Transparency International (TI) Nepal Annual Progress Report (APR) 2016/17
(वार्षिक प्रगति प्रतिवेदन २०७३/७४)
TI NEPAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) 2016-2018

(कार्यसमिति)

SHREE HARI ARYAL (Senior Advocate)
PREsIDENT

RAM DAYAL RAKESH
VICE PRESIDENT

PADMINI PRADHANANGA
SECRETARY GENERAL

RAM KRISHNA MANANDHAR
TREASURER

ADITYA MAN SHRESTHA
MEMBER

LEELA P SAPKOTA
MEMBER

SOM RAJ SIGDEL
MEMBER

SABITA BHANDARI BARAL
MEMBER

SURENDRA BIR MALAKAR
INST. MEMBER

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IN ATTENDANCE

ASHISH TRAPA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

(Ti-Nepal 22nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) approved Annual Progress Report 2016/17 dated 20 September 2017)
**TI-Nepal General Members Excluding EC members):**

Mr. Bharat Bahadur Thapa (Former President), Member  
Mr. Bishnu Bahadur K.C. (Former President), Member  
Mr. Damodar Prasad Gautam (Former President), Member  
Dr. Devendra Raj Panday (Former President), Member  
Ms. Ambica Shrestha (Former President), Member  
Mr. Kedar Bhakta Mathema (Former Advisory Council Chair), Member  
Ms. Geeta Keshary (Former Vice President), Member  
Mr. Mahadev Prasad Yadav (Former Vice President), Member  
Mr. Ananda Raj Mulmi (Former Vice President), Member  
Mr. Sarbagya Ratna Tuladhar (Former Vice President), Member  
Mr. Ramesh Nath Dhungel (Former Vice President), Member  
Mr. Mukunda Bahadur Pradhan (Former Secretary General, Treasurer), Member  
Mr. Krishna Prasad Bhandari (Former Secretary General), Member  
Mr. Komal Chitracar, (Former Secretary General, Treasurer),Member  
Mr. Bhim Bahadur Shrestha, (Former EC Member), Member  
Dr. Chintamani Yogi (Former EC Member), Member  
Mr. Sarachandra Wasti (Former EC Member), Member  
Mr. Khem Raj Regmi (Former EC Member), Member  
Dr. Sagar Raj Sharma (Former EC Member), Member  
Ms. Toya Gurung, (Former EC member), Member  
Dr. Biswa Keshar Maskay (Former EC member), Member  
Dr. Meena Acharya, (Former EC member), Member  
Dr. Posh Raj Pandey (Former EC member), Member  
Mr. Deep Kumar Upadhaya, Member  
Mr. Jagat Man Shakya, Member  
Mr. Arjun Keshari Upadhyay, Member  
Mr. Surya Nath Upadhyaya, Member  
Mr. Purushottam Baskota, Member  
Dr. Prem Raj Panta, Member  
Dr. Kanak Bikram Thapa, Member  
Dr. Suresh Raj Chalise, Member  
Dr. Bijaya K.C, Member  
Dr. Anusuya Joshi, Member  
Dr. Ishwar Prasad Upadhyaya, Member  
Mr. Bhojraj Pokhrel, Member  
Mr. Mukunda Sharma Poudyal, Member  
Mr. Varun Prasad Shrestha, Member  
Dr. Rewat Bahadur Karki, Member  
Mr. Birendra Prasad Mishra, Member  
Mr. Banshidhar Ghimire, Member  
Mr. Pawan Kumar Ojha, Member  
Mr. Buddh Narayan Shrestha, Member  
Mr. Keshav Prasad Acharya, Member  
Mr. Kiran Thapa, Member  
Mr. Madan Krishna Sharma, Member  
Mr. Jayram Singh Bohara, Member  
Mr. Prakash A Raj, Member
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<th>Full Form</th>
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<td>AGM</td>
<td>Annual General Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALAC</td>
<td>Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre</td>
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<td>AMM</td>
<td>Annual Membership Meeting</td>
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<td>AO</td>
<td>Affiliated Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>B.S.</td>
<td>Bikram Sambat (Nepali Calendar)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BNIN</td>
<td>Building National Integrity in Nepal</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDO</td>
<td>Chief District Officer</td>
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<td>CIAA</td>
<td>Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority</td>
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<td>CLPIU</td>
<td>Central Level Project Implementation Unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPI</td>
<td>Corruption Perception Index</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAO</td>
<td>District Administration Office</td>
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<td>DCC</td>
<td>District Coordination Committee</td>
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<td>DEO</td>
<td>District Education Office</td>
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<td>DLPIU</td>
<td>District Level Project Implementation Unit</td>
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<td>EC</td>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
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<td>ED</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
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<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>GG</td>
<td>Good Governance</td>
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<td>GoN</td>
<td>Government of Nepal</td>
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<td>IEC</td>
<td>Information, Education, and Communication</td>
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<td>IP</td>
<td>Integrity Pact</td>
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<td>IPERR</td>
<td>Integrity in Post Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>M&amp;E</td>
<td>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td>MoFA LD</td>
<td>Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development</td>
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<td>MoU</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding</td>
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<td>MP</td>
<td>Member of Parliament</td>
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<td>MSC</td>
<td>Management Sub Committee</td>
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<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Government Organization</td>
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<td>NI</td>
<td>National Integrity</td>
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<td>NIS</td>
<td>National Integrity System</td>
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<td>NRA</td>
<td>National Reconstruction Authority</td>
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<td>NVC</td>
<td>National Vigilance Centre</td>
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<td>PC</td>
<td>Programme Coordinator</td>
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<td>RNE</td>
<td>Royal Norwegian Embassy</td>
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<td>RTI</td>
<td>Right to Information</td>
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<td>SC</td>
<td>Supreme Court</td>
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<td>SWC</td>
<td>Social Welfare Council</td>
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<td>TI</td>
<td>Transparency International</td>
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<td>TI-Nepal</td>
<td>Transparency International Nepal</td>
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<td>ToR</td>
<td>Terms of Reference</td>
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<td>UNCAC</td>
<td>United Nations Convention Against Corruption</td>
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<td>VDC</td>
<td>Village Development Committee</td>
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Country context

National Integrity System (NIS)
Corruption is a key obstacle to the socio-economic development of Nepal and its people. Nepal, a country with urgent development needs, has been overwhelmed by an unstable political environment over the past two decades. It is on this background that corrupt practices have continued to flourish in areas of public and private life. The 2016 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) placed Nepal 131st among 176 countries with a score of 29 out of 100. In 2015, it ranked 130th among 168 countries with a score of 27 out of 100. This signifies the existence of pervasive corruption.

The National integrity System of Nepal demonstrated three sound characteristics of strength in 2017. Because of these features, the country could really enter into an era of implementation of the republican constitution. Elected local governments are in full shape in six provinces while province number 2 is in final preparation for the third phase - local polls. There is consensus among all political parties (represented in the parliament) including those which agitated against some provisions of constitution during the past two years, for holding provincial elections in 7 provinces and polls for federal parliament within the constitutional deadline of January 21, 2018.

Nepal also witnessed optimism in economy generated by comparatively more stability in government and politics accompanied by less labor-unrest and more energy-supply during the year. The 7.2% growth last year in the economy boosted investment particularly in infrastructure supporting sectors like cement, iron, hotel, bank, insurance, hydro-electricity and tourism.

Some milestone legislative measures – Criminal Code Bill 2073 (amendment to Civil Code 1964), Public Procurement Act 2073, Local level Election Act 2073, Election of MPs 2073, Election of MLAs 2073 and
Labor Bill 2074, among others, were endorsed by the Parliament. Similarly, Bills related to medical education, local level, judicial council, social behavior etc are being deliberated at the Parliament. These legal frameworks increase the hope towards curbing impunity, criminalizing corruption and improving the accountability mechanism.

On the backdrop of some success in the legal front, failures of NIS at the grass-root level is felt by earthquake survivors and flood victims. The pace of relief and reconstruction has been extremely slow. Victims of the decade long insurgency are ignored and overlooked by those at the helm of governance.

Despite the much proclaimed policy of zero tolerance to corruption, the 'anti-corruption' agenda remained in the backyard of most of the NIS-pillars. Political parties and government did not take any initiative to end this trend. Their dependence on power sharing and remaining close to the resources of the government abets corruption. Neither the ruling parties nor the opposition raised a strong voice on major issues reported by the media - the Nepal Oil Corporation land purchase deal, affiliation of medical colleges, gold smuggling, Ncell capital gain tax, Tax Settlement Commission embezzlement etc. Despite much public support, no assurance was made by the political leaders to look into the issues raised by Dr Govinda KC for the much needed reforms in the medical education sector.

