-14:</b> Means of Information Sharing - District Level .....	35
<b>Table 4-15:</b> Means of Information - Beneficiary Level .....	36
<b>Table 4-16:</b> Timeline to Make Information Public - Central Level .....	39
<b>Table 4-17:</b> Stage to Make Information Public - District Level .....	40
<b>Table 4-18:</b> Selection of Auditor - Central Level .....	40
<b>Table 4-19:</b> Audit Report Sharing - Central Level .....	41
<b>Table 4-20:</b> Information Requesting Institutions/Groups- Central level.....	44
<b>Table 4-21:</b> Information Requesting Institutions/Groups- District level.....	44
<b>Table 4-22:</b> Type of Information Requested - Central Level.....	45
<b>Table 4-23:</b> Type of Information Requested - District Level.....	46
<b>Table 4-24:</b> Time Taken to Provide Information - District Level .....	46
<b>Table 4-25:</b> Complaint Redressal Mechanism - Central Level.....	47
<b>Table 4-26:</b> Budgetary Information - Central Level .....	50
<b>Table 4-27:</b> Knowledge of Senior Management Team on Aid Transparency .....	51
<b>Table 4-28:</b> Knowledge on Aid Transparency and Accountability - District Level .....	53

Table 4-29: Compliance on Aid Transparency and Accountability - Central Level .....	54
Table 4-30: Policy Documents Linked with the National Policies - Central Level .....	57

## DIAGRAMS

Diagram 4-1: Information Sharing with Different Stakeholders - District Level.....	22
Diagram 4-2: Motivation for Sharing Information - Central Level.....	24
Diagram 4-3: Motivation for Sharing Information - District Level.....	24
Diagram 4-4: Type of Information Sharing - District Level.....	26
Diagram 4-5: Type of Information Sharing - Beneficiary Level.....	27
Diagram 4-6: Number/Percentage of Projects - Central Level.....	28
Diagram 4-7: Sharing of Project Specific Information - Central Level.....	29
Diagram 4-8: Sharing of Project Specific Information - Beneficiary Level.....	32
Diagram 4-9: Outreach Mechanism for Information Sharing - Central Level.....	33
Diagram 4-10: Means of Information - District Level.....	36
Diagram 4-11: Means of Information - Beneficiary Level.....	38
Diagram 4-12: Timeline to Make Information Public - Central Level.....	38
Diagram 4-13: Language Used - Central Level.....	39
Diagram 4-14: Selection of Auditor - Central Level.....	41
Diagram 4-15: Frequency of Information Request on Aid Projects - District Level.....	42
Diagram 4-16: Type of Information Requested - District Level.....	45
Diagram 4-17: Time Taken to Provide Information - District Level.....	47
Diagram 4-18: Knowledge on Aid Transparency and Accountability- Central Level.....	52
Diagram 4-19: Comparison between Knowledge and Compliance Situation - Central Level.....	54
Diagram 4-20: Comparison between Knowledge and Compliance Situation - District Level.....	56
Diagram 4-21: Policy Documents Linked with the National Policies - Central level.....	57
Diagram 4-22: Organisation Registered with IATI - Central level.....	58

## BOX

Box 4-1: Time Taken to Provide Information - Central Level .....	46
--	----

## Annexes

### Annex 1

Survey Questionnaire - Central Level.....	69
---	----

### Annex 2

Survey Questionnaire - District/Project Level.....	74
--	----

### Annex 3

Survey Questionnaire - Beneficiary Level .....	80
--	----

## List of participants

Consultative Meeting .....	83
----------------------------	----

## CASE STUDIES

Scanty Knowledge on Aid Transparency Promoting Laws .....	25
---	----

No Mechanism for Transparency.....	31
------------------------------------	----

Absence of Responsible Officer puts Information.....	37
--	----

Project Office has no authority to provide aid info... .....	43
--	----

New Impetus for Donor Agencies... .....	49
---	----

Unaccountable response behind incomplete and.....	55
---	----



## Abbreviation

ADB	Asian Development Bank	LDCs	Least Developed Countries
AG	Auditor General	LGCDP	Local Governance and Community Development Programme
AMP	Aid Management Platform	LSG	Local Self Governance
ATI	Aid Transparency and Accountability	MoF	Ministry of Finance
CBDRM	Community-based Disaster Risk Management	NGO	Non Governmental Organization
CFLG	Child Friendly Local Governance	OAG	Office of the Auditor General
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations	OC	Outreach Cell
DAC	Development Assistance Committee	OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
DDC	District Development Committee	OGP	Open Government Partnership
DEO	District Education Office	PEFA	Public Expenditure Financial Accountability Framework
DFID	Department for International Development	PIC	Public Information Centre
DIC	District Information Centre	RTI	Right to Information
ECARDS	Ecology, Agriculture and Rural Development Society	RRRSDP	Rural Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program
FCGO	Financial Controller General's Office	SPSS	Statistical Packages for Social Science
FWP	Financial Work Procedure	UNCC	United Nation Convention against Corruption
GoN	Government of Nepal	UNDP	United Nations Development Program
IATI	International Aid Transparency Initiative	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency	VDC	Village Development Committee
KIIs	Key Informants Interviews	WB	World Bank



## Acknowledgements

The thrust of the study '**Situation of Aid Transparency in Nepal**' has been to assess the best approaches of aid transparency at country level so as to amplify lessons on its importance. As an integral part of foreign aid transparency initiative, Freedom Forum with support from Development Initiative based in the United Kingdom, conducted the study to gather and compare information on various aid dimensions from key donor agencies including multilateral, bi-lateral and UN agencies and link them to funding information at district level. The initiative was tailored to contribute in achieving national developmental goal through improved accountability, transparency and aid effectiveness in Nepal.

With growing awareness among the citizenry at large, the importance of aid transparency and effectiveness has emerged as an important issue in public debate and discourse. Correspondingly, donor agencies have also become more sensitive towards this issue. However, it is still not clear as how sensitive the donors are and what mechanism they have developed to disclose aid information. For the least developed and post conflict country like Nepal, which is heavily dependent on foreign aid and grants, this agenda appears to be more pressing. Foreign aid and grants has the power to transform citizens' lives and open up avenues for development and transformation, its potential has not been fully realized and materialized in Nepal however. It is taking its roots as foreign aid (or development assistance) is inextricably linked to citizen's interest and concern and development need of the country. The study was conducted in this backdrop.

Our sincere gratitude goes to all the individuals and institutions who/which have had direct contributions in accomplishing the study, which would definitely serve for a solid foundation with far-reaching consequences in the realm of foreign aid transparency and effectiveness.

In this connection, we would like to express our sincere thanks and gratefulness to the Development Initiatives Poverty Research Ltd. of the United Kingdom for providing us with an opportunity to be a part of aid transparency initiative focusing on donor side transparency. Similarly, special thanks go to Victoria Room, Policy Advisor, Aid Info, whose scholarly guidance and feedback have facilitated us to mould this study report to this shape.

Similarly, Freedom Forum is grateful to the responding officers of seven donor agencies including bilateral (USAID, DFID, JICA and Norwegian Embassy), multilateral (World Bank and ADB) and UN Agency (UNDP) and their project officers in Chitwan and Dolakha districts for cooperating us with gathering and tracking data required to undertake this study.

Likewise, we would like to record the cooperative gesture of project partners – Alliance of Aid Monitors in Nepal, CAHURAST, NGO Federation Nepal and Young Innovations Pvt Ltd – especially in exchanging ideas, learning and experience while executing the respective components of the project.

Similarly, we owe our sincere thanks to Mr. Basanta Lamsal, lead researcher of the study, for his significant involvement in the design of research methodology, structure of the questionnaire, field survey and development of study report. Likewise, thanks are dues to central and district researchers including Chiranjibi Kafle, Shiromani Dhungana, Shambhu Gautam (Dolakha) and Bhumiraj Chapagain (Chitwan), whose assiduous works in gathering field-level information and drawing observation and learning of the study were valuable in shaping up the report. Statistician Sugam Bajracharya also deserves thanks for his contribution in systematically presenting the data.

There were significant inputs from various experts on the methodology as well as on the findings of the study. We are indebted to the distinguished participants who provided their expert opinions and comments in different phases of the study project, particularly in methodology workshop, consultative meetings at district level and study findings sharing workshop. In this respect, we are grateful to senior economist Dr Chiranjibi Nepal, Mohadutta Timilsina, Deputy Auditor General, Office of Auditor General, Baburam Shrestha, Secretary, PEFA, Ministry of Finance, Prakash Niraula, Section Officer, Ministry of Finance and Kedar Khadka, a representative from civil society.

We extend our thanks to Freedom Forum colleagues mainly Executive Director Mr. Krishna Sapkota, Manager Mr. Anirudra Neupane and Media Officer Mr. Narayan Prasad Ghimire for their hard work and dedication in the planning, coordination and execution of the entire initiative.

Finally, we are also thankful to Mr. T N Ghimire for his assistance in making it printable. Similarly, Mr. Kamal Pokhrel, also deserves our sincere thanks for his contribution in fine tuning the report.

I, on behalf of the Freedom Forum, do expect the similar contribution from all the involved in the future course as well. Likewise, I would like to request our readers to provide us with their valuable feedbacks for bringing out better publications in the future.

**Tara Nath Dahal**  
Chairperson



## Executive Summary

Freedom Forum in collaboration with Development Initiatives Poverty Research Ltd, UK conducted a pilot study on “Situation of Aid Transparency in Nepal” from 25th November 2011 to June 30th 2012. Seven donor agencies: the World Bank, ADB, DFID, JICA, Norwegian Embassy, USAID and the UNDP, were chosen as sample agencies from Kathmandu. These agencies were basically selected so as to ensure all types of representation namely, multilateral, bilateral and UN agency respectively. . Similarly, two districts of Nepal – Dolakha and Chitwan were selected for information verification at district level. Moreover, five beneficiaries from each district were selected as respondents for the research.

The overall objective of the study was to contribute in achieving national developmental goal through improved accountability, transparency and aid effectiveness in foreign assistance in Nepal. The specific objectives of the study were a) to assess the situation of aid transparency and accountability amongst the leading donor agencies in Nepal and, b) to collect evidence on the best approaches to achieve the above, and amplify lessons about the importance of transparency at country level.

Major approach employed in the study was sample survey, and decision on the use of the approach and size of sample was arrived at after the consultation with aidinfo and subject experts. Purposive sampling methodology was used to select the donor agencies for the survey. They were chosen fundamentally keeping in mind their funding size, functional commitment for accountability/transparency and regional representation and balance. Similarly, two districts identified for the study were Chitwan (Central Region/Inner Terai) and Dolakha (Central Region/Mountainous). Moreover, ten project beneficiaries (key informants), five from each district, were selected to have their opinions on aid transparency and accountability.

Pioneering in this particular field, the study has revealed some interesting facts. The major findings highlight the following:

- All agencies at central level reported that they share aid and project information with different stakeholders but level of information sharing is different.
- There are a total of 164 running projects of the seven sampled agencies and a large portion (over 80%) projects are being implemented through Nepal Government. The USAID is reported as the only agency which has been implementing projects through I/NGOs.
- There is significant discrepancy between the information provided by project/ district offices and beneficiaries.
- Web portal and media are the main outreach mechanism for disseminating information to the stakeholders, including beneficiaries.
- Inquiry on foreign aid and project information was very minimal at district level.
- Project reports, country office website and press release have been the most common means of information sharing amongst the agencies.
- Six agencies out of seven have assigned officers for information sharing but DFID is the only agency which does not have designated officer for that matter.
- Information is sought primarily by the media at the center, whereas beneficiaries and the local leaders are the ones who seek information at the district level.
- No agency, except the World Bank, has the exact time period that takes to provide information. Different answers were given by many, but the ADB and USAID did not give any answer at all.
- None of the agencies provided complete budgetary information. Hence, most of the agencies have failed on their claim that they were transparent and accountable.

A number of observations and key learnings in course of pilot study were identified. They are:

- The presumption that donors respond to the queries or letters with due course of time without much delay, doesn't seem to be entirely correct.
- Finding designated officer at the donor agency was very challenging.
- Transparency level as claimed by donor agencies is not found in practice. There is discrepancy between what is said and what is practiced.

- Knowledge level on ATA amongst heads of district/project offices seems very low. The project beneficiaries do not seem to have any knowledge on ATA at all.
- The representatives of only two organizations participated in methodology workshop and three on the sharing workshop though all seven agencies were duly informed on this. This indicates ATA has not been priority issue amongst the donor agencies.
- A systematic and standard tool to measure the level of aid transparency could be developed.
- Research to locate transparency situation of donors is quite cumbersome and rigorous process.
- Involvement of donor agencies' representatives in research process is very difficult as they tend to avoid any meeting and gathering related to ATA.
- Accessing information from donor agency to measuring up their openness and transparency is difficult as many of them seem reluctant to provide information. It is rather difficult to acquire budgetary information from them by general public.
- Hierarchy/administrative hassle within donor agencies makes it difficult to contact the right person for information.

Based on the findings and key learnings as well as the observations, research team has made the following recommendations for consideration of donor agencies.

- Outreach mechanism should be developed in such a way that two-way communication could be established. Information sharing should be user friendly in terms of language and other technical aspects.
- Information centre like Public Information Centre (PIC) at the World Bank should be set up to impart information to the seekers and requesters.
- Designated information officer should be assigned in all agencies to provide aid related information to the stakeholders and other requesters.
- Donor agencies should strictly follow the RTI provisions of Nepal that includes proactive disclosure of information in every three months, enforcing application system, maintaining information archive etc.
- More comprehensive research and study on aid transparency should be carried out.

- Donor agencies should devise concrete policy and mechanism and establish best practices in disseminating aid information to all the stakeholders in a non-technical way.
- Tracking of donor money from top to bottom (beneficiary level) and performance-based monitoring of any of the donor-financed projects could be another area of further exploration.
- The websites should also be in Nepali medium so that it will reach out to the final beneficiaries.
- It is essential to develop the data system in the AMP by integrating the information all ministries and central bodies, Social Welfare Council and all 75 districts which receive and mobilize foreign aid.
- It was also equally important to study about whom the information is flowed and how information sharing is implemented. Further, a comprehensive study on similar issue is recommended.
- Foreign assistance should be funnelled through one-door system so that it would be helpful to maintain aid transparency and accountability.
- Programs for individual and institutional knowledge enhancement and awareness raising on aid transparency should be planned and implemented at district and community levels.
- Basic knowledge and organizational documents and compliance with ATA should be made customary.
- All the donor agencies should get them registered with IATYI and regularly share information to its database.



# 1

## CHAPTER

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 General Background

This research proposal is designed for the purpose of conducting a study on the situation of Aid Transparency in Nepal. Nepal, one of the least developed and post conflict countries, is presently in transition and going through a major socio-political transformation. Aid flow in the name of peace building, conflict transformation and other development initiatives has been enormous lately. The proposed research, thus, has the potential to make a significant contribution to Nepal and international development discourse on aid transparency, especially where post-conflict LDCs are concerned.

Freedom Forum, a non-profit NGO working at the national level, has been concentrating on press freedom, human rights and socio-economic development in Nepal since its inception in the year 2005. Aid transparency, right to information and media related issues have been the Forum's core areas of intervention. Eventually, its recent project on budget tracking has given further strength and interest for conducting a study on aid transparency and accountability in Nepal. This proposal is, therefore, prepared as a pilot study on the subject.

The paper starts with a general overview of the subject matter. Along with a general background, it explains the problem statement, objective, rationale, significance, major activities, expected outputs, proposed methods, study duration and work plan.

## 1.2 Objectives of the Study

The overall objective of the study is to contribute in achieving national developmental goal through improved accountability, transparency and aid effectiveness in foreign assistance in Nepal. The specific objectives of the study will include, but are not limited to, the following;

- To assess the aid transparency and accountability situation amongst the leading donor agencies in Nepal and
- To collect evidence on the best approaches to achieve the above and amplify lessons about the importance of transparency at country-level,

## 1.3 Methodology of the Study

In order to complete the study, various tools and techniques were adopted. Desk review, consultation and interaction meetings with different stakeholders, field survey and key informants interviews (KII), expert consultations and sharing of draft report was major methodological tools employed in the study. Please see Chapter III for details on study design and methodology.

## 1.4 Scope and Limitation of the Study

Study on "Situation of Aid Transparency in Nepal" is probably the first initiative in Nepal, as no study has been previously carried out on the subject. There are several issues related to aid transparency and effectiveness; however this study is very much focused on aid transparency issues and as a pilot study, the study has covered only few agencies. Within available resources and time frames, it was not possible to conduct an in-depth study to find out answers for many questions on aid transparency and accountability. So, the study had to draw its own scope which are summarised as under:

- This study is based on the information provided by designated officers of the selected agencies. It has tried to capture the process and situation of aid transparency but does not deal with the aid amount and expenditures pattern. Though results of selected agencies and beneficiaries may not represent the entire donor agencies and beneficiaries of Nepal; the result will provide some indicative results of aid transparency.
- Aid transparency situation of government counterpart is not covered in the study.
- The study covers only few important areas namely, project Information, audit

Information, experience on information sharing, budgetary information, knowledge/commitment on national and international principles and documents on aid transparency and accountability. It does not cover all aspects of aid transparency.

Aid transparency and accountability itself is a critical and sensitive issue. A comprehensive and in-depth research is required to have a complete picture of such an important issue. Being a pilot study, this research has been limited in terms of its scope and representation. It covers only seven Kathmandu based donor agencies (multilateral, bi-lateral and UN) and their respective project offices in two districts (Chitwan and Dolakha) and only 10 beneficiaries. Because of sample size, particularly number of districts and beneficiaries, it may not represent the status of the entire donor agencies' situation on aid transparency and accountability in Nepal, thus the result derived in this report will be an indicative one.

Freedom Forum, a non-profit NGO working at the national level, has been concentrating on press freedom, human rights and socio-economic development in Nepal since its inception in the year 2005. Aid transparency, right to information and media related issues have been the Forum's core areas of intervention. Eventually, its recent project on budget tracking has given further strength and interest for conducting a study on aid transparency and accountability in Nepal.

## 1.5 Management of the Study

Freedom Forum carried out the study in close coordination and collaboration with aidinfo, UK. Ms. Victoria Room, Policy Advisor was the official focal person from aidinfo side whereas Mr. Krishna Prasad Sapkota, Executive Director was the contact person from Freedom Forum side. The main roles of the focal persons were coordination and communication with different stakeholders, monitoring of the study and providing required backstopping support to the study team. In addition, the focal persons were involved in finalising the methodologies, implementation of the study, sharing of reports, etc. A multi-disciplinary team from Freedom Forum was involved to accomplish this assignment. The core team consists of Mr Taranath Dahal - Project Coordinator; Mr Basanta Lamsal – Lead Researcher, Mr Sugam Bajracharya - Data Analyst, Mr Chiranjibi Kafle - Field Researcher (Central), Mr Shiromani Dhungana - Field Researcher (Central), Mr. Bhumiraj Chapagain – Field Researcher (Chitwan District) and Mr Shambhu Gautam - Field Researcher (Dolakha District).

Freedom Forum recruited necessary human resources for both office and field works. One day orientation training was organized for the field researchers to orient and get feedback on the questionnaires/checklists, followed by a consultative meeting with stakeholders and experts. All the field researchers attended the training, got acquainted with the process of information collection, and were subsequently deployed to their respective fields. The field researchers were provided with support and supervision by the core and official team of Freedom Forum.

## 1.6 Study Period

The initial project period was November 2011 - March, 2012. However the project duration was extended to June 2012 in mutual understanding between Freedom Forum and Development Initiatives Poverty Research Ltd, UK.



# 2

## CHAPTER

## 2. Desk Review

### 2.1 General Overview

#### 2.1.1 Freedom Forum

Freedom Forum is an independent civil society organization working in the areas of right to information, freedom of expression, media freedom and social accountability and democracy in Nepal. Basically, the organization works in the areas through policy research, evidence-based advocacy and campaign, capacity building and media mobilization. Of late, the organization has established its image as a forum to work for promoting transparency of government budget and foreign aid.

Aid transparency has become central to the country like Nepal which is heavily dependent on foreign aid and grants. It is the public money which influences future of every people. So, Freedom Forum was motivated to work with the AidInfo/Development Initiative based in the United Kingdom to contribute to promote aid transparency by improving the availability and accessibility of information about aid resources in Nepal. The major thrust is to contribute in achieving national development goal through improved accountability, transparency and aid effectiveness in development assistance in Nepal.

The collaboration focuses on capitalizing the knowledge and experience of making information on aid spending easy and accessible thereby exploring ways to enhance aid transparency. The belief is that the access to information can be the effective tool to foster aid transparency and effectiveness.

The on-hand experience of right to information accompanied by working knowledge on budget analysis and research with the International Budget Partnership (IBP) has significantly backed us to expand and link our efforts to aid transparency through pilot study.

