

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Centre for Social Change  
सामाजिक परिवर्तन केन्द्र

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

This report (draft copy) covers the period of January 2020 to December 2020.

Centre for Social Change  
94 Pipal Bot Marga, Old Baneshwor 10  
Kathmandu, Nepal  
contact@socialchange.org.np  
www.socialchange.org.np

Copyright © CSC 2021. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying and recording or by any information storage and retrieval system without prior approval from the CSC.



Centre for Social Change

सामाजिक परिवर्तन केन्द्र

## Message from the President

2020 was a peculiar year that casted an unprecedented health crisis slowing down our customary lives and regular activities. Global pandemic declared in the year 2020 has affected almost every sector in Nepal resulting in huge economic losses and devastating impacts in our social lives; especially of the economically vulnerable people that largely include individuals and families of migrant workers, informal sector workers, daily wage earners, and labor migrants working aboard. On the other hand, its' impacts have conceived a new form of communication among people across communities and has largely changed our working habits. Now, work from home has become equivalent to remote drive to work. Ensuring both physical and mental safety of families and communities and tackling the widespread transmission of Corona virus was a haunting task among many of us. We all went through this nightmare in the year 2020.

Amid such uncertain times, Centre for Social Change (CSC) and its team had the opportunity to retrospect on our visions and missions in a different light. Remote working from individual homes and use of online tools to stay connected have unphased CSC's working spirit. CSC embraced it as an opportunity to consolidate different ideas and explore in areas concerning foreign labor workers and informal sector workers and their conditions during COVID-19 crisis. At the same time when civil resistance campaigns and nonviolent actions came to a complete halt due to full or partial lockdowns, many reported cases of domestic violence against women and the overall psychology of children were shaping a worst-case scenario. On these matters, CSC published and disseminated infographics using social media to sensitize and inform people about the situation of foreign labor migrant workers, their needs, and urgently required government actions. We are positive that it aided the government emergency programs and encouraged rescue efforts to reach the people that are most affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

This annual report highlights our major achievements and our persistent commitment in strengthening democracy, building partnership, contributing towards knowledge production, and generating evidence-based advocacy strategies for policymaking. Most of CSC's programs in the year 2020 were focused on assessing the impacts of COVID-19 on labor migrant workers and informal sector workers. CSC further conducted several in-house researches on health and education governance. Civic engagements and civil society participation in the governance process were also among the key areas that CSC concentrated on in the year 2020.

I would like to thank the entire CSC team, former Executive Board and management team, for their continuous support in attaining the organization's broader vision and mission. All of the programs would not have been possible without the efforts of our vibrant team, their timely commitments and relentless support to each other during this time of crisis.

Finally, I would like to thank all our partners and supporters for their continuous trust and for adding more meaning to CSC's efforts.

Sincerely,  
Pawan Roy  
President

# Introduction to the Organization

## Introduction

Founded in 2015, Centre for Social Change (CSC) is a non-profit making organization working on the changing socio-dynamics of Nepalese society via research, education, advocacy, and civic engagement. CSC is mainly working on issues around conflict prevention, migration, governance, and civil society development.

## Vision

CSC envisions a peaceful, just, and inclusive society where everyone has an equal opportunity to live a dignified life.

## Mission

CSC's mission is to advance social change through education, evidence-based policy making and grassroots engagement.

## Values

**Integrity:** CSC is guided by ethical mindset and accountable actions.

**Collaboration:** CSC believes that social change happens through strong community partnership and trust among individuals and institutions.

**Empathy:** CSC puts itself in the situation of target group.

## Working Approaches

**Research and publication:** We conduct extensive research on our priority areas and other emerging issues and disseminate research findings in the form of reports, infographics, blogs, videos, books, and journal articles. CSC also uses social media platform to disseminate the knowledge products among wider segment of the society.

