**Field and Interview Note**

Field worker: OC

Interviewees: MO and SS

Note Taker: OC

Note Checked and Edited by: JS

Language of Interview: Nepali/English

Note Transcribed by: OC

Place: 1st floor, ADRA office, Sanepa, Lalitpur

Time: 2:00 -3:00 Pm

Date: 27 August 2014

**Major Highlights:**

* ADRA-Nepal has ongoing project on maternal child health in three districts of mid-western Nepal.
* 17 birthing centers in 3 districts of mid-western region will be constructed under SRH project during 3 years.
* Lowest bidder will not be awarded for the project construction, although, construction will be done from competitive bidding process.

As OC was not familiar with the location of The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) office, nor was the cab driver, he had quite tough time to find the office even with the help of map, especially from Gessellchaft Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) office and Gyanodaya School, OC found it finally. OC arrived at the gate of the office of ADRA at enter from it and mentioned to guard, OC has meeting with Mai Ogawa, a project manager. The meeting will start from 2:00 Pm OC added. A male guard with uniform of private security company then asked OC make the registration of name and other details in the register put in the guard room, after registration he gave me ‘visitor pass’ then OC went to the reception, there were two elderly persons sitting and talking to each other. OC greeted them and asked do you know where receptionist is, one of them said, she is somewhere around. OC sat next to them.

After a while a lady came and sat on the reception, OC then informed her he is there to meet MO, project manager; appointment has already taken for it. Listening to OC, she made call MO. Shortly after her call, MO came to see OC. They exchanged greetings and MO asked OC should we move upstairs, OC replied no problem, wherever you like. On the way to upstairs MO asked to OC do you come alone OC answered to her yes, as my colleague has conflicting schedule, he has to attend another meeting starts exactly at the same time as this one does, so he gone for it.

When we reached to her office room, she asked me for drink (tea, coffee and green tea) OC went for coffee in the meantime MO asked her colleague to participate in the meeting/interview. He came from his room and she made him introduced with OC. MO’s colleague Suraj Shrestha, is technical person who has been working in designing and construction of building for health facilities in ADRA’s projects. Currently he is working as a project coordinator for SRH project.

After getting to know with SS, OC very briefly explained about the outline of the project especially for SS because MO was participated in inception workshop she knows more or less about our research project.

OC then requested them to explain about maternal and child health projects under ADRA at different point of time?

MO, we have ongoing project on maternal and child health we called it SRH project, stands for ‘Strengthening Reproductive Health Service Project through Improving Health Facilities and Capacity Building for Medical Service Workers’. This project was started from February 2012 and will end February 2015. She further said the major objective of this project is to improve maternal and neonatal health in Midwestern region of Nepal particularly in three districts (Daileksh, Kalikot and Jajarkot) of the region.

To achieve defined objectives, project has incorporated two components, it works in the improvement of facility also provides training on assisting maternal delivery and birth preparedness to FCHVs she added. They further explained, we aim to construct 17 birthing centers in project areas over the three years of time. On top of contributing in building construction for birthing centers, this project also provides solar system to each constructed birthing centers. On the other hand, in the capacity building part we provide training on assisting maternal delivery and birth preparedness to FCHVs, leadership and management training to district reproductive health coordination committees (DRHCC) in each districts and leadership development training to health facility operation management committee (HFOMC). We not only provide training but also support to training as well. We work with safe motherhood federation network Nepal (SMFNN) as partner NGO to implement programmes at the local level.

Training is provided at three different levels; central district and community level. ADRA Nepal coordinates with government via MoHP at the central level to organize training at the central level. Likewise, to organize training at the district level coordination is done with district level staff while for the community level; it establishes coordination with community health workers and FCHVs.

OC, where did you work before join to this organization? SS before I moved to Germany for my Masters, I had worked on the projects of ADRA in Nepal. It took me two and half years to complete my degree. Then currently I work as project coordinator. MO, I worked in Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) before join to ADRA-Japan. In addition to my language skill, my interest to work in Nepal further derives me to in ADRA-Nepal.

OC, could you please explain to me briefly about your experience of working at different levels. SS, I already exposed to such type of work at the community and district levels I do not have not gone through any challenging situation. I think it would have been difficult for me if I do not have community level knowledge or understanding.

MO, sometimes it is very tough to make understand to donors about the working context of the project, context of Japan and Nepal absolutely differs in many senses, working speed of Nepali bureaucratic system sometime poses a challenging question for timely completion of task. I need to make donors understand about overall context of Nepal. In other words, efficiency is always lacking in terms things get done.

OC can you please explain about the reporting system of your project, MO reporting mechanism is not that though. We have not met any complexities while reporting to donors. Reporting is necessary because donors should pay tax to the government to Japan and need to be accountable to the Japanese people.

OC when did ADRA begin to work in Nepal? Do you have any idea, if you do please explain it briefly?