Among the major works Freedom Forum accomplished in this connection were research on aid transparency of a sample of seven donors at central level and two districts (Chitwan and Dolakha) at district level. Publishing of six articles focused on aid transparency/effectiveness, three consultative meetings (two in the districts and one in centre) and documenting the process, learning, and outcomes in a systematic manner.

## 2.1.2 Other Initiatives taken by CSOs

AidInfo is the UK based organization that works for aid transparency globally. AidInfo believes that information can make aid work better.

In collaboration with AidInfo, a short-term aid transparency initiative was in place in Nepal to test the feasibility of creating an aid accountability feedback loop to make aid more effective. Besides Freedom Forum, some of the Nepali CSOs involved in this initiative are Alliance for Aid Monitor in Nepal (AAMN), CAHURAST, NGO Federation and Young Innovation Pvt Ltd (YIPL).

It was an attempt to develop a model for greater transparency that could be replicated in other countries. The areas for the collaboration include providing support to NGOs to effectively access and use aid information, providing training sessions and running workshops, exploring how access to information about aid and aid monitoring can enhance social accountability mechanisms, as well as new ways to increase accountability facilitated by media, text messaging and the internet, dissemination of information to communities and citizens and establishing feedback loops back to government and donors, and building expertise for accessing and using aid information to ensure sustainability

NGO Federation undertook research-based project assessing their information need on aid and identifying the best practices as to how the NGOs themselves are disseminating their resources. Likewise, assessing and identifying benefits and challenges of information disclosure was another priority area of the initiative.

The process includes random selection of NGOs from at least five districts for survey (each district having 15 per cent), preparation of survey questionnaire, focused group discussion for qualitative data at district level, five regional consultative meetings for cross verification and national workshop to finalize the survey report.

CAHURAST, another partner organization of the project, had the mandate to assess the situation as how the community people are using the budget/aid allocated for grassroots level, identify whether the budget is spent in a proportional way among the beneficiaries through budget monitoring based on Red Book at local level.

YIPL, basically a software company complementing development sector, has worked as how aid data could be put in compatible with IATI coding. It has the supplementary role in the project and supports as how data could be presented so that it is users friendly and easy for disclosure plays role as per the need of the partner organizations in the project.

Alliance of Aid Monitors in Nepal (AAMN) had engaged its efforts in enhancing access to aid information in rural Nepal. The AAMN undertook pilot research in two VDCs each of Bardia and Chitwan district focusing on primary and secondary data collection, induction workshop, focused group discussions and budget tracking. The thrust of the pilot initiative was to promote transparency and greater accessibility of information on resource flow especially aid.

## 2.2 National Acts, Policies & Plans on Transparency and Accountability

### 2.2.1 RTI Act

Right to Information (RTI) or Freedom of Information is regarded as fundamental human rights in modern days. The United Nations, in its very first General Assembly in 1946, adopted a resolution (59, 1) stating that 'freedom of information is a fundamental human right and touch-stone of all the freedoms to which the UN is consecrated.

Nepal adopted Right to Information Act in July 2007. The Interim Constitution also guarantees RTI in its Article 27. Basically, Right to Information (RTI) underscores the fact that all citizens have the right of access to official documents held by government and other public bodies. In general, 'right to information' laws define a legal process by which government information is available to the public.

The right to information is also a foundational building block for democracy and participation, as well as a key tool for holding government to account and checking corruption.

### 2.2.2 Financial Work Procedural (FWP) Act

The Financial Work Procedure Act-1999 is an instrumental legal arrangement of Nepal, which was made to regulate and manage financial procedures of the government bodies. Importantly, it also deals with the matters of operation of the consolidated fund and the government fund, formulation, sanction and spending of budget, maintaining accounts, making arrangements for internal control, auditing, settlement of irregular amounts (arrears?) and recovery of such amounts. The Act holds much significance to maintain transparency of government expenditure and hold the public authorities to account.

### 2.2.3 Public Expenditure Financial Accountability Framework (PEFA)

The Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) Program was founded in 2001 as a multi-donor partnership between seven donor agencies and international financial institutions to assess the condition of country public expenditure, procurement and financial accountability systems and develop a practical sequence for reform and capacity-building actions. A Steering Committee comprising these agencies manages the Program, while the Secretariat implements the PEFA activities. The goals of the PEFA Program are to strengthen recipient and donor ability to (i) assess the condition of country public expenditure, procurement and financial accountability systems, and (ii) develop a practical sequence of reform and capacity-building actions.

In Nepal, the public financial management (PFM) review was initiated by the Government and the World Bank in August 2005. The PEFA assessment was based on the PEFA framework. The assessment covered 31 indicators which included three donor related indicators that were assessed and benchmarked covering six core dimensions of an open and orderly PFM system.

#### **2.2.4 Aid Management Platform (AMP)**

Nepal volunteered to participate in conducting a Paris Declaration Evaluation in 2010 and Paris Declaration Monitoring Surveys in 2008 and 2011. Nepal also participated in various international seminars and forums, including the 3rd High Level Forum in Ghana (2008) and 4th High Level Forum in Bussan, Korea at the end of November, 2011.

For the purpose of aid transparency and aid predictability, the Aid Management Platform (AMP), an on-line web-based information system, has been set up in the Ministry of Finance. All development partners have been given access to this and requested to report regularly.

#### **2.2.5 Foreign Aid Policy**

Foreign aid plays an important role in Nepal's socio-economic development, representing 26 per cent of the national budget, states the Development Cooperation Report-2011 issued by Foreign Aid Coordination Division (FACD), Ministry of Finance. The main sectors receiving external support are education, local development, health, roads followed by drinking water, energy, agriculture and peace and rehabilitation.

Nepal receives official development assistance from over 40 countries, including 35 resident agencies. About half of aid resources use national systems such as the budget or procurement systems and a significant portion of aid is spent outside national system.

The Ministry of Finance is mandated for the overall coordination of foreign aid in Nepal, including its allocation in line with national priorities. The FACD is the focal point to oversee the government's activities in the area of aid coordination, harmonization and alignment.

The first National Aid Policy was adopted in 2002 prior to the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness. It claims the mandates of national institutions with regard to aid management and provides guidance on aid modalities and priorities for Nepal. According to the Ministry of Finance, the revised draft of the foreign aid policy is on the consultation process. Nepal has been an active participant in international initiatives for aid effectiveness since then. In 2005, Nepal was among the original signatories of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, which set a number of targets and objectives for both donors and recipient countries in order to improve the development effectiveness of aid.

#### **2.2.6 Local Self-Governance Act**

Local Self Governance (LSG) Act -1999 is one of the most important principles and policies of local self governance. The primary aim of this Act is to orient local bodies to follow the

democratic process, and to ensure transparent practice, public accountability, and people's participation, in carrying out the functions devolved on them (LSGA, 1999 section 3 (d)).

There shall be one information and record centre in each DDC to identify the real situation of the district and enhance the planned development process. Such centre shall have to collect and maintain proper information (LSGA, 1999 - section 212). There is a mandatory provision for municipalities to establish information centre in MCPM indicators.

LSG Act has stated that the local bodies namely VDCs, municipalities and DDCs are autonomous and corporate bodies with perpetual succession. It has focused the devolution of powers, responsibilities and means and resources as required making the local bodies capable and efficient in local self-governance.

### **2.2.7 Good Governance (Management and Operation) Act**

The thrust of the Good Governance (Management and Operation) Act 2008 is to make the public administration of the country pro-people, accountable, transparent, inclusive and participatory and improve governance practices. The Act stresses on making available its outcome to the general public by adopting the basic values of good governance such as rule of law, corruption-free, smooth administration, financial discipline, efficient management of public works and resources to ensure citizen-friendly service delivery.

### **2.2.8 Others**

Recognizing the essence of aid transparency, various initiatives are taking place at international arena to reinforce commitment, action and innovation for the common cause of aid transparency and effectiveness. Among such initiatives snowballing their global campaigns are *International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)*, Publish What You Fund Campaign, *Open Government Partnership (OGP)* and AidInfo, which all have laid emphasis on disclosure of aid information in a quick, easy and cheap manner to promote openness and establish system of transparency.

Indeed, strong compliance with the national and international legal frameworks on improving aid transparency and promoting public engagement would bolster the international donor communities' ability to achieve joint development targets such as MDGs and implement conventions, covenants and treaties.

## **2.3 International Conventions, Declarations and Policies**

### **2.3.1 The High Level Fora (HLF) for Aid Effectiveness**

#### **a. First High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Rome Declaration, 2002)**

The First High Level Forum (Rome, 2002) marked the first occasion at which the principles for aid effectiveness were outlined in a concrete declaration. The international

convention was held in Rome. The agenda passed in the convention is called "Rome Declaration". The following were the priority actions of the declaration:

- that development assistance be delivered based on the priorities and timing of the countries receiving it,
- that donor efforts concentrate on delegating co-operation and increasing the flexibility of staff on country programmes and projects,
- and that good practice be encouraged and monitored, backed by analytic work to help strengthen the leadership that recipient countries can take in determining their development path.

#### b. Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Paris Declaration, 2005)

The Second High Level Forum (Paris, 2005) marked the first time that donors and recipients both agreed to commitments and to hold each other accountable for achieving these. The commitments were laid out in the Paris Declaration. Beyond its principles on effective aid, the Paris Declaration lays out a practical, action-oriented roadmap to improve the quality of aid and its impact on development. It puts in place a series of specific implementation measures and establishes a monitoring system to assess progress and ensures that donors and recipients hold each other accountable for their commitments. The Paris Declaration outlines the following five fundamental principles for making aid more effective:

- **Ownership:** Developing countries set their own strategies for poverty reduction and meeting other development goals. They should own the policies and programs that receive development assistance.
- **Alignment:** Donors should align their aid with the systems and processes that exist in recipient countries, including those countries' planning, administrative and budget systems. In addition, aid should be aligned with recipient countries' development priorities and national strategic plans.
- **Harmonisation:** Donors should co-ordinate their aid, simplify their procedures and share information to avoid duplication.
- **Managing for results:** Aid should be structured in such a way that it can focus on desired results. Information should enable the measurement of results and improving decision-making in this respect.
- **Mutual accountability:** Donors and recipient countries should hold each other accountable for their mutual commitments and the results achieved with development aid.

The delegates at the Paris high level forum also agreed to a set up 10 indicators for monitoring progress in implementing the five principles. After 2005, progress in meeting these principles was slow. According to a 2008 Survey on Monitoring the Paris Declaration, only two of the ten principals were met three years later.

### C. Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Accra Agenda for Action, 2008)

The Third High Level Forum (Accra, 2008), emphasised the need to deepen implementation towards the goals set in 2005 was identified, along with a set of priority areas for improvement. Designed to strengthen and deepen implementation of the Paris Declaration, the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) took stock of progress and set the agenda for accelerated advancement towards the Paris targets.

The Accra meeting was different in the sense that it had much more prominent representation from civil society, besides donors and government leaders. It saw a growing recognition of the vital role that information played in the aid arena. Better access to better information was critical to implementing the Paris Declaration and improving aid effectiveness. For example, without accurate and timely aid information, it is impossible for recipient countries to plan effectively and really exercise ownership. Likewise, it is impossible to monitor and improve the results of aid allocations with sound information on the flows and outputs of aid expenditure.

Therefore the need for greater aid transparency was an important theme that emerged as part of the Accra Agenda. Delegates agreed to specific aims and agreements on aid transparency – these are contained in the Accra IATI statement.

### d. Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Bussan, 2011)

The Bussan Partnership document calls on the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness (WP EFF) to convene representatives of all countries and stakeholders endorsing the document with a view to reaching an agreement on the working arrangements for the Global Partnership and the indicators and channels through which global monitoring and accountability will be supported. The document sets out elements of a roadmap for implementation and commits governments and organisations endorsing it to:

- Agree, by June 2012, on a relevant set of indicators and targets through which they will monitor progress on a rolling basis, supporting international and regional accountability for the implementation of their commitments.
- Establish a new, inclusive and representative Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation to support and ensure accountability for the implementation of commitments at the political level.
- Agree, by June 2012, on light working arrangements for this Global Partnership, including its membership and opportunities for regular ministerial-level engagement that complements, and is undertaken in conjunction with, other fora.

#### 2.3.2 International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)

IATI - a voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiative that includes donors, partner countries and CSOs. The main purpose of IATI is to set the necessary conditions and systems in place

to make aid more transparent. This includes the adoption of a common standard for the publication of information about aid. The idea is not to create another international database, but rather to make sure that existing databases and information sources work in ways that make data more reliable, timely, accessible, comparable and so forth.

IATI also seeks to expand the availability of aid information by including data from a wider range of actors including NGOs. There is a close relationship between aid transparency and budget transparency. There is also a close relationship between building openness in the management and flow of public resources, on the one hand, and strengthening democratic governance and accountability, on the other. Therefore, global and country commitments in these areas are likely to have positive spin-offs for aid transparency as well.

### **2.3.3 Open Budget Initiative**

The Open Budget Initiative (OBI) is a project that monitors and advocates for greater transparency in the way individual countries manage their public finances. It is run by the International Budget Partnership, an independent civil society organisation. It conducts regular research into budget transparency across a large number of countries, and publishes the results in the form of an Open Budget Index (the OBI). It also advocates for a global norms and standards for open budgeting.

### **2.3.4 Open Government Partnership**

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) was launched in 2011 to promote government transparency and civic participation. Eight founding countries endorsed the Open Government Declaration and announced concrete steps to make their governments more transparent and accountable. Since then, 42 more countries have joined the OGP.

### **2.3.5 United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)**

The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) is the first legally binding international anti-corruption instrument. In its 8 Chapters and 71 Articles, the UNCAC obliges its States Parties to implement a wide and detailed range of anti-corruption measures affecting their laws, institutions and practices. These measures aim to promote the prevention, criminalization and law enforcement, international cooperation, asset recovery, technical assistance and information exchange, and mechanisms for implementation.



# 3

## CHAPTER

### 3. Study Design and Methodology

#### 3.1 Study Design

A series of consultation and co-ordination meetings were held between different stakeholders including donors and government agencies and other subject experts before finalization of scope, methodology, tools and other associated issues of the study. Methodology workshop was held to finalise the study design, methodology and questionnaire. Key stakeholders including selected donor agencies were invited to the workshop. Separate questionnaires were developed to collect information from central level, district/project level and beneficiary level and the questionnaire was tested with World Bank.

In addition, various study approaches, methodologies and tools were also considered while designing this particular study. Because of its type and nature, it was not possible to apply a single method or approach. This study has thus been a combination of various approaches, methodologies and tools. Both quantitative and qualitative data sources were used to analyse the results. In fact, validation and triangulation of data have been used for this study, which also have been the major tool to derive the indicative results for the study on aid transparency and accountability.

Both primary and secondary data were collected to fulfil the objectives of the study. In order to verify the data collected from the primary sources, the secondary sources were used. The secondary sources were collected from sampled agencies, government offices and websites. Periodic publications of respective offices were good references for the secondary source of information.

## 3.2 Study Approach

The major approach used in the study was sample survey. Decision on the use of the approach and size of sample was made in consultation with aidinfo and subject experts. As there were three categories of respondents, central level donor agencies, district/project level offices of the agencies and beneficiaries, different approaches were used for them. The approaches used for the study are mentioned below.

Category	Name of Agencies	Type of Agency	Study Approach
Central Level	UNDP	UN Agency	Purposive Sampling
	World Bank and ADB	Multilateral Agencies	Purposive Sampling
	USAID, DFID, Norwegian Embassy and JICA	Bilateral Agencies	Purposive Sampling
District Level			
Chitwan	CFLG (UNDP)	UN Agency	Purposive Sampling
	District Agriculture Development Office (WB), District Education Office (ADB)	Multilateral Agencies	Purposive Sampling
	Practical Action (DFID), LGCDP (JICA), District Health Office (USAID), District Health Office	Bilateral Agencies	Purposive Sampling
Dolakha	CBDRM/ ECARDS - UNDP	UN Agency	Purposive Sampling
	Tamakoshi-Manthali-Khurkot Road Project (ADB), RRRSDP/DDC (WB)	Multilateral Agencies	Purposive Sampling
	Women and Children Empowerment/ TUKI Association (Norway) <sup>1</sup> , One Village One Product (Lokta Project)/FNCCI (JICA), School Sector Reform Project/ DEO (USAID), LGCDP /DDC (DFID)	Bilateral Agencies	Purposive Sampling
Beneficiary Level			
Chitwan		Five Beneficiaries	Purposive Sampling
Dolakha		Five Beneficiaries	Purposive Sampling

1. This project was funded by FORUT, Norwegian NGO

### 3.3 Methodology

#### 3.3.1 Sampling Procedure and Sample Size

Purposive sampling methodology has been used to select the donor agencies for the survey. The donor agencies for the pilot study have been chosen fundamentally keeping in mind their funding size, functional commitment for accountability/transparency and regional representation and balance. DFID, USAID, JICA and Norwegian Embassy were selected as the big bilateral donor agencies in the country while ADB and World Bank were selected from multilateral. Similarly UNDP was selected as the UN Agency. The selection has also shown the delicate balance of foreign donors such as UK and Norway from Europe, USAID from America and JICA from Asia. The thrust is to know the aid flow and transparency pattern of wide range of comparatively big donors in Nepal with functional commitment for the issue.

Similarly, two districts identified for the project implementation were Chitwan (Central Region/Inner Terai) and Dolakha (Central Region/Mountainous). Status of accessibility of the districts and greater flow of aid to the region/district were some of the reasons behind selecting the sites. Moreover representation of three ecological zones (Mountain, Hill and Terai) of Nepal also was another reason for selecting the mentioned districts. Seven district/project offices preferably the offices of the donor agencies selected at central level were consulted for information collection in the districts. In case there was no district/project office, major donor in the district was selected for the purpose. The final name list of agencies in the district was finalised in consultation with local government representatives, particularly DDC.

Moreover, at least 10 project beneficiaries (key informants), five from each district, were interviewed to have their opinions on aid transparency and accountability. The beneficiaries were selected after district level consultation meeting. Hence information collected from central and district offices and beneficiaries have helped the project know the aid transparency scenario of Nepal from various perspectives. Though number of sampled districts and beneficiaries may not adequately represent the entire country's situation, they definitely give indicative results of current situation on aid transparency in Nepal. Beside this, the project sites represent two of the four regional centres where Freedom Forum has its district office, networking and good functional rapport.

#### 3.3.2 Methods of Data and Information Collection

The study was built upon routine data collection efforts by undertaking studies designed to respond to specific study questions. Information was collected through both primary and secondary sources. Primary data was collected through individual interviews with office representatives and KIIs etc whereas secondary information was collected through internet browsing, previous study reports, progress reports, other project documents etc. The use of Right to Information (RTI) was considered to acquire information from the above-

mentioned donors, in case required information was not easily available, as they were also under the RTI laws of Nepal.

The study has used a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods which were applied at the central, district and beneficiary levels. As mentioned, separate questionnaire was developed for the information collection. Several participatory tools were used for collection of information. Major participatory tools used are summarised below.

**a. Desk Review**

The research team conducted a desk review of all the available documents related to aid transparency and others as appropriate. Disclosure and other policy documents of donor were major documents. Other documents include progress report, programme and project design documents, fund guidelines, monitoring and evaluation frameworks, donors' funding guidelines and country strategy papers etc.

**b. Consultation**

Experts' inputs and assistance was sought to analyse the collected data. Different consultation meetings were organised for the purpose. Such meetings were held both at central and district levels.

**c. Field Survey**

Data collection was conducted using a detailed, structured questionnaire that had undergone thorough cognitive test and pre-testing prior to the survey. After identification of official representatives of each of the donor agencies who could provide the required information, the researchers visited the donors' offices to conduct interviews. The questionnaire was made up of four main sections. The first section was about organisational and individual introduction, second section about the project information, third about knowledge on the subject and fourth one about the documents that agencies have prepared.

**d. Key Informants Interviews (KII)**

The KII was another method used in the study. This is a standard anthropological method that is widely used in a development research, study and social development inquiry. It is normally used in obtaining information over a period of time from a community resident in a position to know the community well. The term 'key informant' refers to anyone who can provide detailed information and opinion based on their knowledge about a particular issue. The persons selected as key informants for this study also had broad knowledge of the community, its services and people. Leaders of users committee are key informants for this study. A total number of 10 key informants, five persons from each district were interviewed. Both qualitative and

quantitative information were obtained from KIIs. The questionnaire used for KIIs is presented in a separate document.

#### e. Case Studies

The case study is one of the popular forms of qualitative analysis method and it involves a careful and complete observation of social units including institutions. It gives an idea of very successful and unsuccessful cases of a particular issue. The case studies have been helpful to understand the field level practice and behavioural pattern of the concerned agencies in this study.

#### f. Secondary Information

As stated, secondary source of information was used to verify information received from field. Periodic publications (annual progress report) of donor agencies, project reports, relevant research and studies and MoF records were major source of information. Documents reviewed for data collection are presented in the references.