The anti-corruption body - Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority – had to take a defensive position because of a court case and an impeachment-motion against its then chief commissioner. Following the SC-verdict, on the annulment of appointment of Lok Man Singh Karki as Chief Commissioner, CIAA faces a challenge to clear its public image. Its institutional aura was also damaged by the impeachment motion at the parliament. The then CIAA-chief was accused of running parallel government, misusing power and threatening bureaucrats and politicians. CIAA is now pursuing
a strategy of restoring its image and undertaking its routine tasks – promotive (awareness), preventive (reforms) and punitive (action-oriented measures).

Similarly, another anti-corruption body – National Vigilance Centre – also remained virtually non-effective in the absence of adequate support from the PM. It could neither produce its annual report in time nor could it draw the attention of Prime Minster to fill the vacant post of its Chief on time. The government attitude to ignore the importance of NVC hinders steps to make civil servants and public offices accountable, transparent and anti-corruption-conscious. As a result, several regulatory activities NVC performed turned out to be ritualistic.

Parliamentary Committees, as over-sight bodies, found themselves in conflict of interest and in inter-committee rivalry over their jurisdictions in cases of irregularities. Some examples could be cited in this regard: the Public Account Committee directed the government not to give any added benefit to Ncell until it paid capital gains tax; a few days later Development Committee suggested that Ncell be given permission for 4G. Similarly, the PAC and Industry Business Committee squabbled over their jurisdiction over Nepal Oil Corporation’s irregularities in the procurement of land for storing petroleum products and took the matter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

In another issue, the Finance Committee returned the BAFIA Bill to the Parliament due to conflict of interest of MPs who happened to be directors of Banks. Similarly Medical Education Sector Bill was amended by the Women, Child and Social Welfare Committee to suit the interest of MPs who were investors in medical institutions. Parliamentary committees also picked up issues pertaining to the interests of particular MPs or ones exposed by the media. However, such issues are not followed proactively.

Some MPs have raised their voice on freeing the Parliament from the adverse impact of conflict of interests. They want the Parliamentary Committees to be accountable to their role and decisions. Furthermore, MPs underlined the need to discourage corruption and policy-manipulation in all forms. They have opined the need to bar corrupt politicians from taking future public posts.

In the area of public service delivery, power supply has been one single example of improved service delivery due to proper internal administration, reformed management and scrutiny over power leakage. Other areas of public service delivery showed red tapeism, negligence, waste of public resources, and disregard for accountability and transparency. People have to spend additional money by way of under-table payment for getting services.

Political interference takes place in all NIS pillars restricting their independence in the decision making and implementation of policies. It can be seen in appointment, transfer and promotion to high posts in Civil service, Law Enforcement Agencies, Courts and Constitutional Bodies. The case of appointment of IGP is one such instance. The ruling coalition parties registered an impeachment motion against Supreme Court Chief Justice to stop her from deciding the case which might have gone against the
government. The phenomenon has indirectly created fear of impeachment among Constitutional Bodies making them apprehensive in performing their duties.

The Electoral Management Body appears to be performing well. But it also has not been able to provide scrutiny over pursuit of poll codes by political parties. It has lagged behind in offering updated voter education and controlling poll-expenses. The Supreme Audit Institution is pursuing its traditional path well but it has failed to draw government attention towards tackling problems mentioned in its annual report. It has not been able to strengthen internal audit system.

These syndromes indicate the absence of serious political will and effective deterrents for a meaningful and sustained anti-corruption action. As a result, corruption has hampered governance and inhibited all aspects of Nepal’s development.

**TI-Nepal**

Established in 1996, Transparency International Nepal (TI-Nepal) is a civil society organization dedicated to increasing public accountability and curbing corruption in all walks of life. It is registered at the Kathmandu District Administration Office and is affiliated with the Social Welfare Council (SWC). TI-Nepal is one of national chapters of Transparency International (TI), an NGO that leads a global movement against corruption. A major component of TI-Nepal’s strength is its accreditation with TI which is a global brand. TI-Nepal adapts to ‘localize’ international attention and global presence.

TI-Nepal currently has its central office in Kathmandu, 11 contact offices in earthquake affected districts of Nepal and a network of 25 Affiliated Organizations (AOs) in 24 districts, which function as its outreach. It has a good rapport with like-minded organizations, media and several state institutions.
Over the years, it has been able to establish itself as a 'watchdog' dedicated towards fighting corruption and contributing to good governance.

The Strategic Plan 2013-2017 of TI-Nepal is the cornerstone to guide its overall activism in pursuing its mission. The plan was prepared under the pretext that broad-based efforts are required to tackle corruption related issues and apart from the government, there has to be an active role of citizens and allied institutions. The current strategy outlines five key strategic themes that includes:

- Advocacy and Interventions
- Coalitions/Collaborations
- Sectoral Focus
- Organization Development, and
- Promoting Values

Following the objectives of the Strategic Plan, TI-Nepal advocates for policy reforms and implements localized and thematic action through projects. Advocacy is done by the Executive Committee voluntarily while funding support is materialized from interested donors to implement projects. This twin approach fits very well in the given context where corruption is rampant in the Nepalese society but there are still institutional, legal and social frameworks that offer space against corruption. Furthermore, partnership with civil society, media groups and people provides adequate public space in pursuing the objectives of TI-Nepal and the Executive Committee.

**Executive Committee after the 21st AGM**

**AGM**

The 21st Annual General Meeting (AGM) of TI-Nepal was held during September 2016, where 37 out of 59 members were present. Senior Advocate, Shree Hari Aryal was elected unopposed as TI-Nepal’s new President at the AGM. Members Dr. Ram Dayal Rakesh, Padmini Pradhananga, Ram Krishna Manandhar (Sneh Sayami), Leela Prasad Sapkota, Somraj Sigdel, Bhim Bahadur Shrestha, Sabita Bhandari Baral and an Institutional Member (National Business Initiatives) were also elected as Executive Committee members. The Annual Progress Report and Audited Financial Report were approved unanimously by the AGM.

**Portfolios**

As per TI-Nepal Constitution, President Aryal nominated Dr Ram Dayal Rakesh as the Vice-President, Padmini Pradhananga as the Secretary General and Ram Krishna Manandhar as the Treasurer of TI-Nepal. Member, Bhim Bahadur Shrestha resigned from the Executive Committee and was replaced by former Vice President, senior journalist Aditya Man Shrestha.
Membership
TI-Nepal membership comprises of individuals with credibility and knowledge. It has been the backbone of the Executive Committee in pursuing its mission. Members have contributed to the work of the organization which has brought in goodwill and credibility. Valuable advice has been regularly sought from members from time-to-time to guide institutional endeavors. There are currently 55 members.

Executive Committee
The current Executive Committee will complete its one year of operation at the 22nd AGM. Under the energetic involvement of President Shree Hari Aryal, the Executive Committee intends to contribute effectively in expanding the anti-corruption movement. The new EC plans to use its credibility, footprints and goodwill to bring about some substantial changes in its working modalities. It has shifted its focus more on advocacy for political reforms, oversight, sustainability, less ‘projectization’ and in generating a nationwide voluntary movement. The Executive Committee provides policy guidance, approval, and general presence throughout the organizational activities. The Executive Committee has held 9 meetings after the 21st AGM.

Management Sub Committee (MSC)
A Management Sub Committee was constituted by the EC with President, Vice President, Secretary General, Treasurer and Executive Director as members to provide oversight on project matters and daily functioning. MSC meets regularly and has been assigned executive authority by the Executive Committee on TI-Nepal program and activities. The MSC met 9 times after the 21st AGM to facilitate TI-Nepal activities.
Sub-Committees

The EC has also initiated the process of mobilizing TI-Nepal membership by forming thematic committees and task forces, based on the interest and expertise of members. Four Sub-committees were constituted by the EC to assist in framing of thematic strategies. Each sub-committee is being assisted by an expert in the preparation of a discussion paper for an expanded dialogue on future approaches. The composition of the sub committees are mentioned below:

**Education and Health sector reform**
Vice President, Dr. Ram Dayal Rakesh – Convener, Dr. Kedar Bhakta Mathema – Member, Dr. Chintamani Yogi- Member, Madan Krishna Sharma – Member

**Constitutional, Policy and Legal reform**
Secretary General, Padmini Pradhananga – Convener, EC member, Lila Prasad Sapkota – Member, EC member, Somraj Sigdel – Member, Sarbagya Ratna Tuladhar – Member, Krishna Prasad Bhandari – Member, Jayaram Singh Bohara – Member, Pawan Kumar Ojha – Member

**Political and Electoral reform**
Treasurer, Ram Krishna Manandhar – Convener, Khemraj Regmi – Member, Dr. Suresh Raj Chalise – Member, Mukunda Sharma Poudel – Member, Banshidhar Ghimire – Member, Keshav Prasad Acharya – Member, Kiran Thapa – Member

**Women and Youth engagement**
EC member, Aditya Man Shrestha – Convener, EC member, Sabita Bhandari Baral – Member, Geeta Keshary- Member, Mukunda Bahadur Pradhan – Member, Dr. Bishwa Keshar Maskey – Member, Dr. Sagar Sharma – Member, Buddhi Narayan Shrestha – Member

TI-Nepal Secretary General facilitates meetings of the sub-committees which have met few times to clarify their roles. The expert feedback of the subcommittees is expected to prioritize advocacy issues in the coming days and also be an input to the upcoming strategic planning process.
Task Forces
Three Task Forces and a Sub committee, comprising of the Executive and General member, have been constituted with specific assignments on membership, TI-Nepal Statute, Bulletin and Resource mobilization. The composition of the task forces are as mentioned below:

Membership Expansion recommendation
Secretary General, Padmini Pradhananga-Convener, Komal Chitracar- Member, Khem Raj Regmi- member.

