

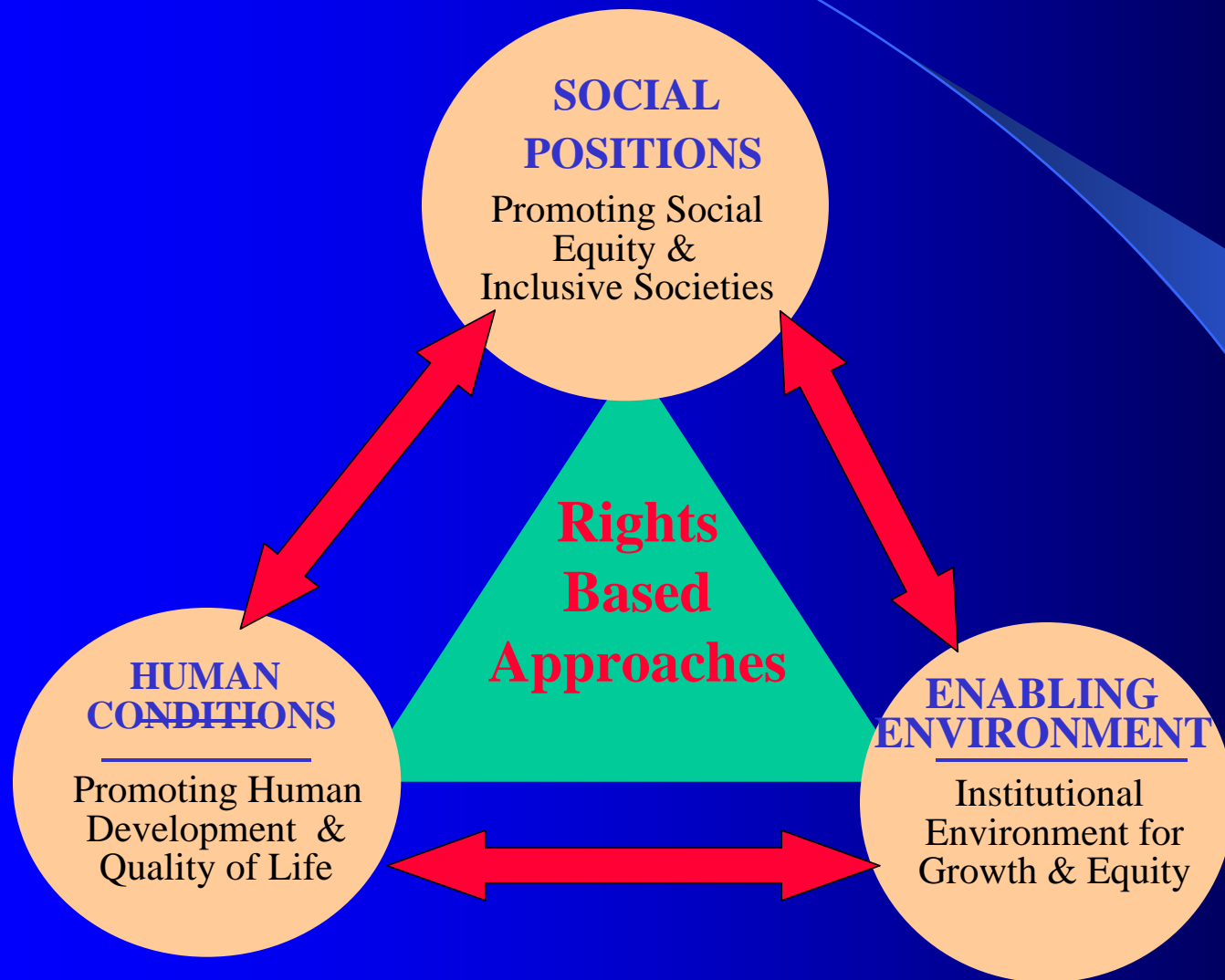


CARE Nepal

- CARE began its work in Nepal in Feb. 1978
- Operates in 42 districts through 21 community development projects (July'07)
- Population reached in FY 07: 4.1 mill
- Has annual portfolio of about \$10 million
- 215 staff



CARE's Framework for Poverty Eradication and Social Justice



SAGUN Program

Strengthened Actions for Governance in Utilization of Natural Resources Program



Chief of Party:
Maksha Ram Maharjan, Ph.D.