### 3.4 Data Collection Tools

#### 3.4.1 Questionnaire

Structured questionnaire was major tool used for data collection in the study. Separate questionnaires were developed to gather information from different stakeholders/respondents, i.e. donor agencies at central and district level and project beneficiaries. Altogether three types of questionnaires were developed to capture the information in the field as per the scope of the study. The questionnaires were mainly focused on project information; audit Information, experience on information sharing, budgetary Information, Knowledge/ commitment on national and international principles and documents on aid transparency and accountability. The questionnaires used for the information collection are presented in **Annex 2, 3 and 4**.

#### 3.4.2 Pre-testing of Questionnaire

The prepared questionnaire was tested with the World Bank office in Kathmandu. The test was crucial to modify the questionnaires. It also gave insight into what information is available and how the info could be accessed. Two members of research team visited the World Bank office to test the questionnaire and availability of the data.

#### 3.4.3 Stakeholder Consultation

A series of consultation and coordination meetings were held between different stakeholders both at local and central levels. Some primary information was obtained from the

stakeholders at the field level, whereas reference for some secondary source of information was received from central level. Stakeholders were consulted through workshops, small group discussion, person to person meetings etc. Stakeholders consulted at central level were Ministry of Finance (MoF), *Office of the Auditor General (OAG)*, Financial Controller General Office (FCGO) and so on. Field level consultations were carried out with LDOs and other key officials.

### 3.5 Data Coverage

The study has solely relied on the information received from the selected donor agencies and their respective district/project offices. Knowledge and perception of community beneficiaries were also included to have indicative result. The study has covered and analyzed the transparency situation based on the following information.

- Project Information (what, who, when, how often, at what stage),
- Audit Information (who undertakes, auditors selection, who do you share with),
- Request for Information/information sharing experience (how frequently information are asked, who ask, what they ask for, time limit to provide information, any complaint redressal mechanism, any charge for information),
- Budgetary Information (types of fund/budget, budget channel),
- Knowledge/commitment on national and international principles (familiarity with Paris Declaration, RTI proactive disclosure etc, compliance situation),
- Documents on aid transparency and accountability (any policy documents formulated in relation to ATA, information sharing with AMP etc)

### 3.6 Data Entry and Processing

Before the data entry a coding manual was developed and the entire open questionnaires were coded. During the data process and after completion of the data entry consistency was checked on the entire information. After having cleaned and checked for any error and consistency, tables were generated as per the objectives of the assessment. For the purpose of easy handling of data set by the stakeholders in the future, specific database was developed. Data processing and analysis were done by using SPSS (Statistical Packages for Social Science).

Data collected by the field researchers was processed through computer software for generating frequency and summary table based on field findings. The average of allocation and expenditure was calculated through the simple average method.

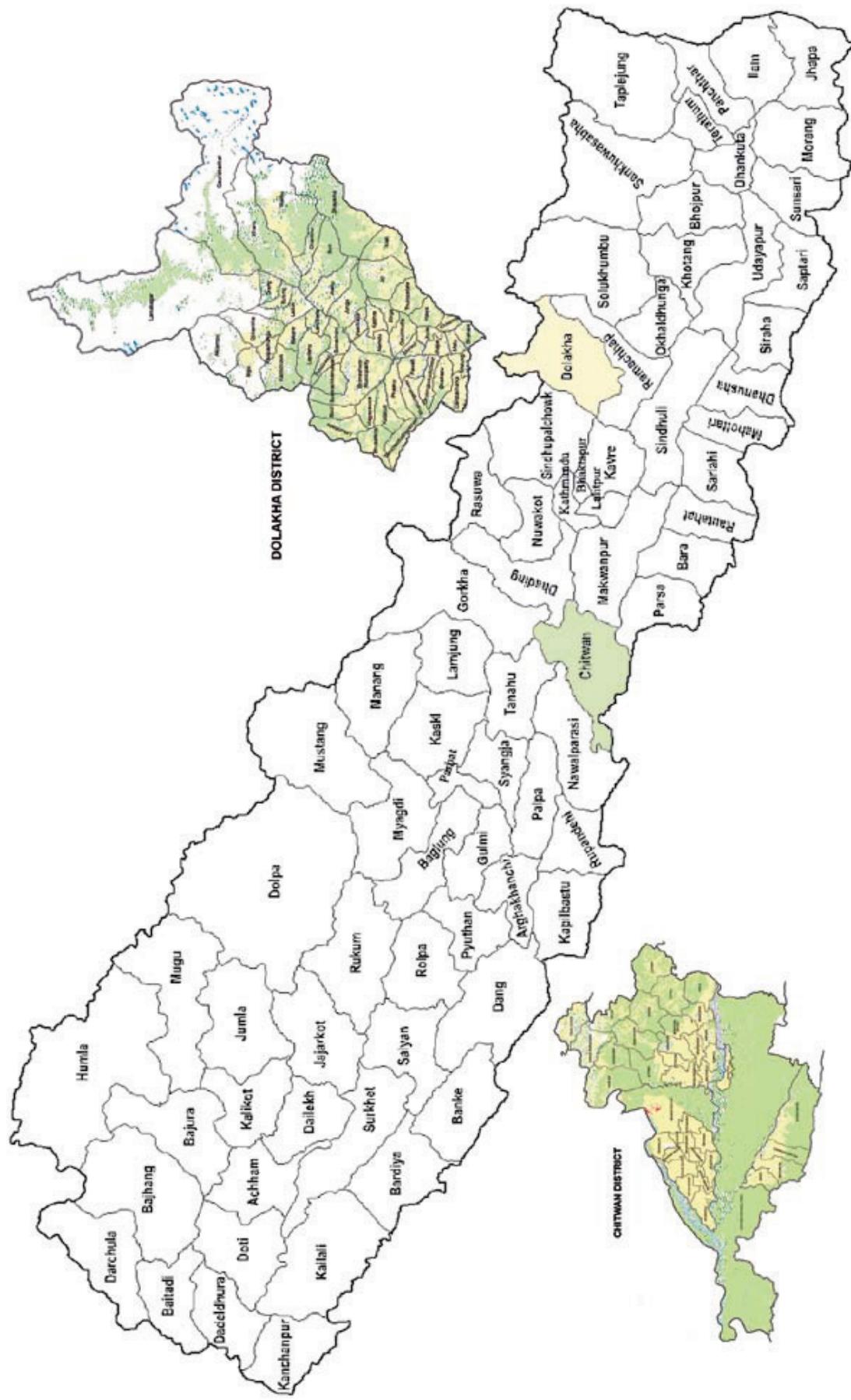
### 3.7 Data Disaggregation

The collected information/data was segregated in terms of district and type of donor agencies. Separate analysis on disclosure policy/mechanism, project information; audit Information, budgetary Information, knowledge/commitment on national and international principles, documents on aid transparency and accountability was done.

### 3.8 Sharing of Major Findings

Major findings and learning of the study was shared with MoF, OAG, FCGO, selected donor agencies and other stakeholders for their comments/feedbacks. Comments received from them were incorporated in the report.





# 4

## CHAPTER

## 4. Results and Analysis

### 4.1 General Overview

Based on the questionnaire developed for different level of respondents, i.e. central level agencies, district/project level offices and community level beneficiaries, number of questions related to aid transparency and accountability were asked to the respondents. The major areas covered are disclosure mechanism, audit information, request for information, budget information, knowledge on ATA and documents. Their responses on various questions are explained under mentioned sub-topics and responses are also presented in different tabular and diagrammatic forms. An attempt has been made to establish links between central, district and beneficiary levels and analysis was carried out accordingly.

### 4.2 Disclosure Policy Mechanism

#### 4.2.1 Information Sharing

All seven agencies consulted at central level mentioned that they do not have restriction to share project/program information with stakeholders and do have organizational policy on the same. By and large, the survey report indicates that the agencies are making efforts to make project information transparent and abiding by the existing acts, policies and rules on aid transparency and accountability. However, there were different responses regarding the stakeholders they share information with. All agencies said that they share project information with Nepal Government and Donor Community but the agencies had different

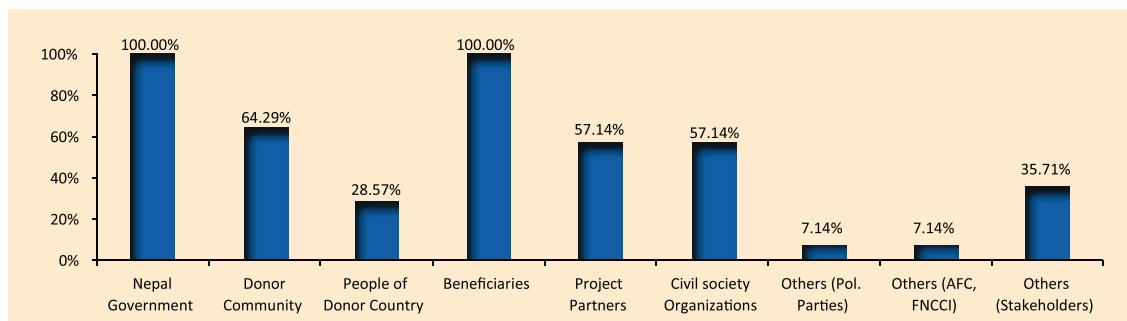
responses on information sharing with other stakeholders. UNDP said the agency does not share information with People of Donor Country and USAID reported the agency does not share information with Project Partners (Project Implementers). Further, it is interesting to note that Norwegian Embassy does not share information with Beneficiaries, *Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)* and Media. No agency gave reason for not sharing information. Please see **Table 4-1** for details of information sharing situation.

**Table 4-1: Information Sharing with Different Stakeholders – Central Level**

SN	Stakeholders	Multilateral		Bi-lateral				UN	Total	
		ADB	WB	DFID	JICA	Norway	USAID	UNDP	Number	Percent
1	Nepal Government	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	100.00%
2	Donor Community	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	100.00%
3	People of Donor Country	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		6	85.71%
4	Beneficiaries	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	6	85.71%
5	Project Partners	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	6	85.71%
6	Civil society Organizations	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	6	85.71%
7	Others (Media)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	6	85.71%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>89.80%</b>

The situation is slightly different at district level. All the agencies have been sharing project information with district level offices of Nepal Government and Project Beneficiaries, however only five agencies in Dolakha and four agencies in Chitwan have been sharing information with Donor Community. It is interesting that all the agencies are sharing information with CSOs in Dolakha whereas only one agency has shared such info with them in Chitwan despite heavy media presence in the district. Information sharing with political parties and private agencies is very minimal at district level as only one agency in Dolakha is sharing information with private sector. Please see **Table 4-2** and **Diagram 4-1** for details.

**Diagram 4-1: Information Sharing with Different Stakeholders – District Level**



**Table 4-2: Information Sharing with Different Stakeholders - District Level**

S.N	Stakeholders	Dolakha		Chitwan		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Nepal Government	7	100.00%	7	100.00%	14	100.0%
2	Donor Community	5	71.43%	4	57.14%	9	64.3%
3	People of Donor Country	2	28.57%	2	28.57%	4	28.6%
4	Beneficiaries	7	100.00%	7	100.00%	14	100.0%
5	Project Partners	4	57.14%	4	57.14%	8	57.1%
6	Civil Society Organizations	7	100.00%	1	14.29%	8	57.1%
7	Others (Political Parties through DPCC)	1	14.29%		0.00%	1	7.1%
8	Others (AFC, FNCCI)	1	14.29%		0.00%	1	7.1%
9	Others (Stakeholders)	4	57.14%	1	14.29%	5	35.7%

#### 4.2.2 Motivation for Information Sharing

The agencies were asked about their motivation to share information. The multilateral agencies at central level said the main motivational factor was organizational policy which mandated them to share information but all the bilateral agencies said they wanted to keep the organizational information transparent. UNDP also shared a similar opinion to bilateral agencies. Please see the **Table 4-3** and **Diagram 4-2** for details.

**Table 4-3: Motivation for Sharing Information - Central Level**

S.N	Motivating Factor	Multilateral		Bi-lateral				UN	Total	
		ADB	WB	DFID	JICA	Norway	USAID		Number	Percent
1	Organizational Policy	✓	✓						2	28.57%
2	Transparency and Accountability			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5	71.43%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Most of the District/Project Offices have similar opinions to bilateral agencies; however they also mentioned Project Policy/Norms, RTI Act of Nepal and M&E strengthening as motivating factors to share information. Please see the **Table 4-4** and **Diagram 4-3** for details.

Table 4-4: Motivation for Sharing Information - District Level

S.N	Motivation Type	Dolakha		Chitwan		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	M & E Strengthening	1	14.3%		0.00%	1	7.14%
2	Project Norms	2	28.6%	1	14.29%	3	21.43%
3	RTI	1	14.3%		0.00%	1	7.14%
4	Project Policy	2	28.6%		0.00%	2	14.29%
5	Transparency & Accountability	1	14.3%	6	85.71%	7	50.00%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Diagram 4-2: Motivation for Sharing Information - Central Level

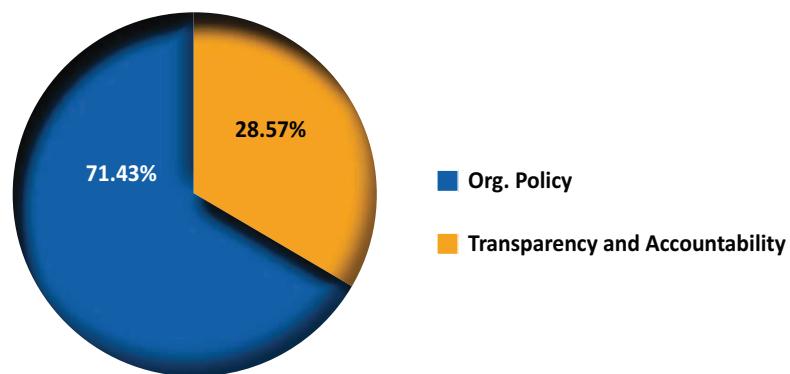
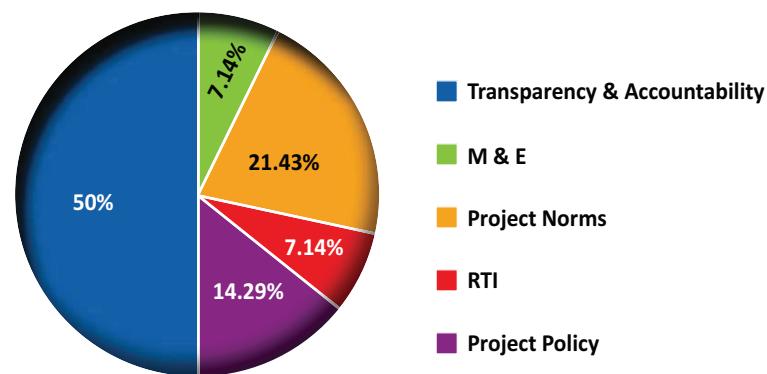


Diagram 4-3: Motivation for Sharing Information - District Level



## CASE STUDY



### Scanty Knowledge on Aid Transparency Promoting Laws

The School Sector Reform Programme (SSRP), which has come to effect across the country after signing agreement with Education Ministry and Education Department, is also implemented in Dolakha district. Students and teachers of schools in the district are the beneficiaries of the initiative.

Different donor countries and agencies have channelized assistance for the programme. USAID and World Bank are among the donors. 'The District Education Office was found positive in providing information in line with research questionnaire developed to check transparency and accountability status', commented Freedom Forum's Dolakha district researcher, Shambhu Gautam.

Though it was difficult to find responsible employee while approaching the office twice, he did not however hesitate to respond queries accordingly. It is important for the District Education Office to have its own website, timely update of information is another part nevertheless. It is visible that there is no adequate information about SSRP in the website and the website is not frequently updated.

With all these things in place, the respondent office was not found aware on the international norms, values and instruments on foreign aid transparency and effectiveness. 'It was observed that the Office has appointed information officer but the designated officer was found pretending to have knowledge in this connection', said Gautam.

### 4.2.3 Types of Information

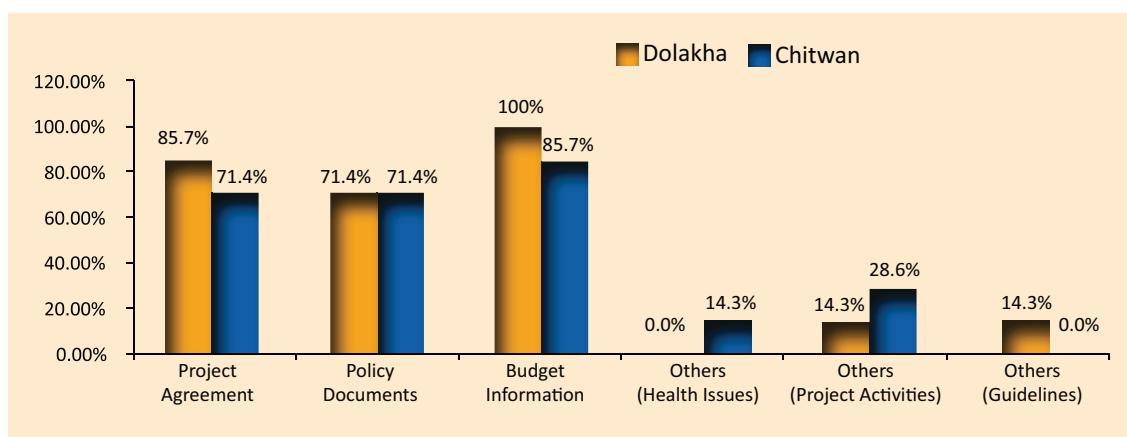
The agencies also were asked about the types of information they have been sharing. There were similarities amongst the agencies at central level. All of them said they share project agreement, policy documents and budget information to stakeholders. The World Bank is further ahead in comparison with other agencies and the agency also shares information on internal budgets. Please see the **Table 4-5** for details.

**Table 4-5: Type of Information Sharing - Central Level**

S.N	Type of Information	Multilateral		Bi-lateral				UN	Total	
		ADB	WB	DFID	JICA	Norway	USAID		Number	Percent
1	Project Agreement	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	100.0%
2	Policy Documents	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	100.0%
3	Budget Information	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	100.0%
4	Others (Internal Budgets)		✓						1	14.29%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>78.57%</b>

Response of agencies at district level was more or less same as central level. However, there are slight differences in information sharing between the districts. All the agencies in Dolakha district said they share budget information to stakeholders; however six agencies out of seven have been sharing such information in Chitwan. Six agencies in Dolakha and five agencies in Chitwan said they share project agreement with all the stakeholders. Five agencies in each district said they share policy documents. Agencies in Dolakha are a little ahead in sharing project information with stakeholders as compared to Chitwan. Please see **Diagram 4-4** for details.

**Diagram 4-4: Type of Information Sharing - District Level**



Information was also sought from the project beneficiaries to have indicative results as to what kind of information they were receiving from the project offices. Nine beneficiaries out of 10 said they are aware of project agreement and the document is shared with them. Similarly, seven beneficiaries said they also know project budget. Further, six of them said they know operational plan as well. However, the beneficiaries do not have any idea about the commitments on aid transparency and accountability made by each donor. None of the projects have shared such information with the beneficiaries though it was reported that some documents related to projects are disclosed at central office in Kathmandu but they are not easily accessible to the project beneficiaries. Due to lack of proper information sharing mechanism, the knowledge level of project beneficiaries on aid transparency and accountability is very low. Please see **Table 4-6** and **Diagram 4-5** for details.

**Table 4-6: Type of Information Sharing - Beneficiary Level**

S.N	Information Level	Dolakha		Chitwan		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Project Agreement	4	80.00%	5	100.00%	9	90.00%
2	Country Strategy	1	20.00%	2	40.00%	3	30.00%
3	Operational Plan	2	40.00%	4	80.00%	6	60.00%
4	Document on ATA etc	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
5	Budget Information	3	60.00%	4	80.00%	7	70.00%
7	Grants Status	0	0.00%	1	20.00%	1	10.00%
<b>Average</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>28.57%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>45.71%</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>37.14%</b>

**Diagram 4-5: Type of Information Sharing - Beneficiary Level**



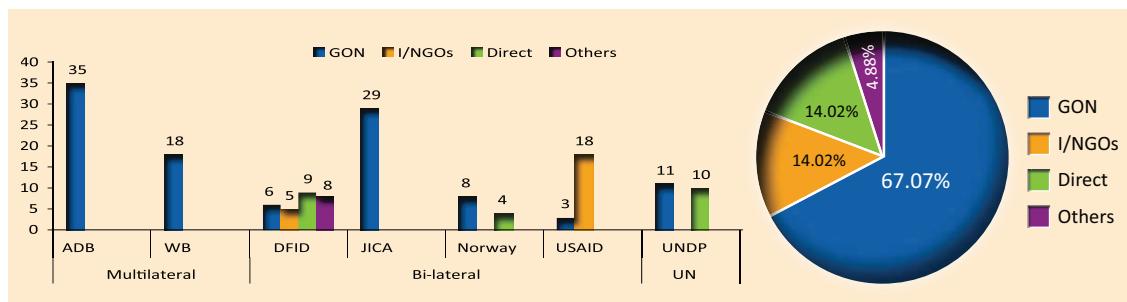
#### 4.2.4 Number of Projects

Efforts were also made to collect information about the projects that the agencies have been implementing through different stakeholders. There are a total of 164 projects that are currently being implemented by the agencies. ADB has the highest number of projects (35). Out of the total projects, a large portion (nearly 67%) of the projects is being implemented through Nepal Government as multilateral agencies are supposed to implement projects only through government offices and bilateral agencies are also encouraged to do so. Unlike other agencies, USAID and DFID are implementing 18 and 5 projects, through I/NGOs. Hence, some 14% projects in total are implemented through I/NGOs, other 14% through direct intervention and the remaining nearly 5% through other agencies. It is interesting to note that DFID and Norwegian Embassy are implementing 8 and 7 projects through multilateral donor agencies. Please see the **Table 4-7** and **Diagram 4-6** for details.

