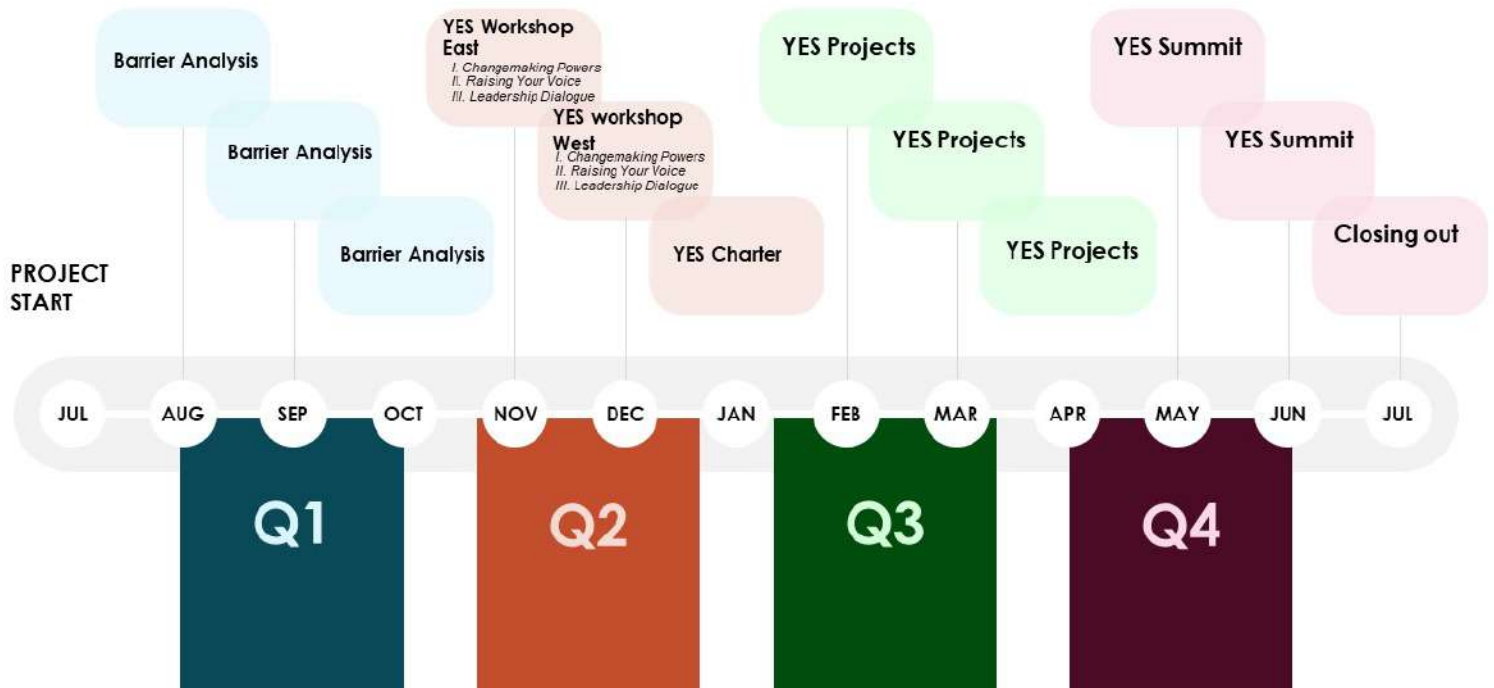


NEPAL: YUVA NETRITWA: PARADARSHI NITI (YOUTH LEADERSHIP: TRANSPARENT POLICY)

Timeline



**NEPAL: YUVA NETRITWA: PARADARSHI NITI (YOUTH LEADERSHIP:
TRANSPARENT POLICY)¹**

Sweep-up Reprogramming to 2020-0010PC

U.S. GRANTEE: **International Republican Institute**

DATES OF PROJECT: **July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022**

AMOUNT REQUESTED:

Direct Cost-----s:	\$266,553
Subgrant:	\$18,000
Indirect Costs:	\$65,447
Total Costs:	\$350,000

This is a “sweep up” reprogramming of funds from 2020-0010PC.

I. SHORT SUMMARY

To strengthen youth political and civic participation as champions for democratic change, the Institute will provide emerging leaders increased opportunities to build momentum for youth activism and put pressure on Nepali political decision-makers to become more transparent, accountable, citizen-centered and responsive to youth concerns in their decisions. The Institute will achieve this through developing networks of youth activists and political leaders and providing them with skills, resources, and platforms to build connections and advocate concerns. IRI will train the youth activists and political leaders to advocate concerns on political turmoil, government corruption and national policymaking manipulated by countries like China and India to political party leaders through advocacy campaigns and protests, urging the government of Nepal to pay more attention to their concerns and promoting democratic reform advocated by the U.S. Then, IRI will be able to build networks of youth leaders who endorse and advocate democratic values of the U.S., and are committed to launch advocacy campaigns on Nepali issues of U.S. concerns.