**Education:** We organize both online and physical educational programs to develop subjective knowledge among the target groups on the spectrum of our priority areas. CSC enhances the capacity of target groups through promotion of interpersonal skills like innovation, analysis and exploring the pathways for better engagement in both policy and academic discourses.

**Advocacy:** CSC engages in various activities that monitor the changes happening in society. Through this, we draw the attention of concerned stakeholders to act on the issues raised by our research-based monitoring work.

**Engagement:** We engage youth, women, policymakers, communities, and other stakeholders to contribute in the social change process. CSC provides people a platform to explore each others' perspectives and develop new understanding over the issues.

## Operational Structures

CSC is currently operating with its three organizational wings, namely, think-tank initiative, projects and programs, and movement building.

**Think-tank Initiative:** CSC envisions a platform to promote evidence-based policy making and advocacy. With this vision, CSC conducts different research related to its working themes for generating evidences that may support to policymaking and advocacy initiatives in Nepal. In addition, CSC also aims to provide analysis of the context through newspaper articles, blogs, and online knowledge management and information portal. Besides conducting research,

think-tank initiative is envisioned for establishing CSC as a watchdog to provide a prudent analysis of the socio-political context and providing policy feedbacks and inputs to politicians, policymakers, donors, and civil society organizations.

**Projects and Programs:** This wing is mainly responsible for designing and implementing projects and programs within its working themes and in partnership with donors, civil society organizations, universities, and private sector.

**Movement Building:** CSC strongly believes in continuous coordination and cooperation among different stakeholders for achieving sustainable change. With this view, movement building wing at CSC establishes connections and partnerships with local, national, regional and global social change movements in the areas of CSC's strategic priorities.

## Working Areas

### Conflict Transformation and Peace Building

CSC is committed to transform violent conflict into constructive disagreements and expose shared solutions. We work with youth, communities, and academic institutions to build sustainable peace in Nepal. We are focused on identifying various unaddressed social issues and other root causes of violence and conflict, and purpose an evidence and knowledge induced transformation.

### Democracy and Governance

CSC promotes openness, transparency, accountability, pluralism, and consensus decision making by strengthening government-citizen partnership. Nepal being a newly born federal country, we work with legislatures, governments, policy makers and activists to enhance democratic values in both small and federal polity.

### Labour and Migration

CSC conducts research for building better policies on safer migration. We work to trace out the existing problems in the migration, its causes and consequences, opportunities, and challenges. We are focused on identifying needs of migrant workers, maximizing the benefits of migration and ensuring the protection of migrant workers in destination countries.

### Civic Engagement and Civil Society Development

CSC through this thematic priority explores, how social change happens. We work to identify civic space related challenges and explore innovation to strengthen the citizens participation in socio-political decision making, policy implementation and action monitoring in all three levels.

## Major Highlights



### Thematic Area: Conflict Transformation and Peace Building

In early 2020, CSC officially established a partnership with Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) where our team mainly worked on violence and protest monitoring of Nepal in the last one decade (2010 – 2020). The CSC team explored, described, and analyzed data on situations of conflict – and have published a number of infographics and articles to disseminate readers friendly information.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, our team had to terminate the mostly awaited ‘South Asian Regional Institute on the Study and Practice of Strategic Nonviolent Action 2020’, that aimed to offer practitioners and scholars from South Asian region with an opportunity to learn about, and reflect on, ways to achieve social change nonviolently. Nevertheless, this year, we worked with International Center on Nonviolent Conflict (ICNC) team on modifying the project and created a project commencing in 2021 entitled ‘South Asian Digital Education Initiatives on Nonviolent Action’, where we seek to create a digital platform for linking, learning and knowledge sharing of grassroots activists and scholars interested in the study and practice of strategic plan. Furthermore, we are also preparing to educate students and youth from the South Asia region by delivering online courses on civil resistance and strategic nonviolent action.