**Table 4-7: Number of Projects - Central Level**

S.N	Stakeholders	Multilateral		Bi-lateral				UN	Total	
		ADB	WB	DFID	JICA	Norway	USAID		Number	Percentage
1	GON	35	18	6	29	8	3	11	110	67.07%
2	I/NGOs			5			18		23	14.02%
3	Direct			9		4		10	23	14.02%
4	Others			8					8	4.88%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Diagram 4-6: Number/Percentage of Projects - Central Level**



#### 4.2.5 Project Information Sharing

The agencies were asked what type of project related information they share with the stakeholders and a total of 11 different areas were included on the list. All the agencies said that they share information about project name and type (sector), project objectives and project policies/plans. Six of them said they share information about beneficiaries and M&E

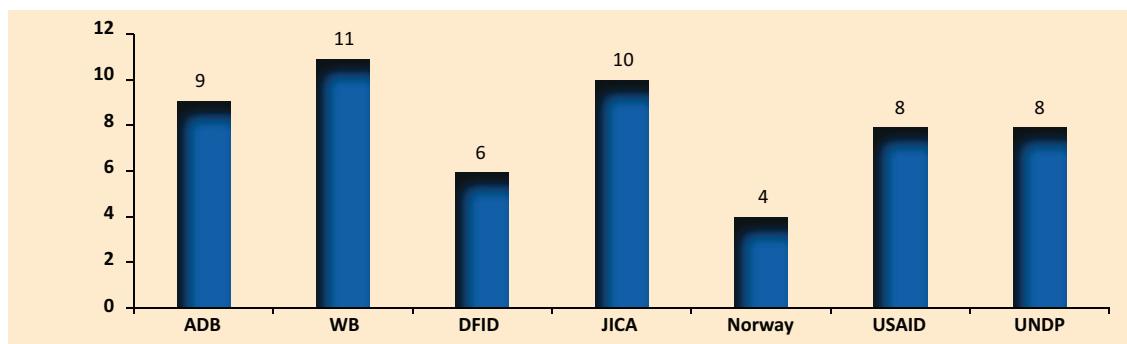
plan. Five agencies mentioned that they share information about project budget, project approach and project results/impacts. However it is interesting to note that only three agencies share information about start date, terms of aid and roles and responsibilities of project staff. Please see **Table 4-8** for details.

**Table 4-8: Sharing of Project Specific Information - Central Level**

S.N	Project Information	Multilateral		Bi-lateral				UN	Total	
		ADB	WB	DFID	JICA	Norway	USAID		Number	Percent
1	Project Name and Type	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	100.00%
2	Project Objectives	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	100.00%
3	Beneficiaries	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	6	85.71%
4	Start Date (Project)		✓		✓		✓		3	42.86%
5	Project Budget		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	5	71.43%
6	Terms of Aid	✓	✓		✓				3	42.86%
7	Roles and Responsibilities	✓	✓						3	28.57%
8	Project Approach	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	5	71.43%
9	Project Policies/Plans	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	100.00%
10	Project Results/Impacts	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	5	71.43%
11	Monitoring and Evaluation	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	6	85.71%
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>72.73%</b>

By and large, all the agencies share most of the project information with the stakeholders. The World Bank ranks at the top position and seems quite transparent and open to share such information. JICA stands at the second position. But in contrary information sharing level of DFID and Norwegian Embassy seem low. With only four points out of 11, the Norwegian Embassy stands at the lowest level in project information sharing. Please see **Diagram 4-7** for details.

**Diagram 4-7: Sharing of Project Specific Information-District Level**



Most of the project information is shared at district level as well. All agencies have been sharing information on project name and type, project objectives and beneficiaries. All agencies in Dolakha district are also sharing project information like, project budget, roles and responsibilities of project staff, terms of aid, project policies/plans, project results/impacts and monitoring and evaluation plan. However, only few agencies have been sharing such info in Chitwan district. It is interesting that only one agency has been sharing information on project start date and two agencies have shared information on project budget in the district. See the details of information sharing situation in **Table 4-9**.

**Table 4-9: Sharing of Project Specific Information - District Level**

S.N	Information	Dolakha		Chitwan		Total	
		Well Shared	Percent	Well Shared	Percent	Well Shared	Percent
1	Project Name and Type	7	100.0%	7	100.0%	14	100.00%
2	Project Objectives	7	100.0%	7	100.0%	14	100.00%
3	Beneficiaries	7	100.0%	7	100.0%	14	100.00%
4	Start Date (Project)	5	71.43%	1	14.29%	6	42.86%
5	Project Budget	7	100.0%	2	28.57%	9	64.29%
6	Terms of Aid	7	100.0%	5	71.43%	12	85.71%
7	Roles and Responsibilities	7	100.0%	5	71.43%	12	85.71%
8	Project Approach	6	85.71%	4	57.14%	10	71.43%
9	Project Policies/Plans	7	100.0%	3	42.86%	10	71.43%
10	Project Results/Impacts	7	100.0%	6	85.71%	13	92.86%
11	Monitoring and Evaluation	7	100.0%	6	85.71%	13	92.86%
<b>Average</b>		<b>6.73</b>	<b>58.3</b>	<b>4.82</b>	<b>41.7</b>	<b>11.55</b>	<b>82.47%</b>

The research team also tried to get perception of beneficiaries about the project offices and types of information they receive from the offices. Most of the beneficiaries (90%) said they have information about project name, project objectives and project beneficiaries, however only 30% beneficiaries are aware of project budget. There was significant discrepancy between the information provided by project offices and beneficiaries as most of the project offices (nearly 64%) claim that they share information on project budget with the beneficiaries. Further, huge difference was noticed on the information about monitoring and evaluation report. More than 85% of project offices claim that they share such info with beneficiaries whereas only 20% of beneficiaries (two out of 10) reported that they are aware of M&E plan and report. Please see **Table 4-10** and **Diagram 4-8** for details.

## CASE STUDY



### No Mechanism for Transparency

JICA has been providing assistance merely on the training part of 'One Village One Product' Programme in Dolakha through Agriculture Expertise Committee of the *Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI)*. Mainly the pocket area of 'Lokta' - a plant used as raw material to make Nepali paper - is set the working area of the programme. The programme is operated for the local farmers of Shailungeswor area of Dolakha.

'I approached to the programme office three times to acquire information about the status of transparency and accountability', said Dolakha district-based researcher for the Study, Shambhu Gautam.

However, the delay in imparting information was not primarily due to lack of accountability but because of the engagement of FNCCI's senior officials in Jiri Festival organized by the Federation itself, he commented.

Despite this, there was no dillydallying in tracking information on the assistance provided by JICA to the FNCCI-operated programme though it was found keeping no mechanism in place to maintain transparency and accountability.

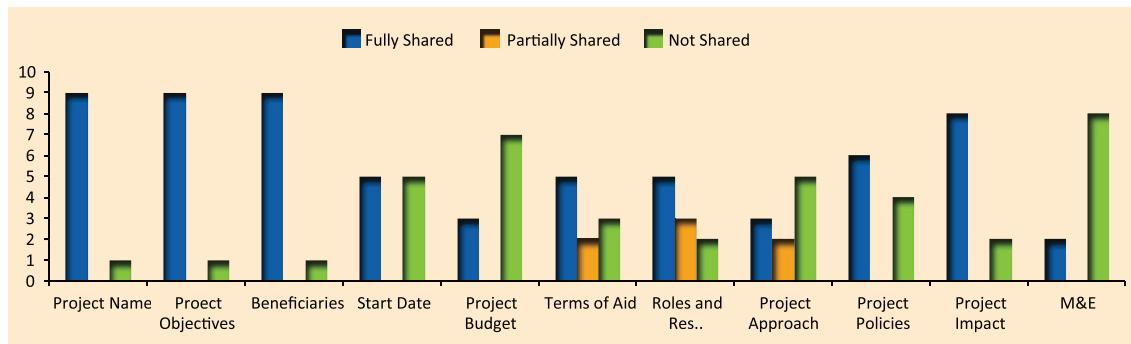
The case is substantiated when FNCCI, Dolakha Executive Secretary Suman Khadka said, 'We provide information only to the seekers but there is almost no turn up of requesters'. It also makes clear about the compliance of Right to Information Act-2007 which has made it mandatory to disclose information in every three months in a routine manner.

While gathering information, it was observed that there was scanty knowledge on international instruments and laws regarding transparency and accountability of foreign aid. Also, the beneficiaries and stakeholders were found filing no public complaint on the basis of the documents having international legal bindings.

**Table 4-10: Sharing of Project Specific Information - Beneficiary Level**

S.N	Information Type	Dolakha		Chitwan			Total						
		Fully Shared	Partially Shared	Not Shared	Fully Shared	Partially Shared	Not Shared	Fully Shared		Partially Shared		Not Shared	
								Nos	%	Nos	%	Nos	%
1	Project Name	4		1	5			9	90.00%	0	0.00%	1	10.00%
2	Project Objectives	4		1	5			9	90.00%	0	0.00%	1	10.00%
3	Beneficiaries	4		1	5			9	90.00%	0	0.00%	1	10.00%
4	Start Date	4		1	1		4	5	50.00%	0	0.00%	5	50.00%
5	Project Budget	1		4	2		3	3	30.00%	0	0.00%	7	70.00%
6	Terms of Aid	2		3	3	2		5	50.00%	2	20.0%	3	30.00%
7	Roles and Responsibilities	2	1	2	3	2		5	50.00%	3	30.0%	2	20.00%
8	Project Approach	3		2		2	3	3	30.00%	2	20.0%	5	50.00%
9	Project Policies/Plans	3		2	3		2	6	60.00%	0	0.0%	4	40.00%
10	Project Impact	3		2	5			8	80.00%	0	0.0%	2	20.00%
11	Monitoring and Evaluation	1		4	1		4	2	20.00%	0	0.0%	8	80.0%

**Diagram 4-8: Sharing of Project Specific Information - Beneficiary Level**



#### 4.2.6 Outreach Mechanism

Another question asked to the agencies was their outreach mechanism or methods as to how they could pass on or circulate the project information to the intended beneficiaries and other stakeholders.

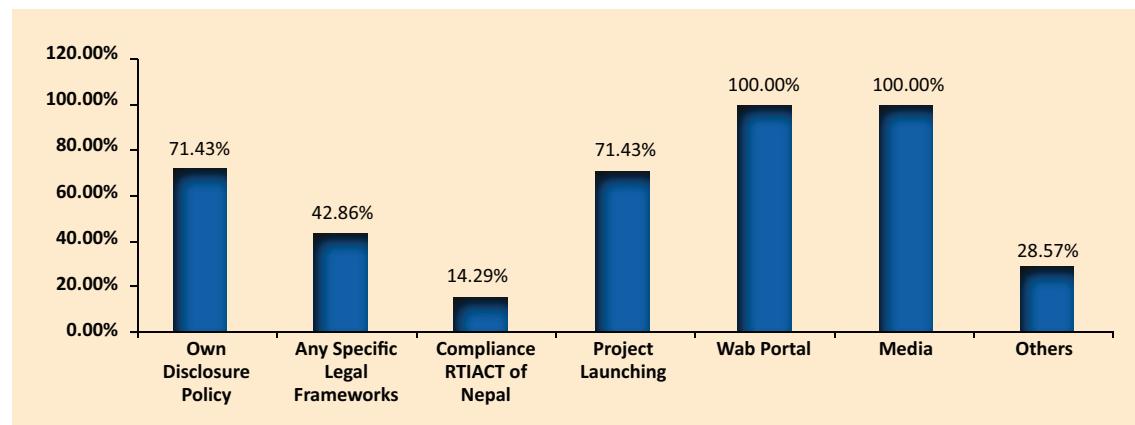
All agencies at central level said that web portal and media were the main methods to pass on the information to wider beneficiaries. Five agencies out of seven said their organizational disclosure policy and project launching program were other methods to share the information.

**Table 4-11: Outreach Mechanism for Information Sharing – Central Level**

S.N	Outreach Mechanism	Multilateral		Bi-lateral			UN	Total		
		ADB	WB	DFID	JICA	Norway	USAID	UNDP	Number	Percent
1	Own Disclosure Policy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			5	71.43%
2	Legal Frameworks		✓	✓			✓		3	42.86%
3	RTI ACT of Nepal		✓						1	14.29%
4	Project Launching	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	5	71.43%
5	Web Portal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	100.00%
6	Media	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	100.00%
7	Others		✓				✓		2	28.57%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4.29</b>	<b>53.57%</b>

Legal frameworks (*FWP Act 1998, LSG Act 1999, AG Act 1991, Good Governance Act 2008*) and RTI Act of Nepal were other methods mentioned by the agencies. Distinctly the World Bank and USAID found using public information centre (PIC)<sup>2</sup> and outreach cell (OC)<sup>3</sup> as mechanism to share information to public respectively. Please see **Table 4-11** and **Diagram 4-9** for details.

**Diagram 4-9: Outreach Mechanism for Information Sharing – Central Level**



The outreach mechanisms at district level were a little bit different than that at central level. The agencies contacted at district level said organizational disclosure policy was the

2. The PIC serves as the central contact in the country for persons seeking to obtain the World Bank documents and other requests for information.
3. The OC provides information about country program of USAID to the persons seeking to obtain the USAID documents and other requests for information.

main methods of outreach mechanism and the information are normally share with district information centre (DIC) which is set up under DDC administration in all districts. Out of 14 agencies in two districts, 12 agencies said their main outreach mechanism is organization own policy. Project launch events and media have been other major outreach mechanism. Similarly web portal and compliance with the RTI Act of Nepal<sup>4</sup> have also been the other methods of outreach mechanism. It is interesting to note that all agencies in Dolakha have been using media as outreach mechanism whereas only one agency is using media in Chitwan district. Similarly there is significant difference between the two districts in using project launch events as outreach mechanism. Six agencies out of seven in Dolakha said they use project launch event as major outreach mechanism whereas only two agencies are using this tool in Chitwan. Please see **Table 4-12** for details.

**Table 4-12: Outreach Mechanism for Information Sharing - District Level**

S.N	Outreach Mechanism	Dolakha		Chitwan		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Own Disclosure Policy	6	85.71%	6	85.71%	12	85.71%
2	Legal Frameworks	1	14.29%	2	28.57%	3	21.43%
3	RTI ACT of Nepal	1	14.29%	3	42.86%	4	28.57%
4	Project Launching	6	85.71%	2	28.57%	8	57.14%
5	Web Portal	3	42.86%	3	42.86%	6	42.86%
6	Media	7	100.00%	1	14.29%	8	57.14%
7	Others (DDC Information Centre)	1	14.29%	1	14.29%	2	14.29%
<b>Total</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>44.64%</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>32.14%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>38.39%</b>

#### 4.2.7 Means of Information Sharing

The agencies were asked how they share the information. The project reports, country office website and press release have been the most common means of information sharing amongst the agencies. All of them use the mentioned means to share official information. Press conferences, public meetings at project level and report to OECD have been other major means. Similarly, meetings and head quarter website also are reported as means of information sharing.

Among the agencies, the World Bank stands at highest level with 10 types of information sharing out of 10. With nine types of information sharing, DFID stands at second position followed by UNDP with eight. Similarly, JICA and USAID are at third position. Though ADB and Norway rank at the last position amongst the seven agencies, with six types of information sharing out of 10 is not too bad situation. It is interesting to note that the World Bank, UNDP and USAID have been sharing project information through social media like face book, twitter, flicker and YouTube as well. Please see **Table 4-13** for details.

4. RTI Act of Nepal requires proactive disclosure of information of all agencies.

**Table 4-13: Means of Information Sharing - Central Level**

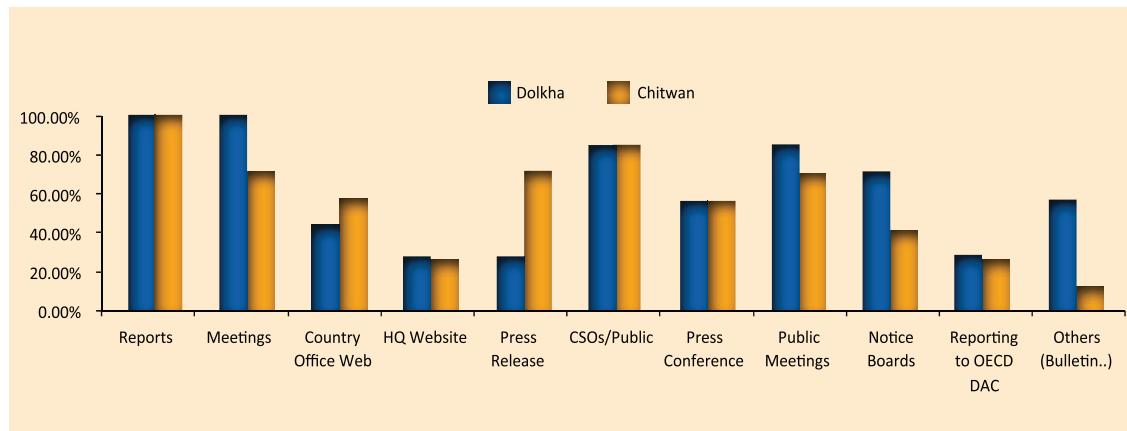
S.N	Source of Information	Multilateral		Bi-lateral			UN	Total		
		ADB	WB	DFID	JICA	Norway	USAID	UNDP	Number	Percent
1	Reports	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	100.00%
2	Meetings		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	5	71.43%
3	Country Office Website	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	100.00%
4	Headquarters Website	✓	✓	✓	✓				4	57.14%
5	Press Release	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	100.00%
6	Press Conference	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	6	85.71%
7	Public Meetings at Project Level	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	6	85.71%
8	Notice Boards at Project Sights		✓	✓					2	28.57%
9	Reporting to OECD DAC		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	85.71%
10	Social Media	✓	✓				✓	✓	4	57.1%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>75.71%</b>

District level offices also gave similar information on means of information sharing. Project reports have been the only means of information sharing used by all agencies at district level. Meetings and CSOs/Public stand at second position as 12 out of 14 agencies have been using these means. Public meeting stands at third position. If we see the situation between two districts, use of press release is higher in Chitwan whereas Dolakha is using others (bulletin) to share the information. Please see **Table 4-14** and **Diagram 4-10** for details.

**Table 4-14: Means of Information Sharing - District Level**

S.N	Sources of information	Dolakha		Chitwan		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Reports	7	100.00%	7	100.00%	14	100.0%
2	Meetings	7	100.00%	5	71.43%	12	85.7%
3	Country Office Website	3	42.86%	4	57.14%	7	50.0%
4	Headquarters Website	2	28.57%	2	28.57%	4	28.6%
5	Press Release	2	28.57%	5	71.43%	7	50.0%
6	CSOs/Public	6	85.71%	6	85.71%	12	85.7%
7	Press Conference	4	57.14%	4	57.14%	8	57.1%
8	Public Meetings at Project Level	6	85.71%	5	71.43%	11	78.6%
9	Notice Boards at Project Sights	5	71.43%	3	42.86%	8	57.1%
10	Reporting to OECD DAC	2	28.57%	2	28.57%	4	28.6%
11	Others (Bulletin etc)	4	57.14%	1	14.29%	5	35.7%
	<b>Average</b>	<b>4.36</b>	<b>62.34%</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>57.14%</b>	<b>8.36</b>	<b>59.74%</b>

#### Diagram 4-10: Means of Information - District Level



Though project offices have reported project report as the main means of information sharing, the beneficiaries have reported they got the project information mostly through regular project meetings, public meetings (public hearing, public auditing) which are held occasionally at project level and media. Information through project reports stands at second position. They also reported that they receive such information through notice boards and other means. None of the beneficiaries mentioned country office and headquarter websites as sources of project information. It suggests that the websites are not effective means to disseminate the project information to intended beneficiaries as access to internet is very minimal in Nepal. Please see **Table 4-15** and **Diagram 4-11** for details.

