



नेपाल विकास अनुसन्धान प्रतिष्ठान
Nepal Development Research Institute



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Report on CSO Alliance, 2025

Tobacco Control Program III Activities

1st August 2025





धुम्रपान तथा सुर्तीजन्य पदार्थ नियन्त्रण संजाल

“How can we collaborate with local government – My curiosity and experience”



Program Details:



August 1, 2025



7- 8 PM Kathmandu Time



Meeting ID: 972 7305 7108

Passcode: 943404

Organizer:

National Tobacco Control Alliance

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

NDRI:	Nepal Development Research Institute
CBOs:	Community-Based Organizations
NA4TC:	National Alliance for Tobacco Control
TCP:	Tobacco Control Program
CRUK:	Cancer Research UK
FCHV:	Female Community Health Care Volunteer
MOCHEN:	Mother Child Health Nepal
HURDEC:	Human Resource Development Center

Background of Alliance Formation

The National Alliance for Tobacco Control, *acronym* (NA4TC) was established on November 5, 2024, by a team of researchers and experts from the Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) based in Kathmandu, Nepal. The alliance aims to unite NGOs working in tobacco control under one umbrella to foster collaboration and drive meaningful change. This strategic initiative focuses on building an Anti-Tobacco Alliance by identifying, empowering, and mobilizing community-based organizations (CBOs) to effectively advocate for and act on tobacco control. Additionally, the alliance emphasizes maintaining consistent communication and evaluating the impact of its efforts over time to ensure sustained progress. Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung and his team at NDRI, including new member Mr. Parashar Khadka, are actively advancing tobacco control in Nepal through collaboration and coalition-building. Their efforts include organizing key major events and subsequent alliance webinars to promote a tobacco-free nation.

NDRI hosts Webinar on August 1st, 2025: CBO Alliance

Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) successfully organized the third consecutive virtual CSO Alliance webinar under the Tobacco Control Program (TCP III) on August 1, 2025, from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The event, held on an online platform, brought together participants from various community-based organizations (CBOs) to foster collaboration and a shared commitment to tobacco control. This session focused on a unique topic, *“कसरी स्थानीय सरकारसँग सहकार्य गर्न सकिन्छ – मेरो जिज्ञासा तथा मेरो अनुभव”* (in English: How Can We Collaborate with Local Government – My Curiosity and Experience), which deeply engaged the audience. The TCP team, led by Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung and supported by Research Associate Mr. Parashar Khadka, presented key findings along with important tobacco-related facts and figures.

Program Objectives

- Foster collaboration between community-based organizations and local governments to strengthen tobacco control efforts.
- Share knowledge and experiences on effective partnership strategies with local authorities.
- Present and discuss key tobacco-related data, recent policy updates, and enforcement initiatives.
- Promote policy implementation, increase public awareness, and mobilize community health volunteers.
- Encourage youth-centric programs to prevent tobacco-related health hazards and build a tobacco-free Nepal.

Participants

The program was held virtually via the Zoom webinar application, with approximately 20 participants from various organizations. Attendees included internal members of the Tobacco Control Program, such as Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung (Lead, Program Coordinator for the Health, Education, and Environment Program at NDRI) and Mr. Parashar Khadka (Research Associate, Public Health), who is actively involved in the tobacco control network. Other key speakers included Upendra Tamang (HURDEC), Srijana Bashyal (Srijanshil Sanstha, Butwal), Sarita Mahara (Dalit Bikash Manch), Hira Singh Thapa (SOSEC Nepal), and Namaskar Shah (BAS Nepal Center). The main speaker for the session was Mrs. Kabita Khatiwada from Mother Child Health Nepal, who delivered an insightful presentation on the role of local government in strengthening health programs and how communities can benefit from local government support in implementing these initiatives at the community level.

Program Modality

The program was moderated by Mr. Parashar Khadka, Research Associate of the Tobacco Control Program (TCP) at NDRI, who began with a brief introduction to the event. The session started promptly at 7:00 PM Nepal Standard Time. Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung, Lead of the Health, Education, and Environment Program at NDRI, offered a warm welcome and outlined the key agenda, including the main topic of discussion.

The program opened with participant introductions, followed by an insightful presentation from Ms. Kabita Khatiwada of MOCHEN (Mother Child Health Nepal), who emphasized the importance of strengthening partnerships with local governments to support health initiatives. She also highlighted the major achievements and plans of her organization.

Before the presentations, Dr. Jaya shared thought-provoking news updates, including recent measures such as Kathmandu Metropolitan City's Rs. 500 fine for public smoking, the tobacco industry's influence on vape products, and related legal challenges such as stay orders in the Nepalese context. He further noted the import of vape products valued at 6 billion NPR into Nepal, appeals concerning NDRI's work, the resumption of funds related to the Health Tax Fund, potential tobacco tax increases at the local government level, the addition of retailer taxes, and strong enforcement of tobacco sale and purchase regulations in Kankai Municipality, Jhapa. He also mentioned that while Dharan Sub-Metropolitan City, Siddhartha Nagar Municipality, and Biratnagar Metropolitan City have similar regulations, implementation remains inconsistent.