Statute Amendment recommendation
Former Secretary General, Mukunda Pradhan-Convener, Dr. Sagar Sharma- Member, Jayaram Singh Bohara- Member

Additional assignments
Former Secretary General, Mukunda Pradhan was assigned to coordinate the student oratory competitions. Dr. Anusuya Joshi, member and climate expert, has been entrusted with the responsibility to guide the newly launched Climate Finance Governance program.

Preliminary meetings of the task forces have been held. Two task forces on statute amendment and bulletin evaluation have submitted their reports. Membership criteria and prospective names are being discussed. Proposal to amend TI-Nepal Constitution is being tabled at the AGM. Fundraising policy is being reframed. All of these engagements will consolidate organizational activism.

Secretariat and Project Implementation

Secretariat
EC approved actions and plans are implemented by the Secretariat team involving the Executive Director, Program Coordinator, Central level Officers, District Officers and support staff. A total of 24 staff, contracted on annual and/or project basis, are engaged at the Secretariat in Kathmandu and 11 offices located in earthquake affected districts, outside the capital.

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<tr>
<th>TI-Nepal Staff</th>
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<tr>
<td>Male 58%</td>
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<td>Female 42%</td>
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**TI-Nepal Secretariat Team**

### Kathmandu Office
- Ashish Thapa, Executive Director
- Mohan Bahadur Budhathoki, Program Coordinator
- Rajeev Kunwar, Senior Program Officer
- Tham Nath Ghimire, Senior Comm. Officer
- Dina Nath Bhattarai, Administrative Officer
- Babita Sharma, Finance Officer
- Binod Bhattarai, Program Officer
- Emojani Shrestha, Account Officer
- Samrat Narsingh Rayamajhi, Program Officer
- Shisor Dyola, Office Assistant
- Shyam Lal Sahi, Driver

### District Officers
- Junu Dhakal, Bhaktapur/Kathmandu
- Pragya Ghimire, Lalitpur
- Bhalaman Bishwakarma, Okhaldhunga
- Bikash Acharya, Rasuwa
- Deepesh Ghimire, Nuwakot
- Ganga Lama, Kavrepalanchowk
- Ganga Satyal Ghimire, Sindhuli
- Kamala Rana, Gorkha
- Pramila Thing, Makawanpur
- Rachana Shahi, Dhading
- Ram Sharan Upreti, Ramechhap
- Ratna Tamang, Dolakha
- Umesh Bishwakarma, Sindhupalchowk

Former Team Members:
- Kamal Pokhrel, Former Deputy Executive Director
- Tumburu Gautam, Former Program Coordinator
- Suvekchyay Pudasain, Former Program Officer

All activities, programs and projects taken up by the Secretariat are overseen by the Executive Committee. TI-Nepal Constitution, the Operational Manual, Directives, along with donor agreements guide administrative and financial functions of the Secretariat. The active engagement of the EC, members, staff, affiliated organizations and other stakeholders has consolidated TI-Nepal’s activism.
Projects

TI-Nepal is currently implementing the following projects, details are mentioned below:

**Advocacy and Legal Advice Center (ALAC) Outreach**
The ALAC Outreach is a four-year project supported by the TI-Secretariat with total funding commitment of Euro 64,330. It commenced operations in 2016 to give continuity to the efforts that were initiated by the earlier interventions. ALAC outreach provides telephone hotlines for grievance redressal, social audits, public service delivery survey and monitoring of Development Pacts/Pledges in Kathmandu, and Chitwan, Kaski, Gulmi, Siddharthanagar, Surkhet, Kailali (through AOs). Through this set of activities, the project aims to improve good governance, public service delivery and empower citizens to hold the government accountable.

**Building National Integrity in Nepal (BNIN)**
BNIN is a holistic project which aims to strengthen anti-corruption movement and public integrity in key service institutions, sectors and society. Initiated in the year 2014, the 3.5 years program is funded by RNE with commitments of up to 3.5 million NOK. It is being implemented both at the central and local level (with AOs) in 10 key districts - Kathmandu, Siraha, Dolakha, Bhaktapur, Rupandehi, Baglung, Banke, Dang, Darchula. BNIN pursues advocacy, national-level research, workshops and engagements, mobile ALAC, district engagements, RTI and good governance activities, educational programs, media sensitization, coalition building with civil society, among many.

**Climate Finance Governance (CFG)**
This new project is part of TI’s Climate Finance Integrity program that aims to improve the overall standard of climate finance governance in Bangladesh, Maldives and Nepal. The project was initiated in February 2016 for over a year. The total funding commitments for the project is 57,923 Euro. TI-Nepal will carry out a national level research to identify governance challenges in climate finance evidence-based advocacy. Initiating alliances with local NGOs, working on media engagement and capacity building are the other project outputs.

**Integrity in Post Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation (IPERR)**
This program is supported by EU, through total funding commitments of 1 million Euros for a period of 59 months. IPERR is a multipronged project that envisions to build integrity in policy, implementation and post-implementation levels in the post-earthquake reconstruction. Actions under the project focus on building integrity through accountability and transparency measures targeting GoN reconstruction plans, educational environment, public procurement, social accountability, media campaign, observation, grievance collection, service delivery and financial reports. The project focuses on 14 districts most affected by the earthquake - Dolakha, Sindhupalchowk, Gorkha, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Dhading, Kavrepalanchowk, Ramechhap, Bhaktapur, Okhaldhunga, Sindhuli, Lalitpur, Kathmandu and Makwanpur.
Project Outputs at a glance- in figures (Post 21 AGM, as reported)

ALAC- OUTREACH 2016/17 highlights (Kathmandu, Chitwan, Kaski, Gulmi, Siddharthanagar, Surkhet, Kailali)

- 24 Mobile helpdesk at 6 districts
- 611 Grievances and complaints registered centrally and locally.
- 12 NGO alliance meeting in 6 districts
- 2 Social Audit/Public Hearing/Expenditure Tracking programs at districts
- 13 DP monitoring meetings held at 6 districts
- 2 Interaction programs
- 1 project training and review meeting

BNIN 2016/17 highlights (Kathmandu, Siraha, Dolakha, Bhaktapur, Rupandehi, Baglung, Banke, Dang, Darchula)

- 2 thematic research published and 2 ongoing
- Training 22 peer education facilitators by 9 district partners
- Published IEC materials – 2000 calendar, writing pad and pen
- 2 oratory contests event with participation of 24 colleges
- 1 Radio media campaign
- 1 National Conference on promoting integrity
- 2 review meeting with district partners
- 3 Face the People in district hospitals and road division office
- 40 Mobile ALAC and Help Desks at 8 districts with collection of 375+ grievances
- 1 National Youth Conference Nepalgunj declaration
- 3 District PSD survey findings dissemination
- Meeting/seminar with stakeholders – 30+ events
- Orientation/ Interaction with 260 VDC secretaries through 9 events
- 135 high school social studies’ teachers oriented in 8 different districts
- 10 action events on student engagement 8 districts
- GG Pulpit in 9 district platforms as public hub for good governance
- Street drama/whistle-blowing - 15 events
- 2 digital dissemination (anti-corruption message dissemination) at Banke and Rupandehi
- 18 visits - partner AOs