**Table 4-15: Means of Information - Beneficiary Level**

S.N	Information Source	Dolakha		Chitwan		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Reports	3	60.00%	2	40.00%	5	50.00%
2	Meetings	3	60.00%	5	100.00%	8	80.00%
3	Country Office Website		0.00%		0.00%	0	0.00%
4	Headquarters Website		0.00%		0.00%	0	0.00%
5	Public Meetings at Project Level	3	60.00%	5	100.00%	8	80.00%
6	Notice Boards at Project Sights	1	20.00%	1	20.00%	2	20.00%
7	Media	3	60.00%	5	100.00%	8	80.00%
8	Others		0.00%	1	20.00%	1	10.00%
	<b>Average</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>17.50%</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>30.00%</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>40.00%</b>

## CASE STUDY



### Absence of Responsible Officer puts Information Authenticity under Question

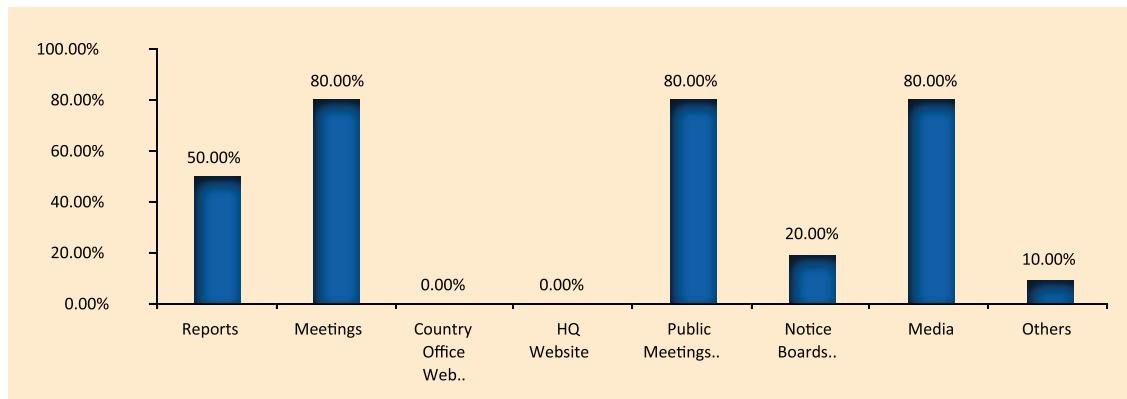
RRRSDP is being implemented in different districts of the country through a basket fund involving various donors. DFID is one of the major contributors to the Fund. Mainly, three roads are under construction in the district with the prime objective of reducing poverty by constructing rural road.

Despite several attempts, it was difficult to meet office chief since new officer was yet to be appointed especially after the transfer of the existing one. After not having chance to meet the office head, an interaction was held with Sub Engineer, Rajendra Dahal, at the Office finally to know about the transparency of foreign development assistance. Honestly, he tried to provide information to the best of his knowledge but there remains a question always that which level of authenticity does the information carry that is basically provided by low profile employee..

Currently there are 35 technical employees in RRRSDP from SDC. Other donor agencies have flown monetary grants for this.

With the uncooperative gesture of rural people coupled with lack of awareness, the project that could possibly complete the blacktopping of the road after its extension was on the brink of collapse, said an employee of the office. He added, 'There is always possibility of transfer of budget to other district when it is not spent in the district'. Such consequences are all because of the incapability to impart information to people. It seems that the project may be a failure in the absence of access to information to people.

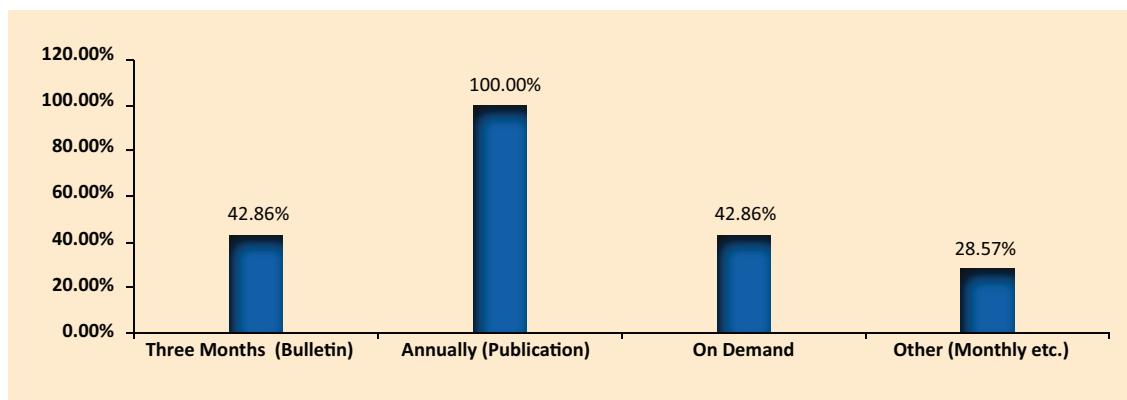
**Diagram 4-11: Means of Information - Beneficiary Level**



#### 4.2.8 Others

The agencies were also asked about issues of accessibility of information, language used and time for publication. The World Bank and DFID said they prepare the documents in English and Nepali and also in local language when there is demand. Three agencies (ADB, JICA and UNDP) publish the report and prepare other documents both in Nepali and English languages. The remaining two (Norway and USAID) said they prepare the documents mostly in English, however they have been preparing documents in Nepali as per need and when there is demand. See *Diagram 4-12*.

**Diagram 4-12: Timeline to Make Information Public - Central Level**



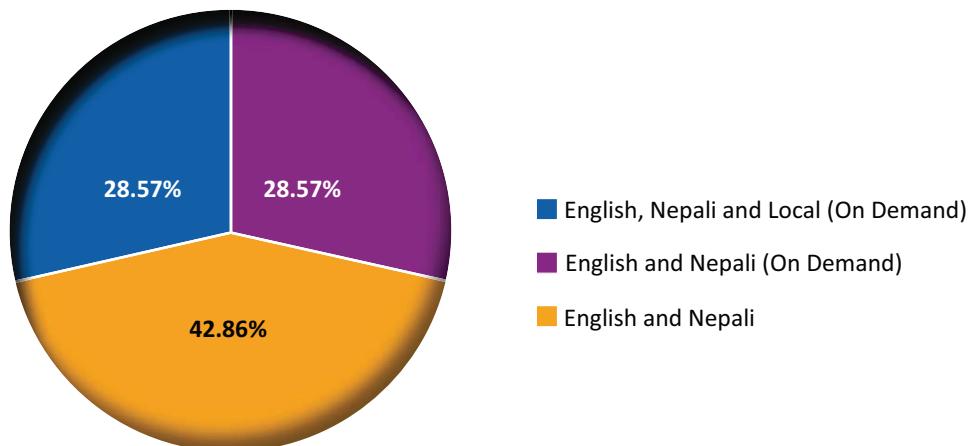
The agencies were also asked how often they make information available. All the agencies at central level said they make the information available once in a year (annually), however some of them (WB, ADB and UNDP) said information are available both quarterly and annually. Three agencies said they make the information available when there is demand for that and other two said they make the information public on monthly basis. Please see *Table 4-16* and *Diagram 4-13* for details.

**Table 4-16: Timeline to Make Information Public – Central Level**

S.N	Timeline	Multilateral		Bi-lateral				UN	Total	
		ADB	WB	DFID	JICA	Norway	USAID		Number	Percent
1	Three Months (Bulletin)	✓	✓					✓	3	42.86%
2	Annually (Publication)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	100.00%
3	On demand	✓	✓				✓		3	42.86%
4	Others (Monthly etc)				✓		✓		2	28.57%

The situation was a little different at district level. Most of the agencies, 13 out of 14, said they make information public annually and also on demand. Seven of them said, they make the information available once in three month period (quarterly). Please see the **Table 4-16** for details.

**Diagram 4-13: Language Used – Central Level**



Most of the agencies at central level said they make information public at project launching and completion time. They also share information during midterm evaluation and public auditing. The district level agencies/projects also share similar information as the central level. Most of them said they make information public at project launching and completion time. They also share such information during midterm evaluation and public auditing. Please see **Table 4-17** for details.

**Table 4-17: Stage to Make Information Public - District Level**

S.N	Different Stage	Dolakha		Chitwan		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Project Launching	6	85.71%	4	57.14%	10	71.43%
2	Completion	7	100.00%	6	85.71%	13	92.86%
3	Midterm	5	71.43%	4	57.14%	9	64.29%
4	Auditing (Public Auditing)	4	57.14%	1	14.29%	5	35.71%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>59.5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>40.5</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

The agencies were asked whether they have a designated officer to share the information at central level. Most of the agencies reported that they have designated officers to share the information with other stakeholders and project beneficiaries. Six agencies out of seven have assigned officers for the task. DFID is the only agency which does not have any designated officer. Similarly, 11 agencies out of 14, said that they have such officers to share information at district level as well. Five agencies in Dolakha and six in Chitwan have designated officers to share the information with project stakeholders.

Archiving of information was another question asked to the agencies as RTI Nepal has mandated for at least 20 years archiving provision. Most of the agencies at central level said that they have achieving provision in the office but there was no clear information for archiving period. JICA and Norwegian Embassy said that they send such information to AMP but do not have their own archiving provision. ADB does not seem having archiving provision at all.

### 4.3 Audit Information

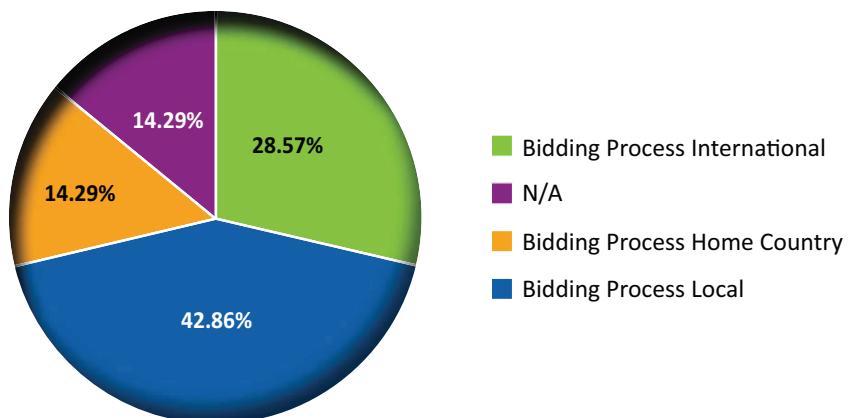
Audit information was one of the areas the research team wanted to gather information from the selected agencies. The agencies were asked about the auditor for their financial audit and their selection process.

**Table 4-18: Selection of Auditor - Central Level**

S.N	Auditor selection type	Multilateral		Bi-lateral				UN	Total	
		ADB	WB	DFID	JICA	Norway	USAID		Number	Percent
1	Bidding Process - International	✓	✓						2	28.57%
2	Bidding Process - Home Country			✓	✓			✓	3	42.86%
3	Bidding Process-Local					✓			1	14.29%
4	N/A							✓	1	14.29%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Most of the bilateral agencies except Norwegian Embassy said they select the auditors from their home countries. The process for the selection is home country government rule, normally competitive bidding process. The Norwegian agency however said they select local consultant to conduct audit for the agency and selection process is open competition. The multilateral agencies, the WB and ADB, said their audits are conducted by external consultants and auditors are selected through bidding process following their organizational procedure. There was no information available from UNDP. Please see **Table 4-18** and **Diagram 4-14**.

**Diagram 4 -14: Selection of Auditor - Central Level**



Information was sought from the agencies regarding who they share audit information with. Most of the agencies, six out of seven, said they share the audit information within their own organization (Head Office) and also home countries. Majority also said they share information with Nepal Government; however DFID does not seem to share such info with Nepal Government. Four agencies out of seven said they share audit information with the public and CSOs. There was no information available from ADB on this. Please see the **Table 4-19** for details.

**Table 4-19: Audit Report Sharing - Central Level**

S.N	Audit Report Sharing	Multilateral		Bi-lateral				UN	Total	
		ADB	WB	DFID	JICA	Norway	USAID		Number	Percent
1	Own Institution/Home Country	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	85.71%
2	Government of Nepal	N/A	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	5	71.43%
3	CSOs/Public	N/A	✓	✓	✓			✓	4	57.14%

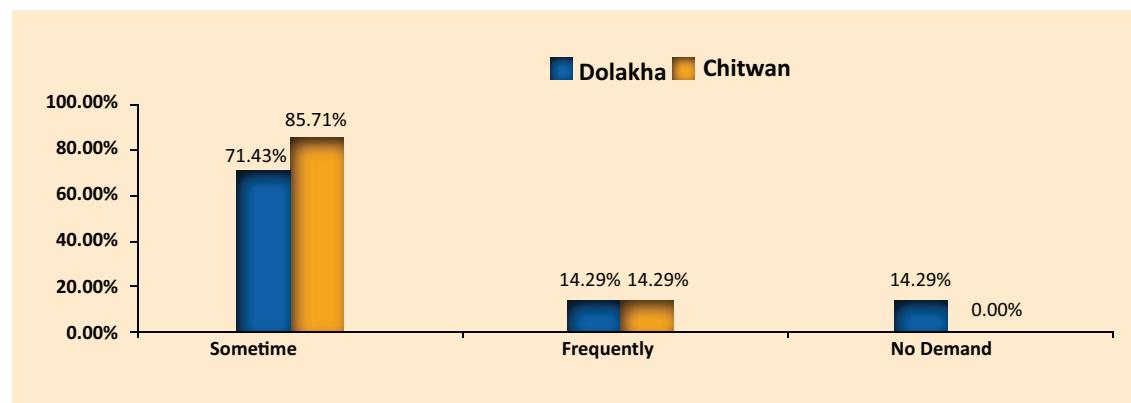
## 4.4 Request for Information

### 4.4.1 Frequency of Information Request

Most of the agencies at central level, six agencies out of seven, reported that they share information as and when requested or demanded. Normally the information is requested during bidding process, launching time and implementation period. UNDP however mentioned there was no demand for such information to the office and neither there was any agency to share the information frequently.

The situation at district level is more or less same as central level. 11 agencies at district level (five in Dolakha and six in Chitwan) also reported that many of them share project information when there is demand. Beneficiaries and other stakeholders normally request such information at the time of project launching, implementation and completion. One agency in each district said they also share the information at other times, normally once in a month. One agency in Dolakha district reported there was no demand for information to the office. Please see **Diagram 4-15**.

**Diagram 4-15: Frequency of Information Request on Aid Projects - District Level**



### 4.4.2 Information Requesting Institutions/Groups

The research team also inquired which groups or institutions were asking for aid information. The agencies at central level reported that the media people were the group who most frequently ask for information. Similarly, researcher stand at second position and beneficiary/individual including political leader and government agencies are at thirds position on information requesting group. NGO is another group who asks for information from the agencies. The data reveals that only World Bank is the only agency to whom all groups ask for information. Please see the **Table 4-20**.

## CASE STUDY



### Project Office has no authority to provide aid info

Initially the local/district level officials were quite hesitant to provide information about HIV/AIDS showing authority reason. Later, the questionnaire the researcher sent to the Family Health International (FHI) district office was dispatched to FHI Central Office seeking permission. 'The District Officer provided us the same data as sent by the central information officer', said Freedom Forum's Chitwan district researcher Bhumi Raj Chapagain, adding that it was provided saying the data was produced in Chitwan.

It is necessary to approach the FHI central office to verify the data provided in this regard. 'I had to visit the office for six times to get information. Ultimately, I received information when I demanded it in writing letting them know that the Interim Constitution has clearly stipulated people's access to information', he added. Therefore, it is far cry for general public to access to public information on HIV/AIDS at district level. Most probably, it is so far the most difficult area in Chitwan where I had to make more requests and attempts to obtain information, which should easily come into public domain', Chapagain added.

**Table 4-20: Information Requesting Institutions/Groups- Central level**

S.N	Institutions/Groups	Multilateral		Bi-lateral				UN	Total	
		ADB	WB	DFID	JICA	Norway	USAID	UNDP	Number	Percent
1	Beneficiary/Individual	✓	✓				✓	✓	4	57.14%
2	NGO			✓	✓				2	28.57%
3	Media	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	6	85.71%
4	Researcher	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		5	71.43%
5	GoN			✓		✓		✓	4	57.14%

The findings at district level were a bit different than that of central level. The majority of the agencies (nearly 71%) reported that project beneficiaries and individuals including local leaders are the ones who ask information frequently. Four agencies said that NGOs/CBOs request information. Media was ranked at third and donor agency and student/researcher were the least reported. Beneficiary/individual and government agencies seem more active in Dolakha whereas media is ahead in Chitwan. It indicates that being a small area, interpersonal relation in Charikot (Dolakha) is good between the government agencies and individuals and media are more active in Chitwan (Bharatpur) as the place is considered as one of the major media hubs in the region. Please see the **Table 4-21** for details.

**Table 4-21: Information Requesting Institutions/Groups- District level**

S.N	Institutions/Groups	Dolakha		Chitwan		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Beneficiary/Individual	6	85.71%	4	57.14%	10	71.43%
2	Donor Agency	2	28.57%	1	14.29%	3	21.43%
3	NGOs/CBOs	4	57.14%	4	57.14%	8	57.14%
4	GoN (VDC/DDC etc)	3	42.86%	1	14.29%	4	28.57%
5	Media	1	14.29%	4	57.14%	5	35.71%
6	Student/Researcher	1	14.29%	2	28.57%	3	21.43%

#### 4.4.3 Type of Information

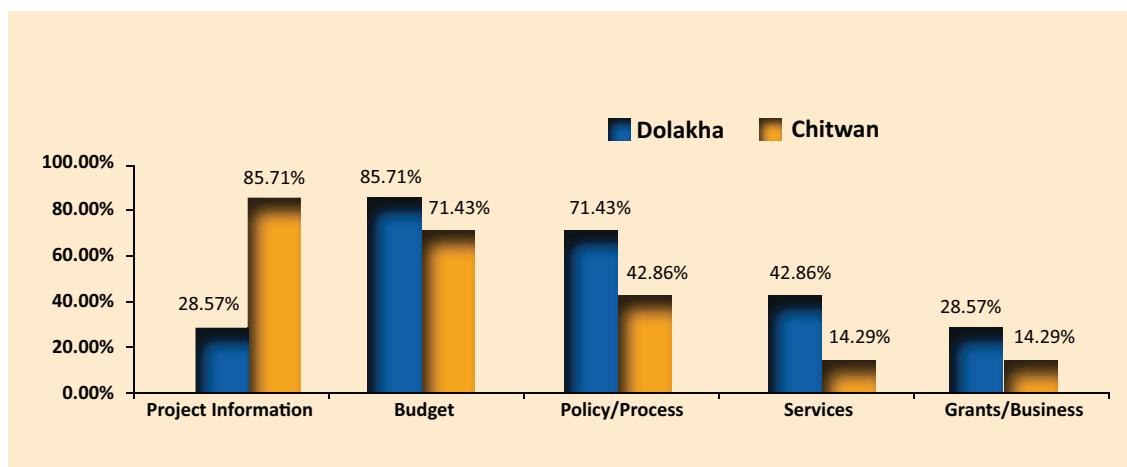
The type of information that the stakeholders request from the agencies was another area of interest to the study. Project information, policy and process, grants/business and employment and vacancies were major type of information that many stakeholders were asking for. Four agencies (ADB, WB, Norway, USAID and UNDP) reported that project

information was one of the types of information that the stakeholders request. Policy and process, grants/business and vacancy information are other information requested by different groups/institutions. Please see **Table 4-22** for details.

**Table 4-22: Type of Information Requested - Central Level**

S.N	Information Type	Multilateral		Bi-lateral				UN	Total	
		ADB	WB	DFID	JICA	Norway	USAID	UNDP	Number	Percent
1	Project Information	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	5	73.43%
2	Policy and Process	✓	✓					✓	3	42.86%
3	Grants/Business		✓	✓				✓	3	42.86%
4	Employment and Vacancies		✓	✓			✓		3	42.86%

**Diagram 4-16: Type of Information Requested - District Level**



At district level, budget information stands at the top position and project information and policy/process at the second. Other information requested were services and grants/business. Please see **Table 4-23** and **Diagram 4-16** for details.

Table 4-23: Type of Information Requested - District Level

S.N	Type of Information	Dolakha		Chitwan		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Project Information	2	28.57%	6	85.71%	8	57.14%
2	Budget	6	85.71%	5	71.43%	11	78.57%
3	Policy/Process	5	71.43%	3	42.86%	8	57.14%
4	Services	3	42.86%	1	14.29%	4	28.57%
5	Grants/Business	2	28.57%	1	14.29%	3	21.43%

#### 4.4.4 Time Taken to Provide Information

The agencies had different responses about time taken to provide information. In general, they could not answer the exact time period for the information. Most of them however responded and gave different answers. There was no answer from ADB and USAID.

The World Bank and DFID gave time interval and they mentioned 7-10 days and 2-5 days respectively. JICA said they provide information immediately and UNDP reported that they respond 'as soon as possible'. Norway gave a clear time saying that the agency takes 2 weeks to provide information. Please see the **Box 4-1**.