II. BACKGROUND

Nepal has experienced a range of challenges during its democratic development, including a brutal civil war, transition from a monarchy to a constitutional republic and a devastating earthquake. In the 2017 general elections, the country’s first since the adoption of its new constitution in 2015, two principal left-wing political parties, the Communist Party of Nepal- Unified Marxist-Leninist (CPN-UML) led by KP Sharma Oli and the CPN Maoist Centre (MC) led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal jointly campaigned and won nearly two-thirds of the seats in the Federal Parliament. Following a power-sharing agreement between their leaders, the two parties merged to create the Nepal Communist Party (NCP). The formation of this government was initially welcomed by supporters who hoped it would be a chance for stability after years of short-lived coalition governments. However, internal struggles for power and control of the overall leadership of both the country and the party between Oli and Dahal have impeded the implementation of important governance reforms, including the devolution of power to newly created provinces.

¹ This Nepali phrase translates to “Youth Leadership: Transparent Policy” in English.

The current intraparty conflict between the Oli and Dahal factions of the NCP, exacerbated by Oli's attempt to dissolve the House of Representatives (HoR) and call for snap elections in the spring of 2021, has highlighted how political institutions, including parties, are highly centralized, with top-down governing structures that provide little accountability or space for citizen inputs. Politicians, therefore, have few incentives to adhere to electoral promises or develop governance agendas based on citizens' interests, and instead pursue backdoor agreements and deals to gain or consolidate power. These structures have led to governance that is unaccountable to citizens and have made political leaders more susceptible to manipulation by foreign powers. Such interference is of particular concern in a country like Nepal, which is located between two larger powers – India and China – that frequently manipulate its internal politics for their strategic aims. This lack of accountability and political instability has deepened citizen dissatisfaction and disenchantment with democratic institutions, weakening the democratic fabric of this relatively young democracy and undermining the development of democracy in Nepal that the U.S. advocates.

Despite this backsliding, there are points of democratic resilience in Nepali society. Nepali youth² have recently demonstrated their ability to shape and play a significant role in Nepali politics. The summer of 2020 saw a series of youth-led protests, under the slogan “Enough is Enough.” These protests, focused on the government's ineffective response to the COVID-19 pandemic, were led by and consisted of mostly non-political youth. They called for reforms to improve the efficacy of the government's COVID-19 response, as well as greater transparency around government spending regarding these efforts and investigations into alleged corruption cases. While initially responding with severe crackdowns, the government eventually signed an agreement with youth activists that addressed many of their concerns, including providing free health services for COVID-19 patients.³ The success of these protests stemmed from the ability of youth representing various regions, demographic groups and socioeconomic backgrounds to collectively advocate for responses that addressed their common concerns about the pandemic. To sustain these successes and capitalize on existing political will, young people in Nepal will need more opportunities and platforms to develop extensive, sustainable networks to effectively advocate for common concerns and be successful champions for democratic change supported by the U.S. With these expanded opportunities and access to platforms, Nepali youth can build on this recent momentum and IRI trainings and more cohesively engage with political parties and government officials to effectively champion sustainable citizen-centered governance.

² Youth is defined as individuals under the age of 35. 69% of the Nepali population is under the age of 35. Approximately 41% of the population lies in the 16-40 age group. <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/products/dyb/index.cshhtml>

³ <https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-South-Central/2020/0911/Youth-protests-spur-change-in-Nepal-s-coronavirus-response>

The Emerging Leaders Academy (ELA) is an IRI program that seeks to bring together young civic activists and political leaders with diverse backgrounds and provide them with the skills, platforms, and resources needed to initiate positive change in their communities as candidates, political activists and civic leaders. IRI is currently implementing ELA programs in several Asian countries, including Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and Pakistan.

IRI's proposed project "*Yuva Netritwa:Paradarshi Niti*" will provide the next generation of Nepal's civic and political leaders with opportunities and platforms to develop cohesive and sustainable advocacy networks. This, in turn, will better position them to raise awareness of democratic values and pressure Nepali political institutions and decision-makers to become more accountable, transparent, citizen-centered and responsive to youth concerns. To this end, IRI will implement an Emerging

Leaders Academy (ELA) program. ELA programs implemented elsewhere in Asia, including Sri Lanka and Indonesia have seen success in providing young civic leaders and activists with the skills and knowledge needed to effectively engage with elected representatives, advocate for democratic change, and position themselves to assume leadership positions within their communities and parties. As young people in Nepal are already taking the initiative in demanding greater accountability from political leaders, an ELA program will provide youth leaders with the skills and knowledge to ensure that future advocacy efforts and protests are effective and sustainable enough to encourage more people to engage in democratic change advocated by the U.S.