CFG 2017 highlights

- 1 round of preliminary stage oratory competition.
- 1 round of preliminary stage British parliamentary style debate competition.
- TI-s Climate team visit to Nepal for project kickoff
- 5 meetings with climate finance/change stakeholders, donors and government officials along with TI-S members.
- 1 International visit to Bangladesh for capacity building and learning visit.
- 1 Public Notice for National Research.
IPERR 2016/17 highlights (14 earthquake affected districts - Dolakha, Sindhupalchowk, Gorkha, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Dhading, Kavrepalanchowk, Ramechhap, Bhaktapur, Okhaldhunga, Sindhuli, Lalitpur, Kathmandu, and Makawanpur)

- 1 letter sent to PM drawing attention on slow reconstruction
- 32 letters sent to concerned authorities on issues regarding reconstruction
- 25 Interaction program on school reconstruction
- 40 NGOs/CSOs collaboration in 9 districts
- 14 radio station in 14 districts used to disseminate IPERR PSA Jingle
- 10 print media used for advertisement
- 23 hoarding board placed over 14 districts
- Over 100 Volunteers recruited from colleges in 14 districts
- 16 public hearings held in 13 districts
- 12 grievance collection & help desk in 11 districts and over 1400 grievances collected
- 10 interaction with marginalized women
- 5 interaction with Dalit/Marginalized community
- 1 meeting with key stakeholders in heritage reconstruction
- 12 Conflict victim interaction in 12 districts
- 8 interaction program with social mobilizers in 8 districts
- 4 Health Post observations in Nuwakot, Makawanpur
- 6 government building reconstruction observation
- 7 Journalist meet in 7 districts
- 9 Interaction with business communities in 8 districts
- 13 Interaction with newly elected local bodies in 10 districts
- 1 Ongoing study on 'Evaluation of Post Earthquake Status'
- 1000 calendar, bulletin, notebook, pen, IEC distribution
- 55 visits to districts/ offices
Resources, savings and sustainability

- TI-Nepal is endowed with voluntary contribution of time and fees of members, own savings and donor funds to pursue its activities. On-going projects are funded through arrangements with The Delegation of the European Union in Nepal, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Nepal and Transparency International Berlin. Internal funds are incurred for advocacy and rapid reaction, and donor funds support sensitizations, interventions and outreach.
- An Endowment Fund of NRs. 13.0 million addresses institutional sustainability. It is being topped-off annually out of project overheads.
- A vehicle procurement notice was published and a Mahindra Scorpio 4 WD purchased to ease travel by TI-Nepal teams to earthquake affected districts.
- In each of the 11 districts adversely affected by earthquake (located outside Kathmandu Valley), single room district office exists in convenient location. The Offices are managed by District Officers as part of the IPERR project. This expands TI-Nepal’s footprint as a watchdog in a new domain.

EC Leadership, Advocacy and Rapid Reaction

EC in Strategic Planning consultations

As the current Strategic Plan of TI-Nepal ends on 2017, the EC has started consultations to prepare a new Strategic Plan for 2017 onwards. Three rounds of consultations were initially held by the newly elected EC with its members, print media journalists and civil society stakeholders. The meeting with members was an extension, in some sort, of the Annual General Meeting, to further seek their feedback on the way forward. Founding members, past presidents and general members reiterated the need of visible activism and prioritization of issues. Similarly the interaction with journalists from mainstream print media advised for constant consolidated engagements with print media. Civil society members advised to high profile corruption issues, focus on political sector and aim for targets and results.

General members providing feedback on way forward
EC intends to engage an expert to initiate the strategic planning and review process after the 22nd AGM. TI-Nepal Executive committee, members, staff and partners will participate in the planning workshops. The plan will be framed after a careful analysis of organizational strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in the existing political, economical, social and technological environment. The new Strategic Plan will provide guidance to TI-Nepal activism in a new context of a federal setup in Nepal.

**EC mobility in 25 districts**
TI-Nepal teams led by President Shree Hari Aryal, Vice President Dr. Ram Dayal Rakesh, Secretary General Padmini Pradhananga and Treasurer Ram Krishna Manandhar accompanied by Secretariat staff, visited 25 districts of Nepal to help strengthen the overall integrity situation. Most of the travel was by road using office vehicles and public transport. The budget for the travels was allocated in projects, so no TI-Nepal savings was spent.

The main purpose of the visits was coalition building, sensitization, expansion and strengthening of the IPERR, BNIN and ALAC outreach programs. Discussions were held with stakeholders- Chief District Officers, Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Local Development Officers, chief and representatives of district government offices, civil society, political parties, media - involved in anti corruption, service delivery and reconstruction. TI-Nepal representatives briefed about the organization and its district level initiatives. TI-Nepal partnerships and engagements at the districts were highlighted. District partners, offices and Officers were introduced.

During such interactions, suggestions and queries were sought from the participants to finalize and clarify the approaches of TI-Nepal and its partners at the districts. District stakeholders expressed their interest in TI-Nepal plans and welcomed the integrity building initiatives. There was heightened interest among elected representatives, officials and the media to interact with TI-Nepal President and portfolio holders. EC mobility has brought TI-Nepal closer to the people and helped in understanding the impact made by its local level programs.
EC Advocacy

As a civil society watchdog, TI-Nepal keeps abreast of contemporary issues in governance. Then it advocates for policy reforms through missives, visits and press releases. TI-Nepal believes that it is important as a pressure group to react promptly, raise issues of concern and explore remedial action. Some important policy level issues on which the attention of the state and government agencies was drawn are:

- Appealing the **Prime Minister** to introduce a proposed Code of Conduct for members of the Council of Ministers in accordance with the integrity pledge made during his assumption of office.

- Submitting a comprehensive memorandum to the **Prime Minister** demanding his immediate attention towards promoting integrity and controlling corruption by enlisting problems and solutions related to political parties, internal democratic governance and election process; level of corruption as indicated by various reports; constitutional, legal and institutional provisions; upcoming elections and other pressing issues.

- Urgently drawing the attention of the **Prime Minister** on some fundamental issues related to the government led post-earthquake reconstruction taking place in the 14 most affected districts- procedural delay, lack of capacity, duplication of donor funds, tranche payments, lack of technicians, doubtful data, public grievances, lengthy procurement etc, and providing suggestions to address the problems associated with it.

- Asking the **Speaker** of the Legislative Parliament to review and reconsider the feasibility of the lifetime privileges proposed to former VVIPs as tabled in a Bill at the Parliament.

- Meeting **Chief Justice** Rt. Hon. Gopal Parajuli and presenting a memorandum demanding reforms to strengthen judicial integrity, by focusing on qualification, selection, appointment and performance evaluation of judges.
Appealing the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court on the need to set a system for the selection and appointment of competent judges, and discourage political influence.

Requesting the political parties to reconsider the impeachment motion, registered at the Parliament against the then Chief Justice Sushila Karki, a figure known for courage and integrity, brought abruptly to weaken the judicial sector.

Demanding major political parties to make their anti-corruption commitment public through election manifestos, election funding statements and allocate tickets only to those candidates who have a clean record.

Drawing attention of the Chairpersons of the State Affairs and Legislative Committees of the Parliament amidst media reports that some MPs had tabled amendments that allowed the re-entry of legally barred convicted politicians early into politics. These amendments were proposed in the Bills related to Election of Federal Parliament and Provincial Assembly members, being discussed at that time in the committees.

Drawing the attention of newly elected Mayors of Municipalities about the high public expectations of the people from local governments, hence due attention to address issues such as corruption and earthquake chaos.

Calling on the government, jointly with Transparency International through a global press release, issued first time in a Nepalese case, to take action to end the hunger strike of Dr. Govinda KC, the 2015 winner of Transparency International Nepal’s National Integrity Award, and implement reforms in medical education sector by approving the Medical Education Bill and other demands of Dr KC.
Ask the government to produce a white paper on the Nepal Oil Corporation land procurement deal

Drawing the attention of the Finance Minister on the unaccountable and non-transparent approach of the Revenue Department which had seized tax and import related files of business community, and asking for immediate transparency about the status of such files

Asking the Ministry Local Development to be more vigilant on development budgets allocated to local bodies and the reported misuse of budgets

Condemning the act of the government to provide medical expenses to political party leaders for medical treatment outside Nepal ignoring the availability of such facility in Nepal and the waste of state resources.

Appealing to the general people and voters during the local level elections to elect party candidates with a clean record, ones committed to social work and integrity.

Demanding the government to make its position on the capital gain tax payable by Ncell P Ltd, related to the transfer of shares of Ncell to new buyers, and asking for the payment of all tax liabilities.

Supporting the demands made by Dr Govinda KC during his 10th fast unto death and asking the government to honor all past agreements reached with Dr KC for reforms in the medical education sector

Issuing an institutional position on the former Chief Commissioner of CIAA, Lokman Singh Karki, by denouncing his unaccountable behavior towards the rule of law, legal supremacy, non-compliance of court order, and intervention in governmental matters.