SAGUN Program

- Initial phase Nov. 18, 2002 – Sept. 30, 2006; SAGUN Extended phase Oct. 2006 – Sept. 2008
- Total Budget: US \$ 9.825 m (US \$ 7.8 million grant from USAID)
- Target Clients: CFUGs & User Committees (UCs) of Community Forestry and Buffer Zone (BZ), BZ Management Council, CSOs, Government Line Agencies (GLAs)

Program Components and Areas Coverage

In the initial phase (Nov. 2002 – Sept. 2006)

1. Forestry and Buffer zone- 5 districts
2. Irrigation- 9 districts
3. Partnership for Hydropower- 4 districts
4. Policy Advocacy Campaign- 24 districts

In the current extended phase (Oct.2006 – Sept.2008)

- **Community Forestry - 6 districts**
- **Livelihoods Improvements - 12 districts**
- **Bio-diversity Conservation – 3 areas**
- **Policy Advocacy – 4 areas**

Map of Nepal with SAGUN Program Location



Broad Objectives:

1. Ensure management of Nepal's natural resources in a democratic way
2. Improve good governance in selected institutions
3. Ensure equitable distribution of benefits and costs derived from natural resources management

Specific Objectives:

1. Improved internal governance and technical capacity in the User groups.
2. Enhance livelihoods options for women, dalit, & poor's economic empowerment
3. Conserve and sustainably manage biodiversity through people's participation
4. Enhance skills of users and their representatives to advocate for their own rights and concerns over natural resource management.

How are SAGUN natural resource management interventions contributing to improve governance?

- Capacity building of User Groups in Governance, managerial and technical skills and help them to mobilize their resources.
- Institutionalization of Participatory Well-Being Ranking in NRM: identifies poorest of the poor households, increases their participation in NRM and distribute costs and benefits on equity basis.
- Institutionalization of ‘Public Hearing and Public Auditing’, which has helped to increase accountability and transparency in NRM.
- Practices of RBA and Policy Advocacy, which have helped to improve Government Line Agency’s service delivery as they felt more accountable towards local communities.
- Governance literacy classes have empowered *Dalit* (lower caste people), poor and rural women through increased access to information and advocacy capacity to address local social and governance issues

How are SAGUN natural resource-based governance structures or other interventions preventing and mitigating conflict?

- Incorporating more pro-poor and economic empowerment activities in NRM.
- Contributing to anti-corruption drive through Public Hearing and Public Auditing, which helped to recover more than NRs. 160,627 (US\$ 2,550) from NRM Executive Committee members and have their commitment to return NRs.3,352,830 (US\$ 53220), they misused.
- Supporting the User Groups to follow 'Do No Harm' and 'Sensitive and Effective Development in Conflict' principles.
- Community mobilization and information sharing about the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and upcoming Constitution Assembly.
- Policy Advocacy at macro level such as Incorporation of Pro-poor NRM policy and activities in Nepal Government's Community Forestry Operation Guidelines, Interim Forestry Policy, Irrigation, policy and National Water Plan 2005.

What does SAGUN's data say about sustaining such conflict prevention and/or mitigation benefits?

- Participatory Governance Assessment in NRM has been instrumental in sensitizing the executive members and ordinary users to assess their governance status and prepare action plans for improvement and use it to identify potential areas for Governance Program design
- Identification of poor, *Dalits*, women, marginalized ethnic groups and empower them to participate in and benefit from NRM activities.
- Capacity building and institutionalization of local resources persons (LRPs) and women motivators to support local communities in NRM
- Collaboration and coordination with local NGOs, CSOs and projects and programs to develop synergy for peace building.
- Integration of political processes in NRM and help politicians to feel their ownership in community development and NRM