

Welcome to the 17th **Citizen Insider**! Citizen Helpdesks is a campaign led by local Community Frontline Associates (CFAs) in Nepal with the objective to support open, transparent and accountable local governance. This campaign prioritises participatory activities, peer learning and information sharing to enhance the trust between government and citizens. Alongside collaborating with citizens and local government, the campaign also supports government decision making based on the needs and expectations of citizens.

Questions

Nepalgunj, Banke

“Certain amount of budget was allocated to gravel the road in front of my house. The road was graveled but it was only for the name sake. The gravel got washed away while it was just drizzling. Isn't there any government body that ensures the quality of the work?”

Dhadingbesi, Dhading

“They say that the budget has been allocated, but who checks if the budget is being spent in the right way?”

Melamchi, Sindhupalchowk

“Who monitors the plans that are implemented at the local level?”

Answers

A monitoring and supervision committee is formed at the local level led by deputy mayor. It includes chief administrative officer along with two members from the executive committee of which one female member is recommended by mayor. The committee is responsible to monitor the budget, timeframe, quality of work, and provide feedback on the implementation of the plans through a monthly report to the executive committee and have a discussion over it. The executive committee then suggests the related parties implementing the plan to make corrections in the process based on the report and discussion.

Likewise, to monitor the programs at the ward level, a monitoring and supervision committee is formed. The committee is led by ward chair and includes other ward members as the general members and ward secretary as a member secretary of the committee.

In addition, any program that exceeds the budget of 5 crore in case of rural municipality, 10 crores in case of municipality, and 25 crores in case of sub-metropolitan city and the metropolitan city needs to appoint a third party for impact evaluation within the 2 years of the program commencement.

Source

Local level budget plan reference 2074 (Ammended)

Questions

Nepalgunj, Banke

“Who is present during the selection of local level plans?”

Birendranagar, Surkhet

“On what basis are the local level plans prioritized?”

Melamchi, Sindhupalchowk

“On what basis are the local level plans selected?”

Panauti, Kavrepalanchowk

“Who are included under targeted population?”

Answers

The constitution of Nepal section 42 considers targeted population as citizens who are financially and socially backward; women, dalit, minorities, madhesi, tharu, muslim, differently abled, farmers, wage workers, sexual minorities, citizens of geographically backward areas, and economically backward Khash and Aryas.

While selecting the local level plans, a comprehensive representation of all including targeted population has to be ensured. Similarly, the participation of other organization and active groups such as mother groups, child clubs, youth clubs, citizen awareness centers, and other groups formed by the government should be ensured.

There is a provision of specific point-based criteria to select the different local level plans. See below for more details:

- Contributing to poverty reduction - 20 points
- Contributing to early outcomes and production - 15 points
- Contributing to the income and employment - 15 points
- Contribution of citizens on plans (labor/ financial) - 15 points
- Utilizing local resources and skills - 10 points
- Contributing to enhancing inclusion - 10 points
- Contributing to sustainable development and environmental protection - 10 points
- Contributing to local language & cultural development - 5 points

The plans which receive more than 100 points are then prioritized.

Source

Local Level Annual Budget and Planning Guideline 2074

Constitution of Nepal 2072

Questions

Jwalamukhi, Dhading

“Don’t we have to go to Kathmandu to get the labor permit for foreign employment from now on?”

घण्टागच, लुगधबपयत

“We have heard that government is going to open labor offices in all seven provinces of Nepal. What are the roles of these new offices?”

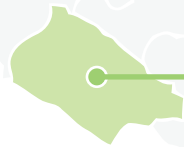
Answers

Government of Nepal’s Ministry of Labor and Social Security is planning to decentralize the public services related to the foreign employment to provide efficient and easy access to the services by opening its branches in all of the seven provinces.

The new branch offices will initially carry out roles such as providing labor permits only for re-entry in their destination, monitoring the authorized manpower agencies and the institutions that conduct orientation for the aspiring workers in their respective region, disseminating information related to foreign employment to all relevant stakeholders, and addressing the complaints.

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Buddhi Sagar Subedi

Nepalgunj, Banke

There was no road access to reach Naya Basti, one of the areas in ward 12 of Nepalgunj Sub Metropolitan's city that consisted of around 22 houses. The local ward office did not address the need even after the numerous requests to the ward office. All the households had also left enough space for the road construction.

A month ago, Citizen Helpdesks in collaboration with the ward 12, organized a Town Hall meeting that brought together the local representatives, local citizens, and other related stakeholders to discuss the issues existing in the community. During the discussion, the citizen had only one major issue to raise collectively and that was the road construction. "We had left the land space and requested a lot of times to the ward office for road construction, but still there is no proper road," said the locals present at the meeting. Following the issues raised, the ward chief Buddhi Sagar Subedi committed to provide Rs 1 lakh for the road construction from the complementary fund. Interestingly, the citizens also agreed to collect Rs 2 thousand per household for the road. The discussion on the issue concluded with the decision that ward office will contribute 80% of the cost and the locals will contribute 20% for the road construction in Naya Basti.

Following this public discussion, a User Group Committee was created which was to be led by a local Geeta Shahi. The locals have since then already collected Rs 50,000 and completed the road route. The committee has also decided to use the Rs 1 lakh amount allocated from the ward to gravel the road.

This anecdote is an example that when the government and citizen communicate directly through an open discussion and work together, the issues existing in the community get solved quickly.

Know Before You Go - the latest Government Decisions

- Emergency Operation Guideline 2075 for Municipality/Rural Municipality ([Link](#))
- Minimum labor wage ([Link](#))
- Criteria for Labour Audit 2075 ([Link](#))
- Finance Bill 2075 ([Link](#))

The information, rumors and issues presented here have been collected from CFAs, community meetings, development agencies and face-to-face discussions at local level with over 1,400 people in 8 districts between 16 December 2018 to 12 February 2019. The issues highlighted are chosen on the basis of prevalence and relevance. The information presented here is correct at the time of issue.

Citizen Insider is brought to you by the **Accountability Lab** with support from the **American Embassy** to Nepal.