Appealing NEA for a 'white paper' on reasons of load shedding of up-to 18 hours in the past and a sudden end after a recent change of guard at NEA.

Writing to the Ministry of Education drawing their attention on the fragile condition of government schools, safety hazards and the need of oversight, speed and transparency in reconstruction.

Writing to various government ministries, departments and offices based on public grievances related to corruption, service delay, harassment, reconstruction, etc, for immediate redressal of public problems in 14 earthquake affected districts and 24 partner affiliated organizations’ work areas.

The consistent efforts made in bringing up issues of public interest to the attention of policy makers and the public, through missives and press releases, underscores the important role and responsibility of TI-Nepal.
Data through Research, studies and papers

As a premier civil society watchdog against corruption in Nepal, generating data and disclosing it in public domain is important. Pertinent matters were explored further through external consultants for a thorough analysis/understanding of problems/solutions related to governance and corruption.

Research

- A research been undertaken through external consultant PRENA P Ltd on the 'Evaluation of Post-earthquake Status' related to the 'Gorkha' Earthquake. Death and damage data, reconstruction finance, housing grant, progress on reconstruction in key sectors, procurement processes, quality of public construction, and public and stakeholder survey about reconstruction are its main component. The study aims to validate facts and figures disseminated by the government.

- A study on 'Mapping of Climate Finance Governance' in Nepal has been initiated to explore Climate finance governance landscape including actors/stakeholders, ongoing projects, flow of finance, climate finance acts/policies, and implementation/governance challenges. Study findings and recommendation will be used for in-depth analysis of Climate Finance Governance, national advocacy and information dissemination.

- Two studies, a survey on public service delivery in 9 targeted districts and a study on Nepal's Hydropower sector were commissioned and launched in a national seminar. The survey on public service delivery exemplified public opinion of government service delivery organizations with manifold governance and public management problems. Corruption and delays featured prominently in all offices surveyed with Land Revenue Office identified as the most problematic one. The study received wide media coverage and the government initiated some immediate remedial measures in Land Revenue Office. The Study of Nepal's Hydropower sector identified high fiduciary risk zones in the hydropower development process and recommended measures to overcome these risks at a time when the country was reeling under load shedding. Both the reports were handed over to the Chief Secretary for immediate attention.

Two research reports on Public Service Delivery and Hydropower

- Two national level research works have been commissioned through external consultants selected via public call. Consultant, Dr Prakash Bhattarai is coordinating a follow-up on the public service delivery survey conducted at the 9 districts to compare trends in service delivery. Similarly,
consultant Mahendra Raj Sapkota is examining the implementation of the prevention provision of UNCAC to assist in the upcoming country review. Both studies are planned for release in a national seminar in Kathmandu.

- Two print media journalists, Bhadra Sharma of The Republica and Krishna Gyawali of Kantipur Daily have been engaged in preparing a Year Book based on content analysis of print media news on corruption. Major cases, corruption trends and reporting patterns will be examined to understand the timeline of corruption during 2073/74 BS.

- TI-Nepal district partners in Siraha, Dolakha and Dang organized district conclaves inviting stakeholders and government officials to disseminate the findings of Public Service Delivery Survey 2073 BS, in the presence of EC portfolio holders. The events helped to raise conscience on public service delivery and increased pressure to get public amenities on time.

**Papers**

- As a follow-up to the CPI 2016 findings, two thematic analytical papers were prepared and deliberated amongst government and civil society stakeholders, including the media. Prominent Journalist Hari Bahadur Thapa, presented a paper titled 'The Pervasiveness of Political Corruption in Nepal' highlighting political corruption, abuses of authority, extreme politicization, violation of separation of power, political scandals and the numbness of Nepali political leaders towards governance problems.
In a separate paper, former government secretary and advocate Mohan Banjade highlighted 'Abuse of authority for personal gain by officials of the Government, the Parliament and the Judiciary of Nepal'. Corrupt behaviors and practices of public officials were highlighted of a society lacking integrity with corruption becoming a norm in all three organs of the state. Deliberations helped to put a spotlight on political and policy corruption.

- Four eminent personalities have been entrusted to write research papers to assist TI-Nepal sub committees. Needed sectoral reforms in Politics/Election, Constitution/Laws, Medical/Education and Mobilizing Women/Youth are the main themes. Former Chief Election Commissioner Nil Kantha Upreti, Advocate Dr. Surendra Bhandari, Professor Dr Prakash Bhattarai and Journalist Shreekrishna Anirudra Gautam, respectively, are in the process of finalizing the papers. Similarly, senior journalist Rama Krishna Regmee has been entrusted to update the National Integrity System status of Nepal as of 2017. TI-Nepal had last commissioned a NIS study in 2015 so the new update will help to track positional shifts in integrity.

**CPI**

- A global release of the TI Corruption Perception Index 2016 was facilitated by TI-Nepal in Kathmandu and partner districts. CPI 2016 continued to project Nepal as one of the most corrupt countries. Out of a possible score of 100, meaning less corruption, Nepal received a score of 29, signifying rampant corruption. A new survey source, Varieties of Democracy, portrayed increasing level of political corruption in Nepal. CPI was publicized by the media well with repeated requests to TI-Nepal President and officials to explain the findings in many media outlets.
National and district level consultations

National consultations

- A national conference was organized in Kathmandu comprising of multi-stakeholders representing the government, local partners, media, academicians and experts working in the field of good governance. Dr. Somlal Subedi, Chief Secretary of the Government of Nepal released two TI-Nepal study reports undertaken by Dr. Prakash Chandra Bhattarai and Nepal Economic Forum on Service delivery and Hydropower respectively. The consultations brought together local stakeholders from different districts in Kathmandu and generated greater media response on the findings and recommendations.

- An Interaction on 'Integrity in Post Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation (IPERR)' took place in Kathmandu. High level representatives of National Reconstruction Authority, District Administration Office Kathmandu, MOFALD, CLPIU, DLPIU, district government offices, civil society, political parties, media and others involved in post-earthquake reconstruction shared their work and challenges. TI-Nepal drew the attention of concerned authorities on the need of speedy reconstruction by presenting a document listing reconstruction related issues. During the program, TI-Nepal Officers based at the most affected 14 districts presented district specific problems. Chief guest, NRA Executive Committee member Dhruba Sharma highlighted the efforts made by NRA to complete reconstruction on time and also assured to address the major issues raised by TI-Nepal.
Two high level interactions on the topics 'Abuse of authority for personal gain by officials of the Government, Parliament and Judiciary of Nepal' and 'The Pervasiveness of Political Corruption in Nepal' were held in Kathmandu. Chairpersons of the Parliamentary State Affairs Committee Hon. Dil Bahadur Gharti and Good Governance and Monitoring Committee Hon. Mohan Singh Rathaur were invited as special guests, considering their positional relevance. Mohan Ban jade, an advocate and the former Secretary of the Government of Nepal and Journalist Hari Bahadur Thapa of Kantipur daily, presented discussion papers. Papers were then critiqued and evaluated by eminent commentators in the presence of delegates from different sectors. Later, both papers were forwarded to the respective committees as per understandings with the chairs for serious considerations.

Hon Dil Bahadur Gharti, Chair of State Affairs Committee of the Parliament in a TI-Nepal consultation

In accordance with its core values, TI-Nepal expressed solidarity with like-minded organizations working on issues of good governance. TI-Nepal President, portfolio holders and staff expressed solidarity to Dr. Govinda KC’s demands by participating in a sit-in and protest rally with others involved in bringing the issue to public limelight. In addition, TI-Nepal also received invitation and attended various programs organized by stakeholders to express its solidarity in the anti corruption campaign in Kathmandu. Such events were organized by CIAA, PMO, NVC, PEFA Secretariat, SAWTEE, NGO Federation, Open Nepal, Freedom Forum, NBI, GoGo Foundation, NEFEJ, Nepal Administrative Staff College, among others. These events further enhanced TI-Nepal’s leadership role as a civil society actor in the domain of governance.

In Solidarity to demands of reform in medical education sector
**District discussions**

- To mobilize public opinion and engage with local public offices, a bottom-up outreach approach has been co-opted across the country. TI-Nepal has continued coalition and collaboration with 25 NGOs, called affiliated organizations, in different districts. The AOs continued to implement outreach activities where both the local authorities and citizens participated to promote integrity, anti-corruption solution and knowledge. In pursuing TI-Nepal’s motto 'Coalition against Corruption', affiliated organizations initiated discussions with women’s group, students, political leaders, local activists, public officials, artists, media and other important stakeholders. Such interactions have created opportunities to encourage collective action at the local level.