Additionally, few educational and engagement programs were organized in 2020. During a lockdown time, CSC gathered 70 participants virtually in a webinar entitled ‘Strengthening Nonviolence Actions amid COVID-19 Crisis: Challenges, Opportunities, and Strategies.’ This session was moderated by former president Dr. Prakash Bhattarai, and the speakers were Dr. Isak Svensson from Sweden, Dr. Dinesh Prasain from Nepal, Rehana Wagha from Pakistan and Ramesh Chandra Sharma from India. Similarly, our research team was engaged in the study of the implementation of the 2006’s Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA), where Dr. Prakash Bhattarai and Raunak Mainali published an op-ed in MyRepublica analyzing 14 year of signing of peace agreement between CPN Maoist and the government in Nepal.



### Thematic Area: Democracy and Governance

In 2020, CSC established partnership with two international organizations namely, The Asia Foundation (TAF) and Bread for the World (BFW) on creating an enabling environment to foster state-society relationship for strengthening and enhancing governance practices in Nepal. As a result, CSC established ‘Governance Monitoring Centre’ (GMC) to review and monitor the existing laws, policies and institutional mechanisms introduced by local, provincial, and federal governments on the issues around health, education, and migration. Through GMC, we have published several blogs and in late 2020, we also published a study report entitled ‘Governance at a Glance’, highlighting a concise summary of the status of governance within our three areas of focus.

Additionally, in 2020, CSC also worked on creating ‘Governance Resource Centre’ (GRC) a physical platform for civil society organizations (CSOs) to discuss the process, strategies, challenges, and opportunities associated with the implementation of the federal governance system in Nepal. Such initiatives aim to generate knowledge and solid evidence for better understanding of governance practices in Nepal mainly in three focus areas. Our plan is to use all the generated knowledge and evidence through both of these initiatives for policy advocacy and improving policies and programs of the government. CSC strongly believes that such generation of evidence from the civil society sector will push the government to increase accountability and transparency in the public sector.

To learn more about GMC: [gmcnepal.org](http://gmcnepal.org) | GRC: [socialchange.org.np/grc/](http://socialchange.org.np/grc/)

Similarly, around mid of 2020, former president Dr. Prakash Bhattarai together with Pradip Adhikari published two articles in MyRepublica under the title of ‘Data for Public Policy’ highlighting the needs of the latest data analytics tools and technology infrastructure for the monitoring, evaluation, and analytics of the data in policy institutes of Nepal and ‘How are the local governments doing?’ accessing the performance of local governments for ensuring a pro-people and deliberative democracy with strong priority towards recognizing the voice of citizens and their meaningful

empowerment.

On 14 October 2020, CSC established membership with the International Association of Centres for Federal Studies (IACFS). IACFS is an interdisciplinary association of Centers and Institutes throughout the world with interests in independent research and publication about political, constitutional, legal, administrative, fiscal, economic, historical, and philosophical issues relevant to political systems which have federal features.



### Thematic Area: Labour and Migration

As COVID-19 pandemic started creating prolonged impact on migrants and informal sector workers of Nepal, research team at CSC engaged on the continuous study to uncover the challenges in policies and practices with the aim of addressing the concerns of Nepalese labour force around the globe.

In 2020, several infographics were published highlighting the problems and needs of Nepali migrant workers in the destination countries amidst COVID-19 crisis. Other infographic underlined the employment and skill development programs provisioned in the 2077/78 fiscal budget of the Federal and Provincial Government of Nepal. Similarly, a bar chart race entitled “death of Nepalese Migrant Workers” highlighted the trends of deaths by year, the destination countries, and the origin.

Furthermore, CSC in collaboration with Accountability Lab organized a webinar to discuss the roadmap for socio-economic reintegration of Nepali migrant workers. Another webinar was organized on June 5, 2020, entitled ‘Youth Employment in Agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities’ highlighting the experiences and learnings of three prominent youth entrepreneurs in agriculture, technology and market reach. Also, in collaboration with Association of Youth Organization Nepal (AYON), CSC hosted a digital roundtable conference bringing seven youth changemakers from all seven provinces to discuss various agendas that are relevant to youth in the time of COVID-19 crisis and beyond.