#### Box 4 1: Time Taken to Provide Information - Central Level

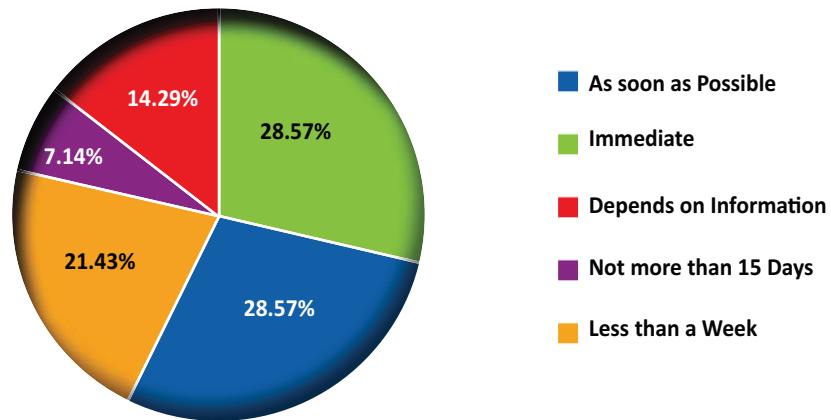
ADB	No comments
WB	Normally it takes 7-10 days but depends on circumstances and nature of information
DFID	Normally it takes 2-5 days but depends on info type and availability.
JICA	Immediately
Norway	2 weeks
USAID	No answer
UNDP	As soon as possible

Table 4-24: Time Taken to Provide Information - District Level

S.N	Time Taken	Dolakha		Chitwan		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Immediate	4	57.14%	0	0.00%	4	28.57%
2	As soon as Possible	0	0.00%	4	57.14%	4	28.57%
3	Less than a Week	1	14.29%	2	28.57%	3	21.43%
4	Not more than 15 Days	0	0.00%	1	14.29%	1	7.14%
5	Depends on Information Type	2	28.57%	0	0.00%	2	14.29%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

District level agencies did not provide any specific answer either, with more or less similar responses as central level. Four agencies in Dolakha said they provide information immediately but the agencies in Chitwan said they provide information as soon as possible. Other responses received from the districts are less than a week, not more than 15 days and depends on information type. Please see **Diagram 4-17** and **Table 4-24** for details.

**Diagram 4-17: Time Taken to Provide Information - District Level**



#### 4.4.5 Complaint Redressal Mechanism

Four agencies (ADB, WB, DFID and UNDP) at central level said they have complaint redressal mechanism in their office which is set up for the purpose, however JICA reported the agency has no such mechanism. Norway and USAID also said they have such mechanism but the mechanism seems different than others. Please see the **Table 4-25** for details.

**Table 4-25: Complaint Redressal Mechanism - Central Level**

S.N	Name of the Agency	Mechanism	
		Response	How
1	ADB	Yes	As per public communication policy 2011 and accountability mechanism policy 2012
2	WB	Yes	Access to Information Committee on Appeal Board (Ombudsman)
3	DFID	Yes	Inquiry Board to into case of corruption and fraud
4	JICA	No	-
5	Norway		The Norwegian Embassy inquires on any case
6	USAID		Reporting to Inspector General in USAID
7	UNDP	Yes	Constant monitoring unit

District level complaint redressal mechanism is the same as the RTI Act procedure as most of the contacted projects are being implemented by government agencies. The project offices of other agencies follow same procedure that they have at central level.

Another question asked was whether the agencies charge any fee to provide information. Most of the agencies said they do not charge any fee for the information; however the World Bank said the agency charges some fee if volume of the requested information is too large.

## 4.5 Budgetary Information

The budgetary information was one of the key questions of the study which intended to have clear understanding of aid transparency situation in practical ground but responses received were completely different from assumptions or expectations. None of the agencies provided complete budgetary information. Hence, all agencies have failed on their claim that they were transparent and accountable. Some agencies provided partial information but few others did not provide any information at all.

USAID provided information on total commitment amount for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011 but did not provide information on actual disbursement of the years. The agency did not provide information on budgetary/non budgetary and monetary/non monetary. Similarly, DFID could not clarify the types of aid, e.g. grants or loan, budgetary or non budgetary, monetary or non monetary and so on. The agency could not provide yearly breakdown of commitment and disbursement amount either. Norwegian Embassy gave approximate figures for commitment/disbursement budget and budgetary/non budgetary but did not provide yearly breakdown of the amount. The agency was unable to clarify whether the budget was monetary or non monetary.

Information provided by the World Bank was not complete too. The WB provided partial information on commitment and disbursement budget and was unable to provide details on budgetary/non budgetary and monetary/non monetary. Though the agency was found in better position in many aspects of transparency and accountability issue but the information record system in Kathmandu office was poor. The designated officer of the WB did not have information or was unaware about it which was available in office website (open data system). Despite several requests and efforts of field researchers, the officials of ADB did not provide any budgetary information which was surprising and very unusual. Likewise, JICA provided detail information on commitment/disbursement and grants/loan but did not disclose information whether they were budgetary/non budgetary and monetary/non monetary. Similarly, UNDP provided most of the information but the agency could not give yearly breakdown of commitment and disbursement amount. Please see **Table 4-26** for details.

## CASE STUDY



### New Impetus for Donor Agencies

‘The presumption that donors respond to your queries or letters with due course of time without much delay, doesn’t seem to be entirely correct. Almost all our respondents hardly replied to our first mail, unless we wrote to them again and called them by phone, reminding them and sending them emails afresh’, says Chiranjibi Kafle, Freedom Forum’s Researcher for the study.

The World Bank responded with a better sense of ease, as most of its information archiving system reflected understanding of the importance of access to information.

Bilateral donors such as DFID and USAID also cooperated, except lack of in-house coordination, while dealing with requests for information/appointments. This was particularly reflected in USAID, where it took more than one and half months to deliver our questionnaire to the right person. However, the agency cooperated to provide the data with full earnestness, so long as it was available.

In the case of field we should thank the management for assigning a representative even through the key person were out on Easter holidays.

‘In spite of the delays and some difficulties associated with data collection, the ATA survey initiative seems to have made donor agencies aware about their lacking’, Kafle added. The implications apparent in the questionnaire can be hoped to give new impetus for donor agencies to update and recognize their information documenting system.

Table 4-26: Budgetary Information - Central Level

Agency		Budget		Commitment		Disbursement		Grants		Loan		Budgetary		Non Budgetary		Monetary		Non Monetary		Remarks	
				(Million \$)		118.91															
USAID	DFID	2009	60.83	NA	AI	None	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA									Mentioned budget is for only running 28 project	
		2010	58.08	NA	AI	None	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA										
		2011	68.62	NA	AI	None	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA										
		(Million £)	336.3	180.65																	
Norway	World Bank	2009			NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA									Figures are approximate	
		2010			NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA										
		2011			NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA										
		Million Nok)	60c	55c					45c	15c											
ADB	JICA	2009			All	None					NA	NA								JICA also has technical cooperation	
		2010			All	None					NA	NA									
		2011			All	None					NA	NA									
		(Million \$)	364.63	432.42	352.25	46															
UNDP	UNDP	2009			176.32	82.86	3.45	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA								UNDP also has technical cooperation	
		2010	126.91	256.1	80.42	6.92	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA									
		2011	237.72		188.97	35.65	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA									
		(Million \$)																			
JICA	JICA	2009	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA								Figures are approximate	
		2010	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA									
		2011	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA									
		(Billion Yen) *	18.01	18.01																	
JICA	JICA	2008	4.44	4.44	All	None	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA								JICA also has technical cooperation	
		2009	8.02	8.04	All	None	All	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA									
		2010	5.55	5.52	All	None	All	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA									
		(Million \$)	131	116																	
UNDP	UNDP	2009			All	None	All	None	All	None	All	None								UNDP also has technical cooperation	
		2010			All	None	All	None	All	None	All	None									
		2011			All	None	All	None	All	None	All	None									
		Govt, Direct			Govt., I/NGO, SWC		NA														

From the information above, a big question is raised whether the donor agencies were complying with the commitments, policies, processes and mechanism they made/prepared regarding aid transparency and accountability in Nepal as there were many gaps and lapses. Hence, it can be concluded that the donor agencies in Kathmandu are not accountable and transparent at the level as they claim to be. It is rather difficult to acquire budgetary information from them by general public.

## 4.6 Knowledge and Compliance Situation on Aid Transparency and Accountability

### 4.6.1 Knowledge on Aid Transparency and Accountability

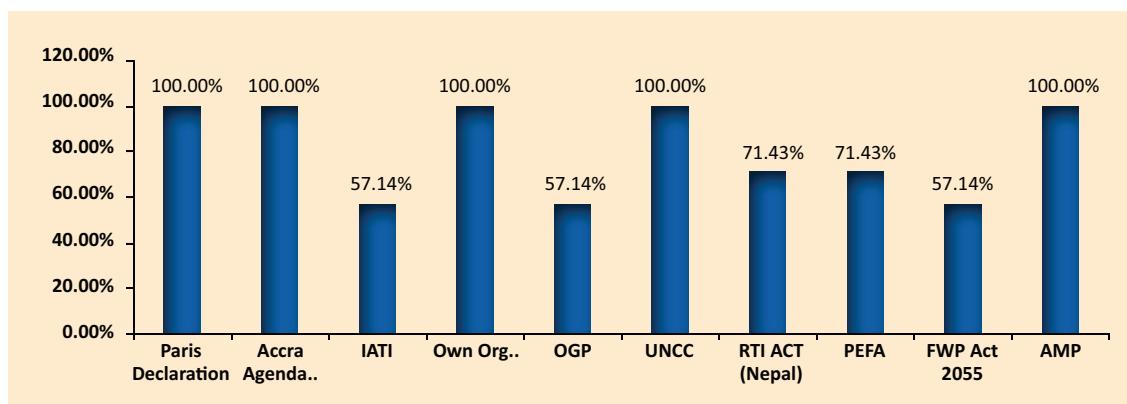
The senior management team of all the agencies keeps good knowledge on aid transparency and accountability. The assessment was done based on the officials' knowledge on different aid transparency and accountability related initiation, policy and convention which are common and at the same time important. The staff members of the World Bank seem more familiar on the issues as compared to other agencies. Out of 10 different knowledge types, they said they were familiar with all issues. Staff members of ADB, DFID and USAID stand at the second position on the knowledge, answering yes to nine types of information. JICA ranks at third position and UNDP at fourth. With only six points Norway stands at the lowest level amongst the selected agencies. Please see **Table 4-27** for details.

**Table 4-27: Knowledge of Senior Management Team on Aid Transparency and Accountability – Central Level**

S.N	Knowledge Type	Multilateral		Bi-lateral			UN	Total	
		ADB	WB	DFID	JICA	Norway		Number	Percent
1	Paris Declaration	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	100.00%
2	Accra Agenda for Action	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	100.00%
3	IATI		✓	✓	✓		✓	4	57.14%
4	Own Org/ Donor Country ATA policy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	100.00%
5	Open Government Partnership	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	5	71.43%
6	UNCC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	100.00%
7	RTI ACT (Nepal)	✓	✓		✓		✓	5	71.43%
8	PEFA	✓	✓	✓			✓	5	71.43%
9	FWP Act 2055	✓	✓	✓	✓			4	57.14%
10	AMP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	100.00%
	Total	9	10	9	8	6	9	7	58
									75.32%

The agencies were all aware of the Paris Declaration, Accra Agenda for Action, Own Organizational Policy/Donor Country ATA Policy, UN Convention against Corruption (UNCC) and Aid Management Platform (AMP). Open Government Platform, RTI Act – Nepal and Public Expenditure Financial Accountability Framework (PEFA) stand at the second position as five agencies out of seven say they are familiar with them. Knowledge regarding International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) and Financial Work Procedural (FWP) Act 2055 was lower, with only four agencies being aware of each. Please **Table 4-27** and **Diagram 4-18** for details.

**Diagram 4-18: Knowledge on Aid Transparency and Accountability- Central Level**



Aid and Transparency knowledge of officials at District/Project Level is very low. All officials are familiar with the RTI Act Nepal but only few agencies are familiar with other conventions, acts and initiatives. Officials of six agencies said they are familiar with UN Convention against Corruption and five said they are familiar with own Organization/Donor Country ATA Policy and FWP Act 2055. Similarly four agencies' officials seem familiar with PEFA and only three agencies out of 14 are familiar with Paris Declaration, Accra Agenda for Action and IATI. Only one agency has knowledge on open government partnership. The district level officials do not seem to have knowledge on AMP. On the whole, Chitwan district is in better off position as compared to Dolakha on knowledge of aid transparency and accountability. Please see **Table 4-28** for details.

Project beneficiaries were asked whether they have heard about aid transparency and accountability issue. Only 30%, three persons out of 10 said they have heard about the issue. However, 50% showed their ignorance on the issue. Remaining 20% stated that they have very little knowledge on the issue. Hence, it seems that knowledge and awareness level of ATA issue is very much centralized and the information has not been disseminated effectively at the district and beneficiary level. The beneficiaries also mentioned that the basic information on ATA that they have got was from local media.

**Table 4-28: Knowledge on Aid Transparency and Accountability - District Level**

S.N	Budget type	Dolakha		Chitwan		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Paris Declaration		0.00%	3	42.86%	3	21.43%
2	Accra Agenda for Action		0.00%	3	42.86%	3	21.43%
3	IATI		0.00%	3	42.86%	3	21.43%
4	Own Org/Donor Country ATA policy	2	28.57%	3	42.86%	5	35.71%
5	Open Government Partnership		0.00%	1	14.29%	1	7.14%
6	UNCC	4	57.14%	2	28.57%	6	42.86%
7	RTI ACT (Nepal)	7	100.00%	7	100.00%	14	100.00%
8	PEFA	1	14.29%	3	42.86%	4	28.57%
9	FWP Act 2055	2	28.57%	3	42.86%	5	35.71%
10	AMP		0.00%		0.00%		0.00%
<b>Total/Average</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>20.78%</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>36.36%</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>28.57%</b>

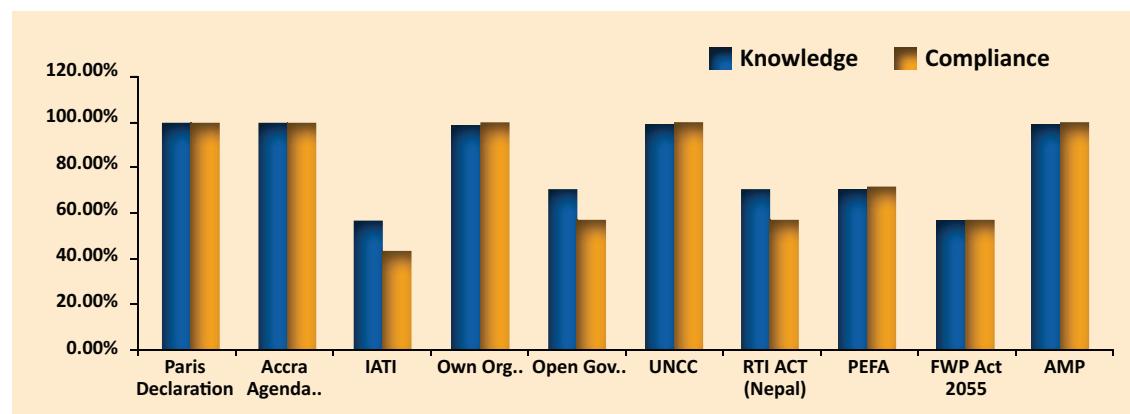
#### 4.6.2 Compliance Situation on Aid Transparency and Accountability

Compliance level of agencies at central level seems good as there is not much difference between knowledge and compliance levels. The agencies have been complying with the Paris Declaration, Accra Agenda for Action, Own Organizational Policy/Donor Country ATA Policy, UN Convention against Corruption (UNCC) and Aid Management Platform (AMP). Public Expenditure Financial Accountability Framework (PEFA) stands at the second position as five agencies out of seven say they comply with the framework. Similarly, Open Government Partnership, RTI Act – Nepal and Public Expenditure Financial Accountability Framework (PEFA) stand at third position. IATI is at the last ranking as only three agencies said they comply with the initiative. In conclusion, it can be said that the compliance situation amongst the donor agencies on aid transparency and accountability is good as they are complying with the most of the current acts, initiatives and conventions related to the issue. Please see **Table 4-29** and **Diagram 4-19** for details.

Table 4-29: Compliance on Aid Transparency and Accountability - Central Level

S.N	Compliance Situation	Multilateral		Bi-lateral			UN	Total			
		ADB	WB	DFID	JICA	Norway		USAID	UNDP		
1	Paris Declaration	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	100.00%	
2	Accra Agenda for Action	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	100.00%	
3	IATI			✓	✓			✓		3	42.86%
4	Own Org/Donor Country ATA policy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	100.00%	
5	Open Government Partnership	✓		✓	✓			✓		4	57.14%
6	UNCC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	100.00%	
7	RTI ACT (Nepal)	✓	✓		✓			✓	4	57.14%	
8	PEFA	✓	✓	✓				✓	5	71.43%	
9	FWP Act 2055	✓	✓	✓				✓	4	57.14%	
10	AMP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	100.00%	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>71.43%</b>	

Diagram 4-19: Comparison between Knowledge and Compliance Situation - Central Level



## CASE STUDY



### Unaccountable response behind Incomplete and inaccurate information

The Norwegian Embassy gave a comment saying that their information featured in the final draft of study report, which was circulated to sampled donor agencies for inputs, are inaccurate and incomplete. The Embassy did not send its representative to attend a discussion on the first draft and missed a chance to render its comment face to face. Therefore, the timely correction could not take place. We went for a bilateral discussion with the Embassy officials in connection with the reservation they presented in regard to the data, analysis and findings of the final draft. During the discussion, Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission and Governance Advisor articulated their realization that the officer designated for responding the research questionnaire did not seriously make responses and also gave incomplete and baseless information.

Apparently, the Embassy seemed to have paid attention towards addressing the loopholes surfaced in the mechanism of information management and disclosure and arrangement of responsible officer for this.

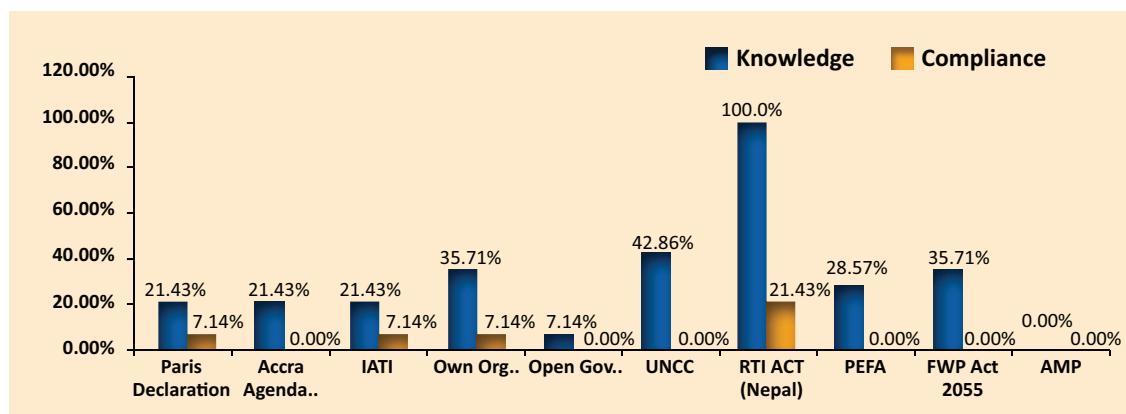
In course of discussion, they provided us with new information with an intention to correct some of the information contained in the report. According to the latest version, the Embassy has been imparting information to beneficiaries, media and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). Likewise, among 28 projects supported by the Embassy, six projects are with bilateral agencies, seven with multilateral agencies, six with INGOs, eight with NGOs and one project with institution (Kathmandu University). The Embassy is said to have executed no project directly and have been disclosing project information and information relating to the budget, terms of reference of aid, human resource roles and responsibility, project approach, project results and project evaluation report. The officials went on saying that the Norway government website has also been updating information related to projects in Nepal and regularly reporting to OECD DAC. The Embassy has also been providing information on demand and during launching and midterm of the project. It has also claimed that it has been providing information up to a record of five years.

According to the information sheet, they said they have also provided detail information of budget allocated to and incurred by every partner agencies. The total allocation of budget during 2009 to 2012 is around NRK 789.94 million. However, it is noted that the Embassy does not channelize direct budget. Contrary to the response made by the officer designated to respond the survey questionnaire, the Embassy informed us that its officials are aware of and have knowledge on IATI, RTI Act of Nepal, PEFA, Financial Work Procedure Act and these all are applicable and in practice in the Embassy. The Embassy further claimed that information related to its official development assistance are also available in the IATI registry.

But all these information are yet to be verified and the latest information have not been incorporated in the study report as its findings were already made public. The case study has been included here to reflect the impact of the study and to show as to how it has helped the agencies improve their arrangements in this regard.