Partnerships

International Partners: Cancer Research UK (CRUK)

National Partners: Ministry of Health and Population, (MOHP) Nepal, National Health education, information and communication Centre (NHEICC), Department of Health Services (DoHS), Health Tax Fund (HTF)

Special Presentation – Mrs. Kabita Khatiwada (Mother and Child Health Nepal)

Mrs. Kabita Khatiwada delivered an insightful presentation on the topic “Controlling Tobacco and Alcohol Consumption through School Health Programs and Local Bodies.” She introduced her ongoing organization, MOCHEN (Mother Child Health Nepal), a local NGO based in Chitwan, Nepal. This organization primarily focuses on maternal health and school health intervention programs, particularly in tobacco control.

Mrs. Khatiwada emphasized the importance of school health programs aligned with local government efforts, noting that such collaboration ensures sustainability and community ownership. She explained that school-based prevention strategies are chosen to deliver age-appropriate health education, promote healthy behaviors, and offer alternatives to tobacco use. The program also engages parents through school meetings and health talks and trains teachers and peer educators to enforce tobacco-free school policies effectively.

She highlighted the roles and responsibilities of local governments, including enacting local bylaws restricting tobacco sales near schools and public areas, organizing tobacco-free celebration weeks at the local level, supporting community health volunteers and outreach workers, allocating budgets for awareness and rehabilitation programs, and collaborating with organizations such as Lions Club International and Rotaract Club. Coordination with local health offices and organizations to monitor school compliance with tobacco-free policies was also underlined.

Mrs. Khatiwada shared key success stories, lessons learned, and replicable models, showcasing schools and municipalities with effective prevention programs. She identified general challenges such as cultural acceptance of tobacco use, limited enforcement capacity at the local level, and lack of trained personnel and resources.

Her recommendations included strengthening policy enforcement and teacher training, increasing budget allocations for school health programs from local to central government levels, and implementing activities such as policy formulation, awareness creation, mobilization of Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) for tobacco awareness, and integrating youth-centric initiatives to create tobacco-free zones

Program Remarks from Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung – Nepal Development Research Institute

Dr. Gurung commended Mrs. Khatiwada and her team for their dedication and perseverance despite challenges arising from funding limitations from local governments and other bodies. He emphasized the importance of engaging with local government authorities before the fiscal year planning to secure special budget allocations for health programs, including tobacco control initiatives, and stressed the need for coordination with Primary Health Centers (PHCs).

He also acknowledged logistical challenges faced by local government health projects, noting instances where salaries for Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) could not be paid due to financial constraints within the projects. Mrs. Khatiwada added that occasionally personal or “pocket” investments are made to sustain the projects, while she stressed that overhead costs and other budgetary needs should ideally be covered by the local government.

Dr. Gurung further highlighted challenges within schools, including cases where some teachers consume tobacco products even while tobacco-related programs are being conducted. He encouraged open communication and proposed organizing webinar calls to discuss any issues or concerns related to the programs.

Key Takeaways from the Program

Here are some key takeaways from the NDRI webinar on August 1, 2025, under the Tobacco Control Program (TCP III):

1. Collaboration with Local Government is Vital

The webinar emphasized effective partnership between community-based organizations (CBOs) and local governments to ensure sustainable tobacco control efforts.

2. School Health Programs as a Strong Prevention Tool

Mrs. Kabita Khatiwada highlighted school-based interventions that deliver age-appropriate health education, engage parents, and train teachers and peer educators to enforce tobacco-free policies.

3. Roles and Responsibilities of Local Governments

Local bodies are crucial for enacting bylaws restricting tobacco sales near schools, supporting community volunteers, allocating budgets for awareness and rehabilitation, and coordinating with health offices and NGOs.

4. Challenges Identified

Funding limitations from local governments, cultural acceptance of tobacco use, lack of trained personnel, enforcement difficulties, and even tobacco use by school teachers during programs were noted as ongoing obstacles.

5. Recommendations for Improvement

Strengthening policy enforcement, enhancing teacher training, increasing budget allocation from local to central government, mobilizing Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs), and integrating youth-centric tobacco-free initiatives were proposed.

6. Funding and Resource Constraints

Dr. Gurung acknowledged logistical issues, including delayed or missing payments for FCHVs, and emphasized the need for early budget planning with local governments.

7. Open Communication and Support through Webinars

To address challenges and share experiences, organizing webinar discussions was suggested as a platform for ongoing support and problem-solving.