- TiN district partners organized discussions with the signatory offices of Development Pacts, pledges made by government offices with TI-Nepal as a witness, to promote rule of law, integrity, accountability and transparency in service delivery. TI Nepal appreciated the proactive initiatives and commitments made by the government officials despite an overall scenario of increasing corruption. The signatories of development pledges were asked to review their commitments for the betterment of service delivery. Positive response was received from the CDO and other government officials. These tools help in TI Nepal contributing with integrity friendly technical solutions.

**Elected representatives and integrity**

**Mayors**

- After the successful completion of the two rounds of local level elections, TI-Nepal started to interact with the newly elected representatives, in the capital and districts outside. Chiefs and deputies of many Municipalities, including Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Butwal were informed about the expectations of the people from elected representatives towards corruption control and integrity building. Considering that elected representatives will assume greater responsibilities in the federal system, TI-Nepal intends to hear the commitments of newly elected local representatives to strengthen integrity. It will intensify interactions with them to forward public grievances related to corruption and earthquake reconstruction. Meetings and interactions were also held with elected representatives to orient and discuss reconstruction related public grievances with the support of NRA and DCC. TI-Nepal envisions working with the local government to obtain commitments to improve public service delivery.
VDC Secretary

- TI-Nepal focused on increasing awareness among the VDC secretaries and local level public officials on the Good Governance and the Right to Information (RTI), assisted by partner affiliated organizations. In addition to GG and RTI Acts, duties, responsibilities and codes of conduct were restated to be followed upon by local public officials. Discharging public duties and performing service delivery with utmost interest, good governance and public interest contributes to better public service delivery.

Engagements with Business sector and civil society

Reconstruction

- TI-Nepal, by playing a watchdog role, has conducted interaction programs with business communities and NGOs to self-monitor ongoing reconstruction activities. An understanding has also been put forth amongst this sector to further work towards building a more ethical approach in doing accountable and transparent work. As of now, in a number of engagements with business community, pledges by suppliers and purchasers for better quality products during reconstruction have been advocated. TI-Nepal is also collecting information about reconstruction related procurement for use in the development of accountability models like Integrity pledges.
Meetings and interactions held by TI-Nepal have increased engagement with CSOs throughout the earthquake affected districts. At this stage, 40 CSOs have become involved at district level in reconstruction observations and problem redressal. It has been an ongoing priority of TI-Nepal to encourage civil society to delve into work surrounding social accountability.

**NGO Codes**

TI-Nepal’s district partners were encouraged to initiate and promote internal governance standards among the district based NGOs. In order to promote Codes of Conduct in the NGO sector, interaction programs were organized at the district level. TI-Nepal code of conduct, Code of Conduct proposed by the NGO Federation along with guidelines of District Development Committee, Social Welfare Council were discussed. Restoring credibility and trust on NGOs by establishing good governance is a TI-Nepal priority.

**Marking Establishment and anti-corruption days**

**Estb. Day**

Marking the 22nd establishment day of TI-Nepal, a paper was presented by TIN President Shree Hari Aryal, in an interaction, highlighting increasing corruption, lack of political interest to check it, worsening internal democracy in political parties and the need to stop criminalization of politics. Two election related bills under consideration at the Parliament and proposed amendments that dilute the current provisions related to barring convicted politicians from active politics, were discussed. Eminent personality and former VC of Tribhuvan University Kedar Bhakta Mathema gave a key note speech portraying a vivid picture of political numbness to sensitive public issues by narrating a series of incidents. Hon. MPs Prakash Jwala, Ram Chandra Yadav, Rewati Raman Bhandari and Ram Narayan Bidari pledged to strengthen the bills, which TI-Nepal welcomed. Later, the Bills were approved by the Parliament as advocated by TI-Nepal and other concerned stakeholders.
AC Day

- Every year, 9th of December is celebrated globally as international anti-corruption day by all stakeholders coming together to promote the anti-corruption agenda. TI-Nepal along with its affiliated organizations in 15 districts organized various awareness raising events like interactions, discussions, media announcements, rallies, dramas, student sensitization, public hearing, press meet etc to highlight the anti-corruption agenda. A statement was issued by TI-Nepal focusing on the need to concentrate on political reforms for better governance. A brainstorming interaction with external stakeholders, intellectuals, opinion makers was held in Kathmandu to seek an external perspective on the current governance problems and ways out. The need to prioritize advocacy and engagement issues, as well as, thematic interventions was high on the discussion agenda. In addition, TI-Nepal also showed solidarity in marking the day by participating in programs organized by CIAA and GoN, UNDP during the day.

Redressing Public grievances through interface

Grievance redressal

- TI-Nepal's purpose to seek out problems in public service delivery and government reconstruction, provide advice to victims and vulnerable citizens, and redress grievances has continued with increased public interest. Various outreach have been valuable in creating awareness among citizens about their right to seek redressal, access legal advice, and have their issues addressed. TI-Nepal at Kathmandu, its 11 district offices in earthquake affected districts and its partner AOs based at the district headquarters continued to collect public grievances in their respective areas. TI-Nepal and partner hotline numbers, helpdesks and mobile clinics noted numerous challenges faced by the people while accessing public services. Written communications were conveyed to public authorities to address such concerns which were followed up later. Partner AOs also conveyed public grievances during monthly meetings held at District Administration Office in their respective districts.

- Reconstruction related public feedback gathered in district grievance collection programs, were categorized, compiled, and discussed amongst concerned authorities (TI-Nepal, NRA, and other
relevant reconstruction government officials). Nearly 1400+ grievances across all 14 districts have been received. Of the total grievances, missing names, damage assessments, documentation, banking procedures and delays in the installment of housing grants were some common problems brought to the attention to concerned offices. TI-Nepal lobbied with government offices in such issues by sending nearly 35 letters to different concerned offices as well as drawing the attention of the PM and NRA on reconstruction issues. Letters are being followed up with visits and calls.

**Public hearing**

- Public hearings are organized by TI-Nepal among general public, corruption victims and earthquake victims on a regular basis. One such event took place in Barpak the epicenter of the destructive Gorkha earthquake in the presence of NRA, government officials, stakeholders and EU representative. Notable presence was of the women who numbered around 40. Participating residents raised questions to the VDC secretary, NRA representative and government officials. Many queries related to the first installment provided by the government. Some related to damage assessment. The general impression was that there is a capacity deficit in relation to the magnitude of the problem. Data collection has not been authentic, many damaged households are not listed properly. This has been a general trend in public interfaces throughout the earthquake affected districts.

A circular sit in to facilitate a public hearing on reconstruction

- Partner affiliated organizations held Face the Public and Social Audit programs, proven social accountability tool used by the citizens, to demand accountability from public representatives in health and road offices. During the program, the public was informed about citizen’s entitlements and the necessity of the government offices to increase transparency and accountability. Issues such as low quality of services, weak administration, lack of skilled officers and increase in corruption due to influence of the middle men were put forward to concerned government authorities. The District Administration Offices and other representatives of the concerned line agencies assured stakeholders that reforms were being initiated to improve standards of the public delivery. These face the public programs have helped to increase the satisfaction level of the service seekers.
Mobilizing Youth and Women

Students

- With the intention of mobilizing students in reconstruction watch, collaboration with colleges across 14 affected districts was made. As such, colleges were liaised with and requested to provide students and volunteers to help embed the concepts of transparency and integrity in the reconstruction process, and increase the serving capacity of districts during crunch time. So far, around 100 volunteers have attended orientation sessions to understand concepts of integrity, transparency and accountability. The volunteers have been helping District Officers to assist with grievance collection, help desks and public hearing. This facilitates government service delivery and involves youth in reconstruction.

- Nepal’s community based school curriculum includes a Chapter on TI-Nepal and its role in anti-corruption. On this background, district-based AOs were engaged to inform and orient teachers and students on civic and moral education to promote virtues on integrity, responsibility, diligence, service, and respect for others. Student peer education and each one teach one activities about integrity, civic norms and values were promoted by of partner AOs to make inroads into the student and youth community, based on the teachings of Peer Facilitator Training Manual developed by TI-Nepal.

- Two inter-college Oratory Contests were held under the theme ‘Role of Youth in Promoting Integrity’ in Kathmandu facilitated by Sammunat Samaj Sewa, a NGO. During the contest, 33 students of 24 colleges spoke on the topic based on their understanding, knowledge and acquired information. They deliberated on the existing problems related to corruption, service delivery, political accountability and how youth could help mitigate problems. TI-Nepal encouraged the students to be the torchbearers of integrity. Based on the evaluation of a three-member jury, headed by Vice President Dr Ram Dayal Rakesh, Paras Mani Pangeni of Caribbean College and Bedh Prasad Ghimire from South Western College secured top positions, in the separate events.
TI-Nepal hopes that the focus on colleges, students and youth will help to build a broad-base of support from the future policy makers.

