

## RDC Nepal's effort in Bridging Communities and Parliament for Inclusive Development

### Background

Rural Development Centre (RDC) Nepal is a non-governmental, non-political, and non-profit organization established in May 2002, with its headquarters in Rautahat District. Since its inception, RDC Nepal has been heavily engaged in humanitarian assistance, community development, natural resource conservation, and environmental protection. Its efforts primarily focus on the Terai and hill regions of Nepal through numerous humanitarian and long-term development projects. These initiatives have reached children, adolescents, youth, women, landless and urban poor, people with disabilities, individuals affected by HIV & AIDS, and survivors of conflict and disasters from historically marginalized communities such as Dalits, Muslims, and indigenous groups.

RDC Nepal operates in various thematic areas, including gender justice and protection, quality education, livelihoods, health and nutrition, WASH, climate change adaptation, and natural resource management. The organization has implemented both long-term and seasonal projects supported by various donors, including UNDP, World Vision, Oxfam, KNH, UNICEF, Islamic Relief Worldwide, Qatar Charity, Penny Appeal, World Education, Start Fund Network, iDE, FAO, ILO, Plan International, ADRA, UN Habitat, and International IDEA.

In addition to its development projects, RDC Nepal works closely with federal, provincial, and local governments to conduct advocacy activities that bring community voices to members of parliament (MPs) at all levels.

### Objective of Engaging Members of Parliament

- To advocate for policy development and effective implementation.
- To enhance coordination and collaboration between stakeholders.
- To ensure accountability in governance and development practices.
- To strengthen civil society engagement.
- To promote the sustainability of projects.
- To amplify community voices in parliamentary discussions.

### Advocacy Activities:

#### 1. Climate Change Adaptation

Advocacy for climate change adaptation is a crucial step in addressing the impacts of climate change. Sustainable policies are necessary to shield vulnerable communities from adverse effects. Members of parliament play a key role in formulating these policies. RDC Nepal, supported by Oxfam, has initiated advocacy campaigns involving federal and provincial MPs and local governments. These campaigns focus on enhancing climate-resilient agriculture and infrastructure in Madhesh Province, with a special emphasis on addressing the degradation of the Chure



*Dialogue sessions between members of parliament, local government, media, and civil society organizations*

region. Dialogue sessions with MPs and local government representatives have been pivotal in aligning climate change adaptation efforts with policy development. RDC Nepal is also implementing development projects aimed at climate change adaptation in affected communities.

## **2. Quality and Inclusive Education**

RDC Nepal is committed to ensuring quality and inclusive education for all children. In Rautahat District, where many children remain out of school, RDC Nepal has implemented projects to raise awareness, enhance school infrastructure, and ensure enrollment, particularly among marginalized communities such as Dalits and Muslims. Advocacy activities with MPs aim to highlight ground realities and push for the implementation of policies that ensure access to education for all children. Dialogue sessions have focused on formal education for Muslim children and policies for integrating Madrasas into the formal education system.



*Honorable Former Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal participated in a dialogue session followed by educational materials distribution ceremony (2017 AD)*

## **3. Child Labor**

Child labor is another pressing issue in Rautahat District. A significant number of children work in hotels, garages, and industries instead of attending school. RDC Nepal has advocated for zero child labor through meetings and discussions with provincial governments, seeking provincial policies to eradicate child labor and promote education for affected children.



*Honorable Former Social Development Minister of Madhesh Province, Mahesh Yadav participated in a dialogue session on status of child labor in Rautahat district (July 2023)*

#### 4. Livelihood Promotion

RDC Nepal believes that improving livelihood opportunities fosters equality and social inclusion. The organization’s livelihood-related activities include income generation, skill development, and agricultural support for marginalized communities. Advocacy efforts with MPs aim to secure budget allocations and promote livelihood-friendly policies. MPs and government leaders also participate in project activities to observe and understand community needs.



Honorable Former Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal participated in livelihood support and entrepreneurs’ development ceremony (2018)

#### 5. Transformative Education for Adolescents

RDC Nepal’s Rupantaran (Transformative Education) program targets adolescent boys and girls, focusing on building their life skills, confidence, and awareness of social issues. Through this program, RDC Nepal aims to empower adolescents to challenge traditional norms and embrace equitable values.



Madhav Kumar Nepal, the former Prime Minister, attended one of the key events under this initiative, highlighting its significance and lending his support to the cause. The engagement of prominent leaders has strengthened advocacy efforts, fostering greater recognition of transformative education in policy discussions.



## **Notable Members of Parliament Engaged in Several Advocacy Effort by RDC Nepal**

1. Madhav Kumar Nepal – Former Prime Minister
2. Sarla Yadav – Former Member of Parliament
3. Kalyani Khadka – Member of Parliament
4. Athar Ali Kamal – Former Member of Parliament
5. Puja Chaudhary- Member of National Assembly
6. Yogendra Ray Yadav – Former State Minister, Government of Madhesh
7. Mahesh Yadav – Former Education Minister, Government of Madhesh
8. Abdul Kalam – Member of Province Parliament, Madhesh Province
9. Dev Prasad Timilsina – Member of Parliament
10. Kanish Patel – Member of Province Parliament, Madhesh Province
11. Yuvraj Bhattarai – Member of Province Parliament, Madhesh Province
12. Mustak Raja – Former State Minister, Member of Parliament
13. Md. Lalbabu Raut Gadi – Former Chief Minister of Madhesh Province