8. Success Stories and Replicable Models

The presentation showcased effective school and municipal tobacco prevention programs as examples that can be adapted and scaled across communities.

Annex

Annex 1: List of organizations currently engaged in the CBO alliance

S. N	Name of Organization	Contact Person	Address
1	Ageing Nepal (AN)	Director: Prakash Gautam	Nagarjun - 2, Kathmandu
2	Didi Foundation	Laxmi Koirala	Gothatar, Kathmandu
3	Community human development Centre	Nagendra Prasad Yadav	Rautahat
4	Human Development and Awareness Forum	Binita Panta	Kathmandu
5	public awareness development society Nepal	Ramesh prasad Pandey	baitadi
6	Women Peace Society Nepal	Babita Shahi	Humla
7	Pahal Nepal	Ramesh Shrestha	Arghakhanchi
8	Laligurash community Development Centre	Nilnath Acharya	Uttargaya 5 Rasuwa
9	Helping Hands for Society- Nepal	Yadav Kumar Chhettri	Rautahat
10	Community Initiative Nepal	Ashesh khanal	Kathmandu
11	Shree Adarsh loan and Cooperative SA.LTD	Ram Prasad Mahato	Rautahat
12	Community Improvement Forum-Nepal	Raj Kumar Deuja	Kavrepalanchok
13	Dalit Society Development Centre	Uttam Paswan	Morang
14	Civic Forum for Sustainable Development	Daya Sagar Tamang	Kavrepalanchok
15	Sahamati	Hemant Subedi	Nawalparasi Bardaghat
16	Arpan poverty Alleviation	Arpana Khadka	Kathmandu
17	SOSEC Nepal	Manju Kumari Khadka	Dailekh
18	Creative Institute Nepal (CIN)	Biju Paudel	Rupandehi
19	Sankalpa Darchula Nepal	Narendra Singh Karki	Darchula nepal
20	Aapasi Sahayog Kendra Nepal	Rukum Datta Sharma	Syangja
21	G.T.A. Foundation	Deepak C. Bajracharya	Lalitpur
22	Tulasi Maya Memorial Cancer Relief Foundation	Lila Oli	Kathmandu
23	Hamro Prayas	Kabita Keshari	Bara
24	Single women self-reliance and rehabilitation center	Juhi kumari thakur	saptari
25	Dalit Development Forum	Runa Kumari Mahara	Siraha
26	Dalit Society Welfare Committee Nepal	Mrs. Deji Pandey	Mahottari
27	Community Rural Development Society Nepal (CRDS Nepal)	Prakash Chandra Mishra	Darchula
29	Rural development express Nepal	Netra Prakash Sharma	Salyan
30	Guransh society Nepal	Kalpana kumari Bastola	morang
31	Rural Development & Awareness Society Nepal	Bhim Bahadur Gharti	Rolpa
32	NICE Nepalgunj	Hem Raj Bhatt	Banke
33	protection Nepal	Babita Jayasawal	Bara

34	Chetana Samaj Nepal	Shambhu deep Adhikari	Sindhuli
35	Sankalpa Darchula Nepal	Narendra singh karki	Darchula
36	Bageshori Asal Shasan Club (BAS Nepal)	Luna Budhathoki	Banke
37	Clean and green for peace and development	Gita acharya	Banke
38	Forum for Nation Building Nepal	Nirmal Kumar Upreti	Buddhanagar 10, KTM
39	Health and Education Development Center	Nirmala Kharti	Banke
40	Juneli Nepal	Anjila khadka	Nayabazar, Kathmandu
41	Mother Child Health Nepal	kabita khatiwada	Chitwan
42	Young Professional Development Society Nepal	Ashit B K	Dhumbarahi Kathmandu
43	Humanity Nepal Banke	Madhusuan Adhikari	Banke
44	Rukumeli Social Development Center	Keshan Kumar Kshetreeyal	Rukum West
45	Organization of women scientists in Nepal	Dr. Hemu Kharel Kafle	Bagdol, lalitpur
46	Campaign for Community Communication Nepal (CCN)	Madhavraj Adhikari	Banke
47	Health and Technical Education Development Centre Palpa	Davakala Raut	Palpa
48	Hamro Prayas	Babi Chaudhary	Bara
49	Sundar Nepal Sanstha	Maya Kumari Sapkota	Surkhet
50	Human Right and Environment Development Center	Shankar Bahadur Thapa	Udaypur
51	Human Rights and Community Development Center	Dinesh Kumar Yadav	Saptari
52	Dalit Ethnic Upliftment Center	Babita Devi Ram	Bara
53	Communication Forum, Palpa	Padam Prasad Gaihre	Tansen, Palpa
54	Sabal Nepal	Juna Giri	Saptari
55	Dalit Society Welfare Committee Nepal	Deji Pandey	Mahottari
56	society improvement Program Nepal	Tara Prasad khatri, Shankar prasad Sharma Focal person	Banke
57	Bagmati Welfare Society Nepal	Sujata Kumari Sah	Sarlahi
58	Group for Technical Assistance	Deepak C. Bajracharya	Lalitpur, Nepal
59	Planning development management consultancy service	Naresh Kumar Shrestha	Lalitpur, Nepal
60	YUWA	Sanskriti Pandey	Lazimpat-2, Kathmandu
61	Volunteer Service Nepal	Devendra Subedi	Lalitpur
62	Social Initiative for Good Conduct	Dinesh Pandey	Kailali