Likewise, CSCs former president Dr. Prakash Bhattarai together with Rajendra Senchurey published an article in Myrepublica on Nepal’s Foreign Labor Migration and COVID-19 crisis, arguing how the COVID-19 crisis is likely to disrupt this eco-system of foreign labor migration.

In 2020, CSC established partnership with Peace Without Limits (PWL) to conduct number of researches on migration and the migrant workers whereas around the end of 2020, it also established partnership with Open Society Policy Center (OSPC) to commence a year-long project in title ‘Safeguarding the rights of informal sector workers, cross-border migrants, and other vulnerable communities in Nepal’. CSC is collaborating with Janakendra, Nepal Institute of Peace (NIP), Jauunath Mindset to work on addressing the needs and concerns of informal sector workers through multidimensional and multi-level interventions. The consortium is focused on generating solid evidence through research, fostering dialogues among the national and local level stakeholders, promoting local and national level advocacy, and bolstering their issues through social media platforms and other means of communication. This project focuses on uplifting the agenda of cross-border Nepali migrant workers and other vulnerable groups of the society whose life has been adversely affected due to COVID-19 crisis, ultimately making the Federal, Provincial, and the Local governments responsive towards addressing the issues of informal sector workers, cross-border migrants, and other vulnerable groups.

CSC announced its membership with the National Network for Safer Migration (NNSM) this year. NNSM is an umbrella organization of civil society organizations in Nepal working in the field of labour migration and development.



## Thematic Area: Civic Engagement and Civil Society Development

In 2020, CSC primarily focused on enhancing the dialogue, advocacy, negotiation, and watchdog capacity of local citizens' groups and media to amplify their voice for enhancing the quality of local government actions in Nepal. For that, a study research was conducted in four local levels of Sunsari and Rupandehi districts. A work in progress report was published entitled 'Capacity Need Assessment of Local Citizens' Groups in Sunsari and Rupandehi District' analyzing the key Resource and Capacity Gaps (RCGs) of local citizen-led groups in the declared study areas, further focusing on identifying the causes and effects of observed RCGs. This study suggested some concrete recommended actions to enhance the capacity of local CSOs and make them capable of demonstrating their strong presence and influence in the local governance affairs.

Furthermore, CSC has been providing technical and advisory support to the local citizens' groups to design and conduct dialogue, advocacy, negotiation, and watchdog activities in four project locations of two districts. For that, CSC is providing mentorship support to citizens' groups, organizing virtual meetings between local citizens' groups and Kathmandu based experts, and has allocated relevant resource materials to the local groups.

CSC through its initiative of 'Governance Circle' is working to facilitate interaction and coordination among CSOs working on education, health, and migration to the exchange of knowledge and ideas on a regular basis. In upcoming days, CSC plans to conduct capacity building training and support to local citizen groups and youth leaders enhancing the dialogue, advocacy, negotiation, and watchdog capacity of local citizens' groups to amplify their voice for enhancing the quality and efficiency of local government actions.



## Our Initiatives



### Governance Monitoring Centre Nepal

Governance Monitoring Centre Nepal is a research initiative by Kathmandu-based NGO Centre for Social Change. Using a variety of investigative methods and the latest in qualitative & quantitative research tools, GMC Nepal is dedicated to strengthen Nepali democracy and empower its citizens through accurate & up-to-date information.



### Nepal Peace Portal

A website that provides comprehensive information about Nepal's socio-political change processes that has been achieved through socio-political movements, negotiated settlement of Nepal's decade long Maoist armed conflict and various agreements signed between the agitating forces and the governments formed after 1990s.