As stated district level officials do not have much knowledge on aid transparency and accountability issue. Officials of few agencies mentioned that they have some knowledge on the issue. The compliance part of the aid transparency and accountability issue is even poor. None of the agencies in Dolakha district could say anything about the compliance situation. However few officials in Chitwan district have reported that they have been complying with the few provisions on ATA. Please see **Diagram 4-20** for comparison between knowledge and compliance situation in districts.

**Diagram 4-20: Comparison between Knowledge and Compliance Situation - District Level**



## 4.7 Documents on Aid Transparency and Accountability

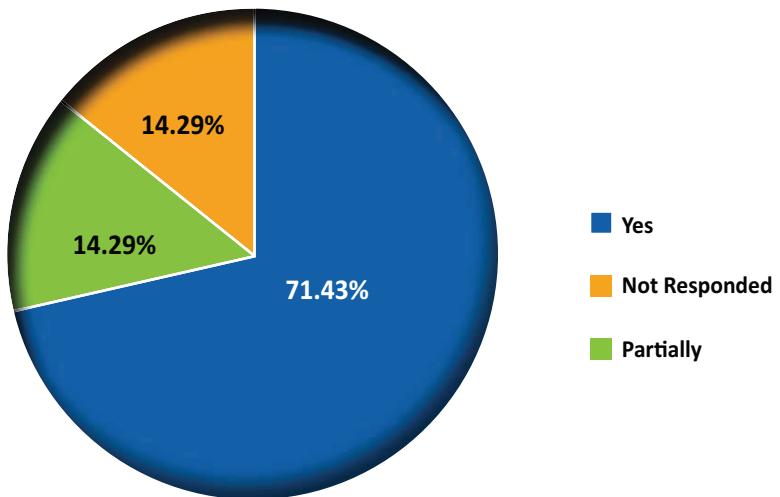
Document on aid transparency and accountability was another area that the research team wanted to collect information on from the agencies. The agencies were asked whether ATA issue was given priority in the organisation. All agencies had affirmative answer on the question. They confirmed that they have given priority to the ATA issue. However, there was no clear response on why they had given priority to the issue. ADB and Norway did not respond properly saying that there was no ATA specific document prepared. JICA and USAID said the reason for giving ATA issue priority was to enhance ownership. However, three agencies (WB, DFID and UNDP) said they wanted to promote good governance.

Further, question was asked whether the agencies had developed any policy document on ATA and also inquired whether the document had any linkage to the national level policies/guidelines. There was no such document developed particularly focusing on country situation of Nepal. However they mentioned about other documents prepared on aid transparency and accountability which were linked with the national policies/guidelines. Over 70% agencies said their documents are linked with the national policies/guidelines; however Norwegian Embassy said the documents prepared by them are linked with the national policies partially. There was no response from DFID on the issue. Please see **Table 4-30** and **Diagram 4-21** for response of individual agency.

Table 4-30: Policy Documents Linked with the National Policies - Central Level

S.N	Policy Documents	Multilateral		Bi-lateral				UN	Total	
		ADB	WB	DFID	JIICA	Norway	USAID		Number	Percent
1	Yes	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	5	71.43%
2	Partially					✓			1	14.29%
3	Not Responded			✓					1	14.29%
		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	100.00%

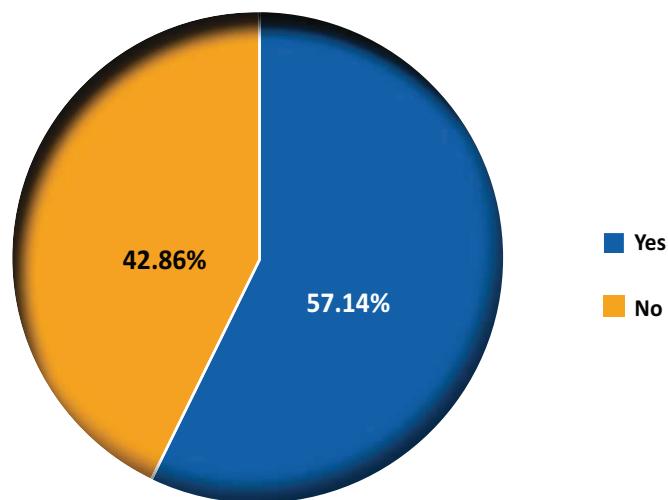
Diagram 4-21: Policy Documents Linked with the National Policies - Central level



Agencies were also asked whether they share information with Aid Management Platform (AMP). All the agencies said they have been sharing information with APM regularly. Agencies were also asked if they are signatories to International Aid Transparency Initiative

(IATI). Four agencies (WB, DFID, USAID and UNDP) said they are registered with IATI but remaining three agencies (ADB, JICA and Norway) said no. This demonstrates a lack of knowledge in some country offices of the commitment made to IATI by the organisations as a whole: Asian Development Bank and Norway are in fact signatories to IATI. Please see **Diagram 4-22**.

**Diagram 4-22: Organisation Registered with IATI - Central level**



# 5

## CHAPTER

### 5. Major Findings, Observations, Key Learning and Recommendations

The study has revealed number of interesting findings, observations and learning which would be helpful to understand the current situation on aid transparency and accountability in Nepal, and conduct similar studies on the subject in future. The study has also suggested some measures which could be considered at both policy and operational levels. The major findings, observation, learning and recommendations are portrayed below:

#### 5.1 Major Findings

- All agencies at central level reported that they share aid and project information with different stakeholders but level of information sharing is different. All agencies in Dolakha district are sharing information with CSOs, whereas only one agency has shared such info with them in Chitwan.
- Organisational policy and transparency and accountability have been the major motivating factors for information sharing amongst the agencies both at central and district levels.
- Key information that all agencies normally share at central level are the project agreement, policy documents and budget information. .
- There are a total of 164 running projects of the seven sampled agencies and a large portion (over 80%) projects are being implemented through Nepal

Government. The USAID is reported as the only agency which has been implementing projects through I/NGOs.

- The name, objectives and policies of the project are the key information that are commonly shared by the agencies. The budget information, start/end date of project and roles and responsibility of the project staff is being shared by only a few agencies.
- There is significant discrepancy between the information provided by project/ district offices and beneficiaries. Most of the project offices (over 64%) claim they share information on project budget with the beneficiaries but only few beneficiaries are aware of it. Many of the beneficiaries are however familiar with names and objectives of projects.
- Web portal and media are the main outreach mechanism for disseminating the information to the stakeholders, including beneficiaries. Dolakha district has followed same pattern of central level as all agencies in the district share information with media in the district. . Media is approached by only one agency in the Chitwan district.
- Inquiry on foreign aid and project information was very minimal at district level.
- Project reports, country office website and press release have been the most common means of information sharing amongst the agencies. UNDP and USAID also use social media (face book, twitter, flicker and you tube) for information sharing. Press release is most common in Chitwan district whereas Dolakha is using other means (bulletin).
- The internet service being accessible to the limited people, the websites are not serving to be the effective means to disseminate the project information to the beneficiaries.
- Project information is mostly published in Nepali and English Languages. Few agencies have been publishing the information in local language as well, whereas there are others which publish information in English only.
- Six agencies out of seven have assigned officers for information sharing but DFID is the only agency which does not have designated officer for that matter.
- Six agencies said they share audit information with their head office and also home countries. Majority of them said they share information with Nepal Government as well but DFID does not seem to share such information to Nepal Government.

- Information is sought primarily by the media at the center, whereas beneficiaries and the local leaders are the ones who seek information at the district level. No agency, except the World Bank, has the exact time period that takes to provide information. Different answers were given by many, but the ADB and USAID did not give any answer at all.
- None of the agencies provided complete budgetary information. Hence, most of the agencies have failed on their claim that they were transparent and accountable. Six agencies provided partial information on budget but ADB did not provide any information at all.
- Knowledge and compliance situation amongst the donor agencies on aid transparency and accountability at central level is reported to be good but knowledge at district and beneficiary level is very poor. It seems that knowledge and awareness level of ATA issue is very much centralized, and the information has not been disseminated effectively at the district and beneficiary level.
- The donor agencies were found to be relying upon the website for information dissemination. All seven donor agencies said they have placed the information of their activities in the website. Main sources to get information about the donors were their country offices' website, headquarters websites, AMP and the data provided in the IATI. As the information is provided differently in different mediums, the comparative study and analysis is difficult.

## 5.2 Observations

- The presumption that donors respond to the queries or letters with due course of time without much delay, doesn't seem to be entirely correct as most of the agencies in Kathmandu hardly replied to our first mail.
- Finding designated officer at the donor agency was very challenging in the beginning. Delay response and dillydallying were what featured as donors' conducts while tracking information on aid (Case Study 3).
- Transparency level as claimed by donor agencies is not found in practice. There is discrepancy between what is said and what is practiced. It seems rather difficult for a common citizen to get information from such donors.
- Some of the designated officers do not seem having authority as they had to seek permission from organisational head or any other senior officials to share the information (Case Study 4). The lack of in-house coordination was another common phenomenon recorded.

- Knowledge level on ATA amongst heads of district/project offices seems very low. The project beneficiaries do not seem to have any knowledge on ATA at all.
- The representatives of only two organizations participated in methodology workshop and three on the sharing workshop though all seven agencies were duly informed on this. This indicates ATA has not been the priority issue amongst the donor agencies.
- Some of the responsible office bearers in the district were found to be reluctant on providing information. They had to be prodded time and again for the response and the information was provided often lately. It clearly indicates that the projects run with foreign aid lack the culture of transparency and accountability.

### 5.3 Key Learning

- A systematic and standard tool to measure the level of aid transparency could be developed.
- Research to locate transparency situation of donors is cumbersome and rigorous process, so enough time should be allocated to gather information.
- Involvement of donor agencies' representatives in research process is very difficult as they tend to avoid meetings and gatherings related to ATA, but they appeared to be very conscious and little responsive to media.
- Accessing information from donor agency to measuring up their openness and transparency is difficult as many of them seem reluctant to provide information. It is rather difficult to acquire budgetary information from them by general public.
- Hierarchy/administrative hassle within donor agencies makes it difficult to contact the right person for information. Some of the agencies are not even clear who should provide information.
- Tracking of donor money from top to bottom (beneficiary level) and performance-based monitoring of any of the donor-financed projects could be another area of further exploration.

## 5.4 Recommendations

### a. General

- Donor agencies should devise concrete policy and mechanism, and establish best practices, in disseminating aid information to all the stakeholders in a non-technical way.
- Donor agencies should strictly follow the RTI provisions of Nepal that includes proactive disclosure of information in every three months, enforcing application system, maintaining information archive etc.
- The donor agencies should proactively disclose information specifically on the number of ongoing projects with the government, I/NGOs, private sector and other specific agency or on their direct involvement.
- Outreach mechanism should be developed in such a way that two-way communication could be established. Information sharing should be user friendly in terms of language and other technical aspects.
- Information centre like Public Information Centre (PIC) at the World Bank should be set up to impart information to the seekers and requesters.
- Designated information officer should be assigned in all agencies to provide aid related information to the stakeholders and other requesters.
- Donor agencies should provide publicly important information regularly in every three months complying with the RTI ACT of Nepal.
- More comprehensive research and study on aid transparency should be carried out. Budget tracking could be another area of further exploration.

### b. Policy/Strategy Level

- Citizenary methods such as presenting data in a simple and non-technical manner, using understandable language and format and users-friendly technology have to be followed/adopted for information dissemination
- The websites should also be in Nepali medium so that it will reach out to the final beneficiaries.
- It is essential to develop the data system in the AMP by integrating the information of all ministries and central bodies, Social Welfare Council and all 75 districts which receive and mobilize foreign aid.
- It was also equally important to study about whom the information is flowed and how information sharing is implemented. Further, comprehensive study on similar issue is recommended.

- The agencies should share their audit information with Nepal Government including the Office of the Auditor General.
- Basic knowledge and organizational documents and compliance with ATA should be made customary.
- All the donor agencies should get them registered with IATY and regularly share information to its database.

#### c. Operational Level

- Foreign assistance should be funnelled through one-door system so that it would be helpful to maintain aid transparency and accountability.
- The information management is not systematic in district offices. Information officers are rarely found in the districts and do have little or no information if they are found. Therefore, authorised person should be assigned to keep the record properly and provide information to the information seekers.
- Programs for individual and institutional knowledge enhancement and awareness raising on aid transparency should be planned and implemented at district and community levels.





## REFERENCES

### Main Sources

- Adhikari, H. (2012), *"Need of sensitization in the use of foreign aid"*, Article published in Samacharpatra National Daily on 2 April, 2012.
- Chalise, K. (2012), *"Aid Effectiveness (Transparency is a must)"*, Article published in The Himalayan Times on 12 March 2012.
- Christensen, Z. et al (2011), *"Transparency Squared: The Effects of Donor Transparency on Aid Recipients' Corruption Level"*, International Political Economy Society, USA, Nov 2011.
- DIIS (2011), "What aid should and shouldn't do in order to support private sector development", Policy Brief, Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS), Copenhagen, Denmark, Dec 2011.
- Easterly, W (2007), *"Are Aid Agencies Improving?"* Economic Policy Paper, London, UK October, 2007.
- GoN (2011), *"2011 Survey on Monitoring the Paris Declaration"* Nepal Country Report, Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal, November 2011.
- IDS (2010), *"Review of Impact and Effectiveness of Transparency and Accountability Initiatives"*, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), London, Oct 2010.
- IIIDS, (2004), *"Foreign Aid Utilization at the Grassroots Level, A Case Study of Local Development Fund"* Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIIDS), Kathmandu, Nov 2004.
- Jha, D. (2012), *"Foreign Aid Management"* Article published in Annapurna Post on March 15, 2012.
- Kafle, C. (2012) *"Where Do You Go (Towards a More Effective and Transparent foreign aid regime)"* Article published in Republica National Daily on May 2, 2012.
- MF (2009), *"Foreign Aid Policy 2009 - A Draft for Discussion at the Nepal Development Forum"*

*Stakeholders' Consultation Meeting", Ministry of Finance, Kathmandu, Nepal, May 2009.*

- MF (2011), *"Foreign Grants and Loan – Nepal 2011/12"*, Ministry of Finance, Kathmandu Nepal, July 2011.
- Moon, S et al (2010), *"Greater Aid Transparency: Crucial for Aid Effectiveness, Project Briefing"* Overseas Development Institute, London, Jan 2010.
- Mulley, S. (2010) *"Donor aid, New frontiers in transparency and accountability"*, The Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) , London, 2010.
- Nepal, C. (2012), *"Foreign Aid Policy"* Briefing paper presented at a 'Methodology Workshop on Aid Transparency Project', February 16, 2012.
- Neupane, A. (2012), *"Need of Foreign Aid Transparency"*, Article published in Karobar National Daily on February 29, 2012.
- ODI (2002), *"Aid Effectiveness for Growth and Development"*, Overseas Development Institute, London, UK, Feb 2002.
- OECD (2003), *"Aid Effectiveness and Selectivity: Integrating Multiple Objectives into Aid Allocations OECD DAC/Development Centre Experts' Seminar"*, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Paris, 10 March 2003
- OECD (2010), *"Aid Targets Slipping Out of Reach?"* Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development", Occasional Paper, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Working Paper, Nov 2010.
- OCED (2011), *"Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action"*, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 2011
- OECD (2012), "Development: Aid Increases, but with Worrying Trends", Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Working Paper, Jan 2012 (online), Available from: [http://www.oecd.org/document/29/0,3746,en\\_21571361\\_44315115\\_47519517\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/29/0,3746,en_21571361_44315115_47519517_1_1_1,00.html)
- OECD (2012), "Development Aid Reaches an Historic High in 2010", Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Working Paper, Jan 2012 (online), Available from: [http://www.oecd.org/document/35/0,3746,en\\_2649\\_34447\\_47515235\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/35/0,3746,en_2649_34447_47515235_1_1_1,00.html)
- OECD (2012), *"Working Party on Aid Effectiveness: A Coalition for Effective Development"*, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Working Paper, Jan 2012, (online), Available from: [http://www.oecd.org/document/35/0,3746,en\\_2649\\_3236398\\_43382307\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/35/0,3746,en_2649_3236398_43382307_1_1_1,00.html)
- PWYF (2009), *"Why Aid Transparency Matters, and the Global Movement for Aid Transparency"* Briefing Paper 1, Publish What You Fund, London, 2009
- PWYF (2010), *"Aid Transparency Assessment 2010, The Global Campaign for Aid Transparency"*, Publish What You Fund, London, 2010
- Sapkota, K. (2012), *"Transparent Aid Governance (Avenue to Enhance Development Effectiveness)"*, Article published in The Rising Nepal, May 2, 2012.
- UNMP(2005), *"Investing in Development, A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals"*, Report to the UN Secretary General, UN Millennium Project, London, UK, 2005
- WB (1998), *"Assessing Aid: What Works, What Doesn't, and Why"*, A World Bank Policy Research Report, Nov 1998

- WBI (2009), "Aid Effectiveness and Governance, The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" Special Report, World Bank Institute, February, 2009

## Other Sources

### ADB

- ADB website i.e. [www.adb.org/nepal](http://www.adb.org/nepal), Public Communication Policy 2011 and Accountability Mechanism Policy 2012 on ADB
- MOF (Ministry of Finance). *Development Cooperation Report 2010-11*. Annex-1, Kathmandu: Foreign Aid Coordination Division, Govt of Nepal, 2012, ADB's Public Communications Policy. Please refer to <http://www.adb.org/documents/pcp-2011>
- Websites <http://www.adb.org/documents/pcp-2011> and <http://www.adb.org/documents/accountability-mechanism-policy-2012>
- <http://www.undp.org.np/programs/search/>, <http://www.jica.go.jp/english/publications/index.html>, <http://www.norway.org.np/>

### DFID

- DFID Nepal, Country Business Plan, <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications1/countryplan/nepal-2009-12.pdf>
- Evaluation of DFID Country programs: Nepal report, 2007, <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications1/evaluation/ev679.pdf>
- Public Data, <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-us/Public-data/>
- Transparency Guarantee, <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/What-we-do/How-UK-aid-is-spent/What-transparency-means-for-DFID/UK-Aid-Transparency-Guarantee/>
- What we do, <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/What-we-do/How-UK-aid-is-spent/how-we-decide-where-aid-is-spent/>
- DFID Nepal, Operational Plan 2011-15, <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications1/op/nepal-2011.pdf>

### USAID

- Budget Homepage, USAID, <http://nepal.usaid.gov/about-us/overview/budget.html>
- FOIA Requests for USAID Records, <http://www.usaid.gov/about/foia/howto.html>
- Implementing Partners, <http://nepal.usaid.gov/about-us/implementing-partner.html>
- Inspector General Hotline, <http://www.usaid.gov/oig/hotline/hotline.htm>
- Legislative and Public Affairs Bureau, <http://www.usaid.gov/press/>
- Mission Statement, US Foreign Assistance Reform, [http://www.usaid.gov/about\\_usaid/dfa/](http://www.usaid.gov/about_usaid/dfa/)
- Open Government Initiative, USAID homepage, <http://www.usaid.gov/open/>
- Overseas Loans and Grants, Obligation Report to the Congress 2009, [http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PNADT555.pdf](http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADT555.pdf)
- Performance and Accountability, <http://www.usaid.gov/performance/>
- Performance Publication, Foreign Assistance, [http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PDACR075.pdf](http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PDACR075.pdf)

- Policy on Branding, <http://www.usaid.gov/branding/>
- Program Areas, Homepage: Our Work. <http://nepal.usaid.gov/>
- Programming Policy, <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/200/200.pdf>
- USAID in the News, <http://nepal.usaid.gov/newsroom/usaid-in-the-news.html>
- Joint Fact Sheet, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/05/25/joint-fact-sheet-us-uk-partnership-global-development>
- OECD Stat Extracts, <http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?datasetcode=CRS1>, accessed on May 14, 2012.
- U.S. Mission/Kathmandu Country Assistance Strategy – 2009-2013
- USAID Nepal Country Strategic Plan (FY 2001-2005), [http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PDABS865.pdf](http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PDABS865.pdf)
- Country Assistance Strategy, USAID, Available online, [http://nepal.usaid.gov/attachments/184\\_Country%20Assistance%20Strategy%202009%20-%202013.pdf](http://nepal.usaid.gov/attachments/184_Country%20Assistance%20Strategy%202009%20-%202013.pdf)
- USAID's Evaluation Policy, Briefer, [www.nepal.usaid.gov](http://www.nepal.usaid.gov)

## World Bank

- World Bank Appeals, 30 Apr 2012, <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/PROJECTANDOPERATIONS/EXTINFODISCLOSURE/0,,contentMDK:22651293~menuPK:64864682~pagePK:64865365>
- piPK:64864641~theSitePK:5033734,00.html
- Project and Programs 20 Apr 2012, <http://www.worldbank.org.np/external/default/main?menuPK=286967&pagePK=141155&piPK=141124&theSitePK=223555>
- Project Document 20 Apr 2012, <http://www.worldbank.org.np/external/default/main?sortDesc=DOCDT&theSitePK=223555&cntry=82535&piPK=51448748&pagePK=51187344&menuPK=2864484>
- Active Projects 21 Apr 2012, <http://www.worldbank.org.np/external/default/main?menuPK=286968&pagePK=141143&piPK=141103&theSitePK=223555>
- Public Information Center 21 Apr 2012, <http://www.worldbank.org.np/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/SOUTHASIAEXT/NEPALEXTN/0,,menuPK:286979~pagePK:141132~piPK:64025829~theSitePK:223555,00.html>
- Archives, 21 Apr 2012, <http://web.worldbank.org/external/default/main?pagePK=64319200&piPK=64323128&theSitePK=29506>
- Accountability and Transparency for development, Planned Conference for 7-8 May, Information accessed online 2 May 2012, <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTABCDE/0,,contentMDK:23136375~menuPK:8497771~pagePK:64168445~piPK:64168309~theSitePK:7455677,00.html>



## ANNEXES

## Survey Questionnaire – Central Level

### Survey Questionnaire – Central Level

#### A. Introduction about Organization

1. Name of Agency:

2. Type: Multilateral (  ) Bi-lateral (  ) Un Agency (  )

3. Area (Sector) of Support:

4. Location (Country Office):

5. Contact Person:

a. Name:  b. Position:

c. Phone No:  d. Email:

#### B. Project Information

6. Does the Agency Share Information on its Programs/Projects:

If YES, ask the following info,

a. Who do you share information with?