Annex 2: Photographs Capturing Key Moments from the Event



Photo 1: Program Banner

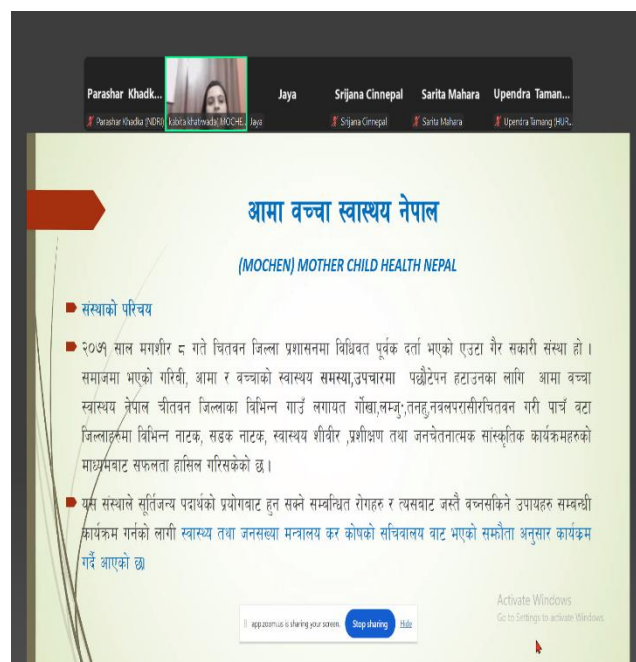


Photo 2: Ms. Kabita Khatiwada delivering a presentation on Local government collaboration by MOCHEN

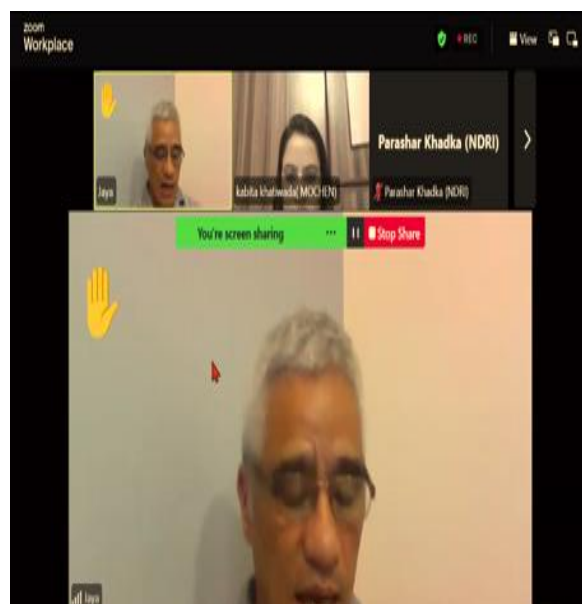


Photo 3: Group Discussion and Q & A Session

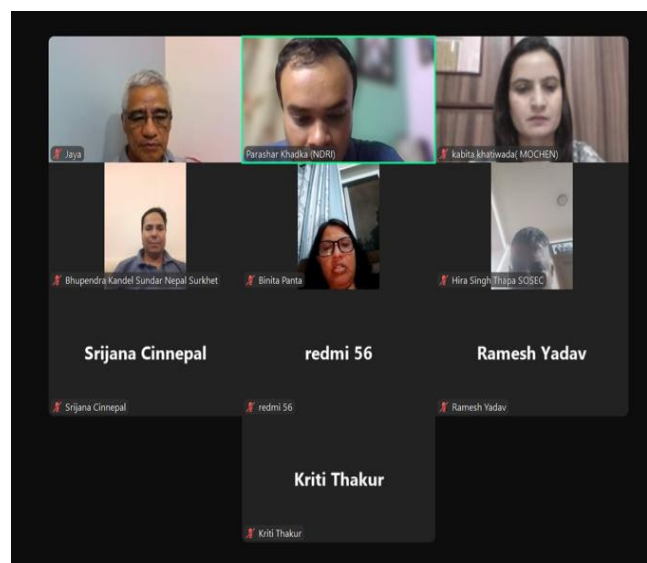


Photo 4: Group Photo of participants