TI-Nepal hosted two rounds of Preliminary stage oratory competition on climate change. Eight students from four different university/colleges took part in the competition. Two best candidates were selected, along with a mentor from Patan Multiple Campus, to take part in 'South Asian Debate Competition on Adaptation Finance Governance' hosted by TI-Bangladesh. The main theme of the competition was, 'Transparency, Accountability and Integrity: The key to Ensuring effective mobilization and Use of Adaptation Finance'. Team Nepal secured 4th position out of 8 teams from 5 different countries, in the British parliamentary style debate.

### Women

TI-Nepal has been maximizing the inclusion of women, youth, and earthquake victims from marginalized population to hear earthquake infected problems. Meetings with women from marginalized community (economically backward, Dalit, single women, bread-earners and older women) continued in the 14 most affected districts. The discussions helped to hear the voices of earthquake affected women, make them aware about the ongoing reconstruction activities and learn about their experiences in accessing reliefs and grants. During the interactions, women complained of discrimination in accessing relief and rehabilitation facilities as well as necessary information from concerned authorities. Old-age and disabled women complained that the official processes are lengthy, tiring and difficult for people like them. Participants demanded special kind of relief for disabled and single women. TI-Nepal district officers forwarded and discussed with concerned authorities for redressal.
In coordination with District Coordination Committees, Social Mobilizers of GoN, mostly women, were informed about TI-Nepal's post earthquake interventions and requested for support in flowing integrity message to the grassroots level.

Youth

The 3rd National Youth Conference against Corruption was organized by the district partner BAS, Nepalgunj, with a support of TI-Nepal. Secretary General conveyed TI-Nepal message asking the youth to be more vigilant against corruption. There were 428 individuals in attendance, where the NGO Code of Conduct and internal good governance related issues were also discussed. A declaration was issued encouraging the youth to envision and act towards a corruption-free Nepal.

Awareness raising and sensitizations through media

Print and Broadcast

TI-Nepal proactively disseminated information via a variety of media outlets. Radio stations and newspapers have been used for the release of anti corruption and integrity friendly messages on a regular basis. Primarily, messages to collect grievance on service delivery, corruption and earthquake reconstruction problems form the core of the message. In Kathmandu, messages were disseminated through national level print and broadcast media like Radio Nepal, Radio Sagarmatha, Kantipur, Himalayan Times, Nagarik etc. TI-Nepal radio messages were scripted by its President. At the district level, community radio stations and local newspapers were contracted, either through affiliated organizations or own contact offices, depending on the theme of the messages.

As a medium of information dissemination, newsletter 'Pardarshi' was published and issues disseminated to members, affiliated organizations, stakeholders and government offices. 'Pardarshi' includes TI-Nepal’s messages and initiatives as well as articles of members, journalists and staff on contemporary issues. It has been a constant source of TI-Nepal news and opinion for the last 15 years.

An issue of the TI-Nepal newsletter ‘Pardarshi’  
A Press release in TI-Nepal website
There have been numerous press releases on issues TI-Nepal has advocated for. Various media sources and platforms have been approached and engaged to prioritize the release of information to increase transparency. Activities like CPI, press meet and releases, establishment day, anti-corruption day, seminars/meetings and advocacy letters have found space in national dailies, radio stations and TV. TI-Nepal President and portfolio holders are regularly invited to media forums. News about TI-Nepal activism or initiatives at the district level has been increasing in cities where affiliated organization has media partnerships. Nepal’s media has shown much interest on profiling TI-Nepal events and news thereby helping in its continued presence.

New media

Yearly Calendar of 2074 BS, depicting cartoons on corruption and anti corruption, prepared by the Cartoonist Club of Nepal, was printed and distributed widely in the capital and outside. Cartoons vividly portray prevailing anomalies in various forms and the lackluster approach of the concerned agencies. The state bodies, including MPs, partners, stakeholders and members were targeted for distribution. Calendar has been a regular feature of TI-Nepal to engage with stakeholders and the people with light but sharp humor against corruption.

Sushsan Chautaris and Digital Boards were placed in public spheres at the district level, with the help of partner affiliated organizations, to help cater information to the service seekers, in places where people usually come together and discuss while seeking service.
Web publications, hoarding boards, pamphlets, leaflets, stickers and non-conventional means such as drama, poetry contest, fine arts, etc., have also been used to raise awareness. Hoarding Boards in many districts provide easy-to-read information for redressal of service delivery problems. Pamphlets and stickers are distributed as IEC means in all events. TI-Nepal website and facebook are updated regularly to inform people about organizational activities. Compared to traditional methods, new media has helped to expand TI-Nepal target groups and outreach.

Visits and Observations

Quality check

TI-Nepal oversaw socio-economic damages of government schools, health posts, government buildings and temples affected by the earthquake in selected districts by visiting them with NRA, media, technical, health and educational authorities, and elected representatives. On the spot observation and meetings were held with the Management Committees, Associations, Contractors, government authorities, regulatory bodies and local stakeholders. Construction progress and standards were jointly observed and needs evaluated. Then, the relevant government authority was informed so as to provide necessary oversight in the process of addressing these needs. An imperative aspect of post-disaster reconstruction is the quality of the new public infrastructure and the rate at which the rebuilding process progresses. This is especially the case for education and health sectors which affects many and where TI-Nepal wants to focus its attention.
Capacity building of partners and officers

Review and training

Five review meetings of different projects were held with district officers and partner affiliated organization representatives to understand various aspects of the district based BNIN, IPERR and ALAC Outreach programs. TI-Nepal staff took the stage to explain district based programs, successful initiatives, new plans, reporting forms, complaint forms, and matters relating to programmatic activities and finances. Government officials from NRA, Hello Sarkar, MOFALD, CLPIUs and Ministry of Urban Development joined one program and shared their respective work and challenges. Finally the reviews ended with renewed energy to continue the watch-dog role of TI-Nepal rigorously.

International Representation

- A four member Transparency International team led by its Regional Advisor Ilham Mohamed visited TI-Nepal and held discussions on policy and programmatic matters. Meeting were held with TI-Nepal President, VP, Sec Gen, ED and program staff. Visiting team also met external stakeholder and donor agencies. The Team evaluated TI-Nepal's work and recommended some measures,
including, the starting of a new strategic planning process, membership diversification, more involvement of women and youth, Board leadership on policy matters, SDG and UNCAC prioritization etc. TI-Nepal is in the process of addressing the recommendations.

- TI-Nepal representatives were invited to participate in international conferences and meetings organized by TI and its chapters. Executive Director Ashish Thapa participated in the TI Asia-Pacific Regional Program Meeting held at Bangkok to take stock of progress, experiences so far, and the way forward in developing and implementing regional campaigns. Officer Samrat Rayamajhi attended an exposure visit to TI Bangladesh to learn about climate finance governance. The lessons learnt during the visit are being drawn on during program execution.

- At the country level, representatives from international agencies regularly met and interacted with TI-Nepal President, portfolio holders and the ED to understand the Nepalese context. Meetings were held with the visiting delegates from Transparency International, Bhutan Transparency Initiative, PACT, BRAC, Norwegian AGO office, TI Sri Lanka, European Union, Royal Norwegian Embassy, The World Bank, Open Contracting, etc.
As decided by the Executive Committee, Vice President Dr Ram Dayal Rakesh and Secretary General Padmini Pradhananga are scheduled to participate in the upcoming TI Annual Membership Meeting 2017 to be held in Berlin. Election of TI Chair, Vice Chair, Board of Directors along with deliberations on yearly progress and impacts will be the main agendas of the AMM on which TI-Nepal delegates will contribute.

Internship requests from international Universities are received regularly. Three international students, Sarah Ho from University of Hong Kong, Chloe Bryan from University of Tasmania and Aryaa Rajouriya from Mount Holyoke College USA interned with TI-Nepal to assist in program execution, report writing and developing formats. TI-Nepal in return supported the interns in professional development and quality learning. Internships allows mutual learning and capacity building at the Secretariat.

The visits and meetings help in mutual experience sharing and building TI-Nepal’s network with international actors.