IRI's ELA program in Nepal will be tailored to fit the Nepali social and political environment. Given the success of youth-led advocacy campaigns over the last year, the program will focus on strengthening networks of youth civic and political leaders, providing them with research and knowledge needed to lead more targeted and sustainable advocacy campaigns and protests, and facilitating platforms where they can spread broader awareness of issues regarding political turmoil, government corruption and national policymaking manipulated by countries like China and India. They can also engage with elected representatives to voice their opposition on the above issues and call for democratic change and inclusive policymaking process. IRI will hold a series of regional workshops to develop networking and advocacy skills for Nepali youth leaders. IRI will work with participants to develop regional and national Youth Charters and will facilitate opportunities for participants to urge provincial and national policymakers to take account of youth opinions on the issues selected by both IRI and participants, ensuring the U.S. concerns with Nepal's democracy to be resolved. Through this project, IRI will also establish and train a network of youth activists who can continue to advance broader goals of improving government accountability and supporting political institutions become more responsive to citizen concerns beyond the life of the project. IRI will continue to work with the network of youth activists and encourage them to lead advocacy campaigns and protests on the issues selected by both IRI and participants. The proposed project will leverage connections with elected representatives and government stakeholders developed through IRI's ongoing USAID programs, which are focused on legislative strengthening at the provincial level and will complement that program's objectives of supporting research-based, citizen-centered legislative policy development and implementation.

IRI will adopt an approach that emphasizes grassroots perspectives and strengthens connections that bridge ethnic, religious and socioeconomic divides. When implementing workshops, roundtables and other program activities, IRI will work to ensure that participants hail from a wide range of ethnic, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds. Program activities will also be informed by public opinion research and analysis, which will enable IRI to better understand how youth engage in the political process, as well as barriers that restrict youth participation and representation.

IRI will provide participants with solutions for overcoming barriers to engage more youth in politics. IRI will also encourage and support participants to strive for higher positions in respective political parties, through which IRI expects to develop a youth network that would voice their opinions and has a say in national decision-making.

IRI's program connects vibrant youth through the network of youth activists and political leaders and provides comprehensive trainings on how to launch advocacy campaigns and protests on issues selected by both IRI and the network to have effect on relevant results or decision-making. The network will become an important force to support U.S. interests in Nepal.

IRI's program is based upon the following theory of change:

IF youth activists gain and apply information about determinants of youth political and civic engagement; and if youth develop networks or coalitions to overcome collective action problems between groups

THEN youth activists will implement more effective and more sustainable advocacy campaigns to be successful champions for democratic change in the country

BECAUSE youth activists will be able to efficiently target outreach and recruitment strategies for youth and develop strategies for engaging decisionmakers. Also, evidence suggests that strongly networked coalitions are more likely to achieve policy goals than loosely networked groups. IRI's programming in Nepal has identified that both Nepali elected and non-elected youth have the will and incentive to engage in politics, however, need opportunities to network and access platforms to effectively advocate for their concerns. IRI's approach of providing already-engaged youth democratic actors with the platforms to build strong networks to elevate their concerns and effectively champion sustainable citizen-centered governance has proven successful in South Asia.

III. OBJECTIVE

To strengthen youth political and civic participation as champions for democratic change through increased opportunities to network and access platforms, and support Nepal to develop into a democratic country recognized by the U.S.

IV. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

Analysis of Barriers to Youth Participation in the Political Process

While survey data exists in Nepal on broad public perceptions of political dynamics, there are few, if any, qualitative targeted assessments of barriers to young people's political participation in Nepal. To address this knowledge gap and inform IRI's targeted effort to empower young people's voices, IRI will partner with a local research firm to conduct a nationwide barrier analysis to identify and evaluate the barriers Nepali youth face while engaging in the political process. If possible, IRI will identify a youth-led or youth-focused organization to conduct

research, to ensure that research is conducted by and for Nepali youth. This analysis will include qualitative public opinion research in the form of focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews with both non-civically engaged youth, as well as youth civic activists, representatives of the youth wings of political parties and politically unaffiliated youth leaders. IRI and its research firm will prioritize looking at the barriers that marginalized youth face in Nepal, as individuals who face intersecting layers of exclusion in their communities are particularly vulnerable to disempowerment. IRI and its research partner will ensure that marginalized voices are represented in the FGDs, including women and ethnic and religious minorities. IRI will facilitate FGDs in each of Nepal's seven provinces and will include participants from a range of socioeconomic, ethnic and religious backgrounds. Moreover, IRI will also ensure that gender parity is maintained when selecting FGD participants.