- Nepal Government
- Donor Community

- People of Donor Country
- Project partners
- Media
- Beneficiaries
- Civil Society Organizations
- Other (please specify)

b. What is your motivation for sharing information?

c. What kind of information?

- Project agreement
- Policy documents – country strategy, operational plan, documents on ATA etc
- Budget information
- Other (please specify)

d. Number of ongoing projects:

- Government:
- Private Sector
- I/NGOs
- Direct
- Other (specify)

e. Project specific information?

- Project name and type:
- Beneficiaries:
- Project Budget:
- Terms of aid (information on conditions, terms of sub- contractors)
- Roles and responsibilities of involved HR
- Project Approach (Involvement of beneficiaries in planning process)
- Project policies/plans
- Monitoring & evaluation Reports
- Project Objectives:
- When (start and end date):
- Project Results/Impacts

f. How the information is available?

- Reports
- Country office website
- Press release
- Public meetings at project level
- Reporting to OECD DAC
- Meetings
- Headquarters website
- Press conference
- Notice boards at project sights
- other (please specify)

g. What is the outreach mechanism?

- Own disclosure policy
- Compliance with disclosure provisions specified by the RTI Act of Nepal
- Project launching
- Media
- Any specific legal frameworks
- Web portal
- Other (please specify)

- h. Are they accessible to all stakeholders including beneficiaries? Are they presented in a non-technical way so that varieties of audiences (stakeholders and beneficiaries) could easily understand?
  - Language
  - Citizenry information
  - Other (please specify)
- i. How often they are published or made available?
  - Three months
  - On demand
  - Annually
  - Other (specify)
- j. At what stage they are published or made available?
  - Launching
  - Midterm
  - Completion
  - Auditing
- k. Who is the designated officer to share the information?
  - Name:
  - Position:
  - Phone No:
  - Email:
- l. Do you provide information that is stored in archive? What is the period of your archive information available for?

### C. Audit Information

- a. Who undertakes your financial audit?
- b. How are the auditors selected?
- c. Who do you share your audit report with?
  - Own institution/Host country government
  - Nepal government
  - CSOs/Public
  - Other (specify)

#### If NO, on Q 6 please ask Why?

- Internal policies prevent it
- Not enough time/capacity
- Technically difficult to get information
- No demand
- Other (please specify)

#### Now, go to Q E,

### D. Requests for Information

- a. How frequently they are asked for information on aid projects?
- b. Who asks them?
- c. What they ask for?
- d. How much time it takes them to provide the information?
- e. Is there complain redressal mechanism? If yes, what?
- f. Do you charge any fee for the information?

## E. Budgetary Information

### 7. Type of fund/budget (3 Years)

a. Commitment:	Actual:
b. Monetary:	Non-monetary:
c. Budgetary:	Non-budgetary:
d. Grants:	Loan:

### 8. How budget is channeled?

- a. Government
- b. I/NGOs
- c. Direct
- d. Other (specify)

## F. Knowledge on Aid Transparency and Accountability Issues

### 9. Is Senior Management Team Familiar with:

- a. Paris Declaration
- b. Accra Agenda for Action
- c. International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)
- d. Own organization/donor country ATA policy
- e. Open Government Partnership
- f. United Nations Convention against Corruption
- g. RTI Act (host country)
- h. Public Expenditure Financial Accountability Framework
- i. Financial Work Procedural Act 2055
- j. Aid Management Platform (AMP)
- k. Other (please specify)

### 10. How is the Compliance Situation,

- a. Paris Declaration, if yes, how?
- b. Accra Agenda for Action, if yes, how?
- c. International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), if yes, how?
- d. Own organization/donor country ATA policy, if yes, how?

- e. Open Government Partnership, if yes, how
- f. United Nations Convention against Corruption, if yes, how
- g. RTI Act (host country), if yes, how?
- h. Public Expenditure Financial Accountability Framework, if yes, how
- i. Financial Work Procedure Act 2055
- j. Aid Management Platform (AMP), if yes, how?
- k. Others (Please specify)

#### **G. H. Documents on Aid Transparency and Accountability**

- 11. Is ATA Issue Given Priority or Taken into Considered in the Organization?**
- 12. Why it is given priority?**
- 13. What are the Policy Documents Formulated related to ATA?**
- 14. Are the Policy Documents Linked or Aligned with the National Policies/Guidelines?**
- 15. Is Information Shared with Aid Management Platform (AMP)?**
- 16. Is the Organization Is Registered with IATI? If Yes, Is it Sharing Information on its Database?**



# 2

## ANNEXES

### Survey Questionnaire – District/Project Level

#### Survey Questionnaire – District/Project Level

##### A. Introduction about Organization

1. **Name of Agency:**
2. **Type:** Multilateral (  )      Bi-lateral (  )      UN Agency (  )      INGO (  )
3. **Area of Support:**
4. **Location (District Office/Project):**
5. **Contact Person:**
  - a. Name:
  - b. Position:
  - c. Phone No:
  - d. Email:

##### B. Project Information

6. **Can the Agency Share Information on its Programs/Projects:**

## If YES, ask the following info,

- a. Who do you share information with?
  - Nepal Government
  - Donor Community
  - People of Donor Country
  - Beneficiaries
  - Project partners
  - Civil Society Organizations
  - Other (please specify)
- b. What is your motivation for sharing information?
- c. What kind of information?
  - Project agreement
  - Policy documents – country strategy, operational plan, documents on ATA etc
  - Budget information
  - Other (please specify)
- d. Number of projects:
  - Government
  - Direct
  - I/NGOs
  - Other (specify)
  - Private
- e. Project specific information?
  - Project name and type:
  - Terms of aid (information on conditions, terms of sub- contractors)
  - Project Objectives:
  - Roles and responsibilities of involved HR
  - Beneficiaries:
  - Project Approach (Involvement of beneficiaries in planning process)
  - When (start and end date):
    - Project policies/plans
    - Project Results/Impacts
  - Project Budget:
  - Monitoring and evaluation
- f. How the information is available?
  - Reports
  - Meetings
  - Country office website
  - Headquarters website
  - Press release CSOs/public
  - Other (specify)
  - Press conference
  - Public meetings at project level
  - Notice boards at project sights
  - Reporting to OECD DAC
  - other (please specify)

- g. What is the outreach mechanism?
  - Own disclosure policy
  - Any specific legal frameworks
  - Compliance with disclosure provisions specified by the RTI Act of Nepal
  - Media
  - Other (please specify)
- h. Are they accessible to all stakeholders including beneficiaries? Are they presented in a non-technical way so that varieties of audiences (stakeholders and beneficiaries) could easily understand?
  - Language
  - Citizenry information
  - Other (please specify)
- i. How often they are published or made available?
  - Three months
  - On demand
  - Annually
  - Other (specify)
- j. At what stage they are published or made available?
  - Launching
  - Midterm
  - Completion
  - Auditing
- k. Who is the designated officer to share the information?
  - Name:
  - Position:
  - Phone No:
  - Email:
- l. Do you provide information that is stored in archive? What is the period of your archive information available for?

### C. Audit Information

- a. Who undertakes your audit?
- b. How are the auditors selected?
- c. Who do you share your audit port with?
  - Own institution/host country government
  - Nepal government
  - CSOs/Public
  - DDC
  - Other (specify)

**If NO, on Q 6, please ask Why?**

- Do not have the information

- Internal policies prevent it
- Not enough time/capacity
- Technically difficult to get information
- No demand
- Other (please specify)

**Now, go to Q E,**

#### **D. Requests for Information**

- a. How frequently they are asked for information on aid projects?
- b. Who asks them?
- c. What they ask for?
- d. How much time it takes them to provide the information?
- e. Is there complain redressal mechanism? If yes, what?
- f. Do you charge any fee for the information?

#### **E. Budgetary Information**

##### **7. Type of fund/budget**

- a. Monetary: Non-monetary:
- b. Budgetary: Non-budgetary:
- c. Grants: Loan:

##### **8. How budget is channeled?**

- a. Government
- b. I/NGOs
- c. Direct
- d. Other (specify)

#### **F. Knowledge on Aid Transparency and Accountability Issues**

##### **9. Is Management Team Familiar with:**

- a. Paris Declaration

- b. Accra Agenda for Action
- c. International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)
- d. Own organization/donor country ATA policy
- e. Open Government Partnership
- f. United Nations Convention against Corruption
- g. RTI Act (host country)
- h. Public Expenditure Financial Accountability Framework
- i. Financial Work Procedural Act 2055
- j. Aid Management Platform (AMP)
- k. Others (please specify)

#### **10. How is the Compliance Situation,**

- a. Paris Declaration, if yes, how?
- b. Accra Agenda for Action, if yes, how?
- c. International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), if yes, how?
- d. Own organization/donor country ATA policy, if yes, how?
- e. Open Government Partnership, if yes, how?
- f. United Nations Convention against Corruption, if yes, how?
- g. RTI Act (host country), if yes, how?
- h. Public Expenditure Financial Accountability Framework, if yes, how?
- i. Financial Work Procedural Act 2055, if yes, how?
- j. Aid Management Platform (AMP), if yes, how?
- k. Local Self-governance Act at district level
- l. Other (please specify)

## **G. H. Documents on Aid Transparency and Accountability**

- 11. Is ATA Issue Given Priority or Taken into Considered in the Organization?**
- 12. Why it is given priority?**
- 13. What are the Policy Documents Formulated related to ATA?**
- 14. Are the Policy Documents Linked or Aligned with the National or District Level Policies/ Guidelines?**
- 15. Do you share information with DDC Information Centre?**
- 16. Is the Organization Is Registered with IATI? If Yes, Is it Sharing Information on Database?**



# 3

## ANNEXES

### Survey Questionnaire – Beneficiary Level

#### Survey Questionnaire – Beneficiary Level

##### A. Introduction

1. Name of the Person:
2. Position:
3. Name of Institution/Org/Group:
4. Name of Project:
5. Address:

##### B. Project Information

6. Does the Agency Share Information on its Programs/Projects:

If YES, ask the following info,

- a. What kind of information?

- Project agreement
- Policy documents – country strategy, operational plan, documents on ATA etc
- Budget information
- Other (please specify)

b. Project specific information?

- Project name and type:
- Project Objectives:
- Beneficiaries:
- When (start and end date):
- Project Budget:
- Terms of aid (information on conditions, terms of sub- contractors)
- Roles and responsibilities of involved HR
- Project Approach (Involvement of beneficiaries in planning process)
- Project policies/plans
- Project Results/Impacts
- Monitoring and evaluation

c. How the information is available?

a. Reports	b. Meetings
c. Country office website	d. Headquarters website
e. Press release	f. Press conference
g. Public meetings at project level	h. Notice boards at project sights
i. Other (please specify)	

d. Are they accessible to you and all stakeholders including beneficiaries?

e. At what stage they are published or made available?

• Launching	• Completion
• Midterm	• Auditing

f. Have you ever asked for project information?

If YES,

- a. Did you pay any fee?
- b. Was that easily understandable?

- g. Do you or other beneficiaries easily understand the provided project information?
- h. What are the challenges and incentives for this?
- i. How often they are published or made available?
  - Three months
  - On demand
  - Annually
  - Other (specify)
- j. Who is the designated officer to share the information?
  - Name:
  - Position:

**If NO, on Q 6, please ask Why?**

- Do not have the information
- Internal policies prevent it
- Not enough time/capacity
- Technically difficult to get information
- No demand
- Other (please specify)

### C. Knowledge on Aid Transparency and Accountability Issues

**7. Have you heard about aid transparency and accountability issue? Where and how?  
Any conventions, conferences, declarations etc?**





## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### Consultative Meeting

Kathmandu, Date: 16 February 2012

S.N	Name of Participant	Organization/Designation
1.	A. Lovbroh	Norwegian Embassy
2.	Baburam Shrestha	PEFA
3.	Mohadatta Timalsina	Office of Auditor General
4.	Suresh Sharma	PEFA
5.	Sarita Bhattarai	AAMN
6.	Grishma Raj Aryal	AAMN
7.	Prakash Niroula	Ministry of Finance
8.	JnliaChevilarad	UNDP/Ministry of Finance
9.	Bibhushan Bista	YIPL
10.	Chiranjibi Kafle	Tribhuwan University
11.	Babu Krishna Maharjan	Surya Daily
12.	Saroj Kafle	Annapurna Post
13.	Bishnu Pukar Shrestha	CHAURAST Nepal
14	Sanjeeb Ghimire	Freedom forum
15.	Krishna Sapkota	Freedom Forum

16.	Chiranjibi Nepal, Phd	Resource Person/ Freelancer
17.	Dharmendra Jha	Annapurna Post
18.	Kuber Chalisa	The Himalayan Times
19.	Hemraj Lamichhne	ADDCN
20.	Anirudra Neupane	Freedom Forum
21.	Kedar Khadka	Pro Public
22.	Basanta Lamsal	Resource Person Freedom Forum
23.	Taranath Dahal	Freedom Forum

### **Bharatpur, Chitwan, March 25, 2012**

1.	Dr.Tilchandra Bhattarai	Nepal Chamber of Commerce
2.	Jagannath Tiwari	DADO, Chitwan
3.	Kedar Singh Godar	DPHO, Chitwan
4.	Krishna Jayanti Poudel	DDC, Chitwan
5.	Deepak Acharya	CO-Action Nepal
6.	Dev Datta Bhatta	Practical Action
7.	Narayan Sapkota	VDRC, Nepal
8.	Arun Thapa	Bharatpur Municipality
9.	Shree Pd. Dawadi	DNGOCC-Chitwan
10.	Rajkishor Rajak	AAIN
11.	Chiranjibi Subedi	CCIC
12.	Shaligram Sharma	SAHAVAGI
13.	Anita Ghimire	Vijaya FM 101.6
14.	Basanta Lamsal	RP-Freedom Forum
15.	Grishma Raj Aryal	AAMN
16.	Khagaraj Ojha	NGO Fradation
17.	Durga Datta Chapagain	DPHO- Chitwan
18.	Bhumiraj Chapagain	Vijaya FM
19.	Taranath Dahal	Freedom Forum
20.	Krishna Sapkota	Freedom Forum
21.	Nabin Raj Poudel	AAN/SMS

### **Charikot, Dolakha, Date: 26 March , 2012**

1.	Ganesh Bhattarai	Chief District Officer
2.	Rishi Raj Acharya	DDC, Dolakha
3.	Umesh Raj Joshi	Nepal Police

4.	Hum Pathak	HORADEC
5.	Randeep Khadka	I.ONID Office, Dolakha
6.	Yubraj Pandey	DADD, Dolakha
7.	Ram Kumar Bhandari	District Forest Officer, Dolakha
8.	Uttam Katwal	RRN, Dolakha
9.	Chitra Dhoj Khadka	V.D.C.C
10.	Ram Padarath Shah	DLSO, Dolakha
11.	Ravi Bhattarai	CDC, Dolakha
12.	Subash Yonjan	Annapurna Post
13.	Dil Bahadur KC	Karobar Daily
14.	Basanta Lamsal	Resource Person, Freedom Forum
15.	Taranath Dahal	Freedom Forum
16.	Ishwori Prasad Dahal	Deep Jyoti Samaj Sudhar
17.	Purshartha Shrestha	Tuki Association
18.	Ishwar Bahadur Thapa	N.C.D.(Moust)
19.	Tirtha Bhadur K.C	R.P.P
20.	Krishna Prasad Dahal	District Irrigation Office
21.	Gayatri Acharya	FECOFUN, Dolakha
22.	Rabindra Gautam	Abhiyan Daily
23.	Rajendra Manadhar	FNJ Dolakha
24.	Jeevan Lama	Journalist
25.	Narayan Prasad Sedhain	DDC Dolakha
26.	Krishna Sapkota	Freedom Forum
27.	Shambhu Gautam	Journalist

## Study Findings Sharing Meeting

**Kathmandu, Date: 15 June, 2012**

1.	Krishna Sapkota	Freedom Forum
2.	Basanta Lamsal	Freedom Forum
3.	Hum Bhandari	NGO federation
4.	Tumburu Gautam	Transparency International Nepal
5.	Bishnu P. Nepal	ADDCN
6.	Prabhu Chaudhary	CHAURAST Nepal
7.	Bibhusan Bista	YIPL

8.	Kiran Thapa	CHAURAST-Nepal
9.	Santosh Chhetri	JICA
10.	Hem Raj Lamichhane	ADD CN
11.	Krishna K.C	USAID
12.	Bishnu Pukar Shrestha	CHAURAST Nepal
13.	Daya Sagar Shrestha	NGO Federation
14.	Chiranjibi Kafle	Freedom Forum
15.	Victoria Room	Aidinfo /DI
16.	Dahrmendra Jha	Annapurna Post
17.	Laxmi Bilas Koirala	Department of Information
18.	Shali Gram Sharma	SAHAVAGI
19.	Rajendra Subedi	DDC, Chitwan
20.	Chandan Sapkota	SAWTEE
21.	Binod Lamsal	UNDP
22.	Niraj Shrestha	UNDP
23.	Kavindra Subba	DFID Nepal
24.	Bishnu Sharma	Freedom Forum
25.	Madan Mani Adhikari	Annapurna Post
26.	Prakash Adhikari	Freelancer
27.	Pradeep Chapagain	SEJON
28.	Prakash Niroula	Ministry of Finance
29.	Yadav Raj Joshi	The Himalayan Times
30.	Shiromani Dhungana	The Himalayan Times
31.	Bhumiraj Chapagain	Journalist, Chitwan
32.	Chiranjibi Maskay	Civil Socity
33.	Rishi Acharya	DDC, Dolakha
34.	Shambhu Gautam	Journalist, Dolakha
35.	Santosh Sigdel	CCRI
36.	Pushpa Raj Acharya	Karobar Daily
37.	Rishab Bajaj	
38.	Samjhana Pokhrel	
39.	Bhadra Sharma	The Kathmandu Post
40.	Taranath Dahal	Freedom Forum
41.	Anirudra Neupane	Freedom Forum



## Glimpse of Consultative meetings in Kathmandu, Dolakha and Chitwan





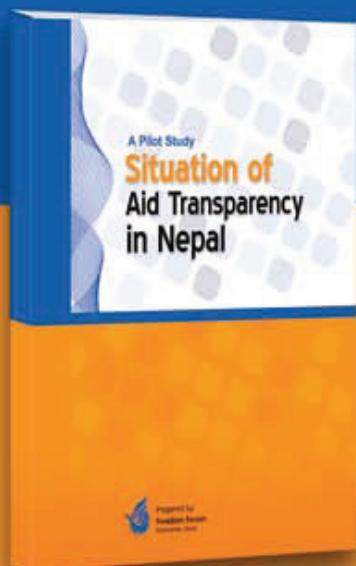


Freedom Forum is an independent, non-governmental and not-for-profit civil society organization working for the cause of social accountability, democracy and human rights focused on press freedom, freedom of expression and right to information in Nepal.

A group of like-minded and democratically conscious professionals from media, law, research and diverse academic background initiated the organization to protect the hard-earned media and democratic rights in the country.

Incepted in February, 2005, Freedom Forum has emerged as a prominent national organization in promoting access to information and freedom of expression through dialogue, research, training, public advocacy and campaign and programme implementation.

Currently, the organization is working on the issues of public finance management, budget transparency, aid governance, political and parliamentary accountability and electoral reform based on its on-hand experience and learning.



**Freedom Forum**

Post Box: 24292, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel. 01 4102030/4102022

[info@freedomforum.org.np](mailto:info@freedomforum.org.np)

[www.freedomforum.org.np](http://www.freedomforum.org.np)