**Internal Monitoring & Evaluation**

**Oversight**

- The monitoring and evaluation of TI-Nepal projects was done regularly to ensure that the projects fulfils their intended purpose. Firstly, within the TI-Nepal Executive Committee meetings, progress was routinely evaluated in order check whether the established plans are on track. Monitoring of district officers and partners was done by frequently visiting the districts, obtaining stakeholder feedback and requesting monthly reports. Furthermore, project annual plans were reviewed on a half-yearly basis. Alongside approved annual plans and budgets, progress reports and audited financial reports were prepared, evaluated and shared with TI-Nepal constituency.

- As an obligatory condition, HURDEC, an independent external evaluator was commissioned by RNE to appraise the effectiveness, implementation quality, change making impact and adjustment related issues in BNIN activities. In its MTR Report, evaluator recommended to enhance advocacy work, continue research, strengthen coalition and to aim for more results. A reference matrix has been prepared for necessary follow-up on the recommendations.
Conclusion and way forward

Challenges and unresponsive state
Indifferent political leadership, poor governance, increasing corruption and ineffective government mechanisms have been some of the common phenomenon in the political transition that Nepal has been passing through. In light of this, TI-Nepal faces some challenges in achieving the expected results of improving integrity and reducing corruption. The desired outcomes or results have been difficult to come by.

Some challenges are listed below:
- Uncommitted political environment hence low receptiveness of TI-Nepal advocacy for reforms.
- Frequent government changes hence dilution/diversion of priorities and interest.
- Limitations on mobilizing voluntary members regularly and aggressively.
- Traditional surroundings and working system in governance but changing needs and working trends.
- Institutionalized and deep rooted culture of bribe making and taking.
- Lack of self interest of NIS Institutions in promoting integrity.
- Post election difficulty in clarifying TI- Nepal approach in the new structure.
- Resource dependency on donors for promotion of governance agenda.
- Reluctance of the government to provide citizen friendly information.
- Massive public grievances on government service delivery.

Preliminary achievements
Despite an unreceptive response to TI-Nepal's campaign or lack of impact stories, some encouraging achievements have been made through the recent and continued activism:

- Aggressive approach of the new Executive Committee for political, parliamentary and judicial advocacy, on contemporary policy issues, resulting in greater media receptivity on TI-Nepal views
- Building pressure on legislative committees for barring eligibility of convicted politicians to fight election during discussions on the two Bills related to elections
- Asking political parties for the withdrawal of impeachment motion the then CJ Sushila Karki.
- Putting pressure on Judiciary for transparency in the process of granting of senior advocate titles to advocates.
- Proactive support to Dr Govinda KC's campaign for reforms in the medical education sector, nationally, and through Transparency International, globally,
- Clarifying TI-Nepal's institutional position related to the suspended CIAA chief Lok Man Singh Karki by condemning his actions.
- Ending TI-Nepal's cooperation with Ncell once controversy surrounding capital gain tax surfaced.
- Interacting with elected representatives to pass on TI-Nepal's integrity messages.
- Generating data on governance and corruption through studies/reports for the government to take notice.
- Engaging with public in many districts to hear out grievances related to public service delivery, including post earthquake reconstruction.
- Independently monitoring/ providing an external watch on the earthquake reconstruction work taking place in 14 districts
- Continued collaboration at the national and local level with government and NGOs on anti corruption agenda
- Engagement of youth, women and deprived people in the governance debate.

**TI-Nepal- Upcoming work**

Despite greater challenges, an unresponsive state and less than anticipated outcomes, TI-Nepal needs to move forward as a leader of the civil society led anti-corruption campaign. Hence, it envisions to carry out the following initiatives the coming days.

Main highlights of the upcoming work:
- Continuing all current projects- ALAC Outreach, BNIN, CFG and IPERR.
- Preparing a long-term Strategic plan and finalizing Ti-Nepal directions, programs/projects for future.
- Advocacy for reforms on policy matters and rapid reaction on contemporary issues.
- A financial sustainability drive for Ti-Nepal.
- Discussing the 8 thematic sub-committees/ task force reports and recommendations.
- Promoting national alliance/coalition against corruption of NGOs
- Putting special focus on post-earthquake reconstruction, climate change, etc.
- Empowering corruption and earthquake victims by addressing their grievances to bring about systemic improvements.
- Strengthening communications and information dissemination.
- Analyzing corruption news in the print media.
- Integrity Award.
- Aiming to obtain political parties' understanding on prioritizing the anti corruption agenda.
- Encouraging integrity measures like codes of conduct in local and central government, private sector and professional organizations.
- Advocating for financial transparency in political parties.
- Lobbying for appointment of clean judges in the judiciary.
- Identifying constraints to efficient anti-corruption work through research, studies and papers.
- Disseminating information and knowledge on corruption by organizing national and international seminars.
- Increasing levels of transparency in government and semi government offices that provide public service delivery.
- Developing new ties between South Asian TI Chapters through exchange of knowledge.
Epilogue

It is important to focus on strengthening integrity in the Nepalese society and among public officials. The tendency towards being rich overnight by hook or by crook or fulfilling self-interest through public post or resources is increasing day by day. There is a need for all public officials to respect, practice and develop the values of integrity. Political parties, their government, public offices and all pillars of NIS should seriously engage jointly to control corruption and adopt integrity.

As the country is in political transition, with frequent changes in government and coalition partners, despite TI-Nepal’s efforts against corruption, a proper response from the state has not been a reality. TI-Nepal has been trying to engage with the Prime Minister and political leaders to discuss the matter but meetings have not yet materialized. No serious deliberation to control corruption has been seen or felt at the political front, the executive, judiciary and legislative, including the opposition parties. What has been heard is mostly rhetoric which limits TI-Nepal’s work to that of a pressure group despite its interest to be a strong contributor in the action against corruption.

In spite of these challenges TI-Nepal will continue to move forward. As in the past, it will continue to work within the framework of a TI national chapter and strictly adhere to its values, norms and rules. Promoting utmost transparency, accountability and integrity will be a part of its anti-corruption effort. Challenges like the sustainability of activities, effectiveness of efforts and maintaining integrity and independence will be valued highly.

The goal of a corruption-free environment in Nepal may seem daunting in the current context but with TI-Nepal’s vision, leadership and action, the struggle will continue. In this, the new strategic plan, through which TI-Nepal aims to engage in advocacy, coalition building, awareness raising, knowledge building and strengthening institutional base, will provide a guiding light in the coming days.
**TI-Nepal IPERR Contact Offices in 14 districts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Location Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur</td>
<td>Chakkubakku Marga, New Baneshwor-10 (TI-Nepal Office)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Okhaldhunga</td>
<td>Siddhicharan Nagarpalika-12, Jibisa Tol Bazaar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dolakha</td>
<td>Bhimeshwor Nagarpalika -3, Charighyang Bazar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ramechhap</td>
<td>Manthali-1, Binitachowk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sindhuli</td>
<td>Kamalamai Nagarpalika-6, Plot no.2 Bazaar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sindhupalchowk</td>
<td>Chautara Sanga Chowkgadi Nagarpalika-5, Jugal Bazaar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kavrepalanchowk</td>
<td>Dhulikhel Nagarpalika-7, Saraswati Bazaar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rasuwa</td>
<td>Goisaikunda Gaunpalika-5, Dhunche Bazaar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nuwakot</td>
<td>Bidur Nagarpalika -4, Office Road</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dhading</td>
<td>Nilkantha Nagarpalika-3, Shantabazaar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Makawanpur</td>
<td>Hetauda Metropolitan-5, Sichaitol</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gorkha</td>
<td>Gorkha Nagarpalika-1, Shaktichowk Bank road</td>
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</table>
**Affiliated Organizations**

TI-Nepal maintains a network in all 7 provinces of the country through 25 NGOs, affiliated to TI- Nepal. 14 Affiliated Organizations are engaged in joint project implementation, using TI-Nepal provided resources and plans.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province no.</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Program partnership</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ilam</td>
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<td>Morang</td>
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<td>Sunsari</td>
<td>Sankalpa CBR Nepal</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Udaypur</td>
<td>Manav Adhikar Tatha Watabaran Bikash Kendra</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Siraha</td>
<td>Samudayak Bikas Samittee</td>
<td>BNIN</td>
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<td>Dhanusha</td>
<td>Janachetna Tatha Bikas Karyakram</td>
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<td>Parsa</td>
<td>Sadachar Abhiyan</td>
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<td>Rautahat</td>
<td>Creative Group of Nepal</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Sindhuli</td>
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<td>Agya Social Concern Nepal</td>
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<td>Kathmandu</td>
<td>Professional Mahila Sahayogi Samuha</td>
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<td>Kaski</td>
<td>Sushasan ka Lagi Nagarik Samaj</td>
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<td>Baglung</td>
<td>Good Neighbor for Accountability Nepal</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Rupandehi</td>
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<td>Social Solidarity for Development</td>
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