**APRIL 20-26  
2020**

### Asian Action Institute

An educational hub that organizes course on the study and practice of strategic non-violent actions engaging both local and international practitioners and scholars. It is maintained collaboratively by International Center on Nonviolent Conflict (ICNC), Centre for Social Change (CSC), Department of Conflict, Peace and Development Studies (DCPDS), Tribhuvan University and Network of Families of the Disappeared, Nepal (NEFAD).



### Youth Initiative for SDG 16

A youth peace movement working to innovate digital and grassroots engagement platform to promote, protect and advocate for youth leadership, civic action, sustainable peace, democratic institution and social justice in Nepal.



### Let's Speak for Change

In order to promote civic space for youth, Centre for Social Change has initiated a monthly workshop series under the title "Let's Speak for Change" where young people can openly express their concerns, opinions, reflections, ideas, and experiences about the narratives of social change. The workshop welcomes young people to discuss politics, governance, civil society, law enforcement agencies, media and public service delivery of Nepal, and how they impact young people's future.







# Glimpses of Webinars, Workshops, and Interactions

## COVID-19 CRISIS AND THE FUTURE OF YOUTH IN NEPAL

Virtual Round Table Discussion

**YOUTH SPEAKERS:**



**MODERATOR:**

**Dr. Prakash Bhattarai**  
President  
Center for Social Change (CSC)

**CHAIR:**

**Mr. Jagdish Ayer**  
President  
Association of Youth Organizations Nepal

June 29, 2020 (Monday) 1 pm - 3 pm

Meeting ID : 7806046760 | Organized by: Centre for Social Change, AccountabilityLab

Meeting ID: 817 7373 1420 | Password: mworkers | Tuesday, June 16, 2020 3:00 PM NST

## WEBINAR SERIES #3

### Roadmap to Reintegration of Nepali Migrant Workers amid COVID-19

**SPEAKERS**



**MODERATOR**

**Dr. Prakash Bhattarai**  
President, Centre for Social Change

**CHAIR**

**Narayan Adhikari**  
Country Director, Accountability Lab Nepal

Organised by: Centre for Social Change, AccountabilityLab

## WEBINAR

### Youth Employment in Agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities

**SPEAKERS**



**DATE**

Friday | June 05 | 2020

**TIME**

3:30 PM - 5:30 PM

**Centre for Social Change**  
सामाजिक परिवर्तन केन्द्र

**YOUTH INITIATIVE**  
Erickson

\*Pre-registration is required.  
Zoom link will be sent after the registration.

## WEBINAR

### Strengthening Nonviolence Actions in the Midst of COVID-19 Crisis: Challenges, Opportunities, and Strategies

**SPEAKERS**



**Date & Time**

Monday  
18 May 2020

Duration: 2 Hours

Kabul Time: 2:15 PM  
Karachi/ Male Time: 2:45 PM  
Delhi/ Colombo Time: 3:15 PM  
Kathmandu Time: 3:30 PM  
Dhaka/Thimpu Time: 3:45 PM

**Centre for Social Change**  
सामाजिक परिवर्तन केन्द्र

\*Pre-registration is required.  
Zoom link will be sent after the registration.



## Partnership and Collaboration

Since its inception, CSC is actively collaborating with a number of universities, research institutions, and other likeminded organizations within Nepal and internationally. CSC's present collaboration includes with the following institutions.

### Collaboration with universities and Academic Institutions



### Collaboration with Other Institutions/Organizations



### Institutional Memberships



**iacfs** INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
CENTERS FOR FEDERAL STUDIES

## Annual Financial for FY 2076/77 (in NRs) as of 15 July, 2020

### Income

Fund Received from the Donor:	19,94,933.25
Other Income:	7,90,035.17

### Expenditure

Program Expenses:	32,32,325.71
Administrative Expenses:	3,85,329.98

Cash and Bank Balance:	10,76,832.76
------------------------	--------------



**Centre for Social Change**

---

सामाजिक परिवर्तन केन्द्र