MO ADRA began its work in Nepal back at 1981, by establishing leprosy center at *Khokana,* Its journey in Nepal was begun from health sector. Then ADRA has supported in different sector of Nepali society such as education, disaster (emergency situation of flood), health (family planning, safe motherhood, uterus prolapsed, there was a hospital in Banepa) and also provide support in livelihood improvement. Over the period of time ADRA-Nepal has been providing support in many sectors of the society that covers from health to livelihood improvement of the community people.

Do you find any influences of national or local politics to your project? If you do, would you mind explaining it in a brief way? MO it does mostly at the local level. For instance in our case, chairperson of our local partner NGO is national political leader of Nepali Congress. So people blame SRH project as project of Congress at the community level but at the central level no any such influences come into play influential role. We establish partnership with NGOs in unbiased manner.

OC How do you identify or select community for intervention? We collect information from different sources like VDC profile, annual report of district health office (DHO) find out the community where services are in actual need then we also coordinate with District Health Officer (DHO) then we will coordinate with local partner NGO for implementation of project at the community.

OC did you have to take any approval for your SRH project? If you did, can you tell it shortly?

MO we registered this project at social welfare council (SWC) then we submitted project proposal along with financial document. Then once SWC approved all the documents submitted to donors again then get final approval for implementation of project.

OC can you explain the monitoring system of your project?

MO and SS we do weekly and monthly monitoring of our project. Weekly monitoring is mostly office based, which explains about the progress or overall current status of the project, while monthly monitoring involves monitoring of the project sites. We called it field monitoring. Topographical complexities or geographical remoteness poses a great challenge to the staff at the time of field monitoring.

The project coordinator monitors at district and community level he then reports to the team leader of the project who is based in the center at Kathmandu and team leader coordinates the project manager, who also based in the center, at the same office at Kathmandu. After finalizing by team leader and project manager at center office, monitoring report goes to donor office at Japan.

SS further added, as building construction is one of the components that we are working on so as to improve the infrastructure of the health facility. We do it in a slightly different way, although we go on competitive bidding we do not award the project to the lowest bidder; thinking that the amount he/she is supposed to invest for the project will not help in quality construction of the building. Likewise, community people create obstacles to the project by demanding employment for them in the construction but most often they are unskilled so which does not make possible to employ as many as they come. If all the people do not get employ then, rest of the unemployed people do not hesitate in creating any challenges or difficulties for halting the project, which not only make the situation chaotic but also make not possible to meet the date line of the project, initially set up.

SS further explained, when some sort of dispute between community people and construction team happened then it often likely turn into a political issue. It is a time taking business to make community people understand the overall idea of project, its goal at one hand and the demands they are asking during the construction phase on the other.

OC could you please explain to me how ‘SRH’ project come to happen in Nepal? MO I think, one; Japan’s interest to support in Asian countries, next, ADRA-Nepal has been our partner organization from more than 20 years now. These are two main reasons how SRH comes in Nepal.

OC how have your working experience been, working together with implementing partners? SS and MO overall it is not so easy to work in collaboration due to many reasons, as we mentioned local political dynamics, so many demands from community people but we have faced any difficulties working with implementing partner so far still, capacity building of the staff of our partner NGOs is a challenging task because there is always room for doubt staffs are building their skills or not working in particular NGO.

OC could you please provide information on the number of staff working at your office, MO we have 8 district level staffs 1 central level staff and 2 Kathmandu based staffs. Altogether 11 full time staffs for SRH project. There are 4 other staffs who contribute certain percentage of their work like (15%) those staffs are looking at monitoring and finance of the project.

OC how funding for the project comes? Would you mind explaining about the difficulty and toughness associated with this process? MO government of Japan and ADRA-Japan are the funders for the SRH project. They have guideline for funding which tells you about their priorities, counties, sectors and other details, on that basis interested organizations go for applying. This application is opened for year round, no specific date line for submission for application.

It is not obviously easy to get fund but not that difficult as well. OC do you mind making it a bit clearer? MO the director of the project SRH project and a person from foreign affairs of Japan has very good relation which make possible for round of consultation with her even before submission of the proposal. Person from foreign affairs trust in the competency and skill of the director of the project over subject matter she has developed over the years.

OC how do you see this project in long run? Even after funding stop coming for it? MO it has been going smoothly. We are doing constantly making the required follow up for it. We are also thinking to make this project more sustainable and want to see functioning even after funding stop coming for it. To make that happen, DHO also involves in the monitoring process of this project, finally we will hand over this project to the existing government system.

OC do you want to tell about training you provide to the people at different levels? MO and SS as we mentioned earlier, we not only provide training and but also support partially for training at the community level.

OC Finally, what has been your lesson learned from SRH project so far? SS and MO, do not award project to the lowest bidder for the construction has been one the lesion for us which think help in quality construction of the building that is necessary for the improvement of the infrastructure of health facility at community level.

With this talk, conversation was concluded, OC then left form the ADRA office by thanking two persons their time and cooperation at the end OC will make further contact, in case of further clarification and more information is needed.