The FGDs will be supplemented by an analysis of the individual, political and societal barriers to youth political participation and representation. IRI will work with its research partner to adapt IRI's youth barrier analysis methodology utilized in Laos, which accounts for a range of factors, including regulatory frameworks, political culture and the structures of political parties and other institutions. The barrier analysis will also identify skills and knowledge deficiencies that may be preventing youth from more effectively participating in the political process. IRI will also consult with experts from its Center for Insights in Survey Research (CISR) to ensure the methodology is appropriately structured. The analysis will consist of a series of key informant interviews conducted with youth political leaders and activists, including representatives from the youth wings of political parties, politically unaffiliated activists and civil society representatives.

To amplify the impact of the research, IRI will share report findings through numerous channels. IRI and its partners will present and discuss research findings during roundtables and other public events with political party representatives, elected officials and other key stakeholders to raise awareness of youth-related issues and pressure stakeholders to commit to improving youth political participation and representation. IRI will seek to leverage its youth networks such as Generation Democracy to share the findings, as well as U.S. government platforms with high impact like YouthLead and YouthPower.

Emerging Leaders Academy

IRI will launch the Emerging Leaders Academy (ELA) for 30-40 youth participants in the Eastern and Western regions of Nepal.⁴ IRI will specifically solicit applications from young participants in a range of different sectors – including political parties, civil society and the media – recognizing that in the broader youth development community, there is growing evidence and support that cross-sectoral approaches strengthen youth agency and the enable environment for civic and political participation.⁵ IRI will announce a call for participants on various platforms and receive applications from potential youth participants. To ensure equal representation from all backgrounds IRI will develop a selection criteria and the call for participants will be shared with various universities and political party wings. IRI will also

⁴ The Eastern Region cohort will include participants from Bagmati Province and Provinces 1 and 2. The Western Region Cohort will include participants from Gandaki, Lumbini, Karnali, and Sudurphaschim provinces. IRI will also work with a logistics partner in the regions to ensure smooth facilitation of the workshop.

⁵ https://www.cepps.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/CEPPS-Youth-Report-Final_AR_AL.pdf

prioritize gender parity and equal representation from all of Nepal’s various religious and ethnic groups during recruitment and participant selection. In order to ensure this, IRI will leverage connections with local civil society organizations focused on women’s political participation and representation, and inclusion of marginalized populations in the political process to raise awareness of the ELA program and ensure that women and marginalized community members are included.

Youth Empowerment Skills (YES) Workshops

The ELA YES workshops focus on skill development to empower young Nepali leaders with the advocacy campaign and protest skills and network to positively contribute to democratic development in their community. Through the workshops, IRI will provide the ELA cohort with the digital civic advocacy and leadership skills to overcome obstacles to youth engagement in electoral, political and civic processes. After the Barrier Analysis results are finalized, IRI will further refine the workshops to ensure they meet the specific needs of young people to overcome obstacles to political and civic participation.

In addition to skills building, the YES workshop series will serve as a means of forming an ELA network of youth participants in Nepal that can share best practices and lessons learned from program activities and under IRI’s intervention. The program will also be a starting point to bridge the gaps between youth from different sectors, which overtime, will better position young people as active and organized participants in the development processes. To ensure the sustainability of the network, IRI will create a social media page/group for the ELA cohort, which has been a proven mechanism to ensure ongoing engagement.

YES Workshop I: Changemaking Powers (East and West)

The first YES workshop will focus on equipping the ELA cohort with creative ways to be effective changemakers that demands a more just, sustainable and equitable future. Informed by the workshop, participants will be equipped with the tools and platforms needed to conduct clear and cohesive advocacy campaigns and protests that leverage the digital tools to lead organized efforts to promote democratic values.

At the onset of the workshop, the cohort will be introduced to innovative ways to effectively collect data and track community concerns, specifically leveraging digital tools identified by the technical experts in IRI’s Digital Democracy practice. IRI will ensure that the tools selected can be modified to meet youth where they are, including educating the cohort on tools that ensure accessibility for people with disabilities⁶ and including low-bandwidth options like WhatsApp⁷ for individuals that have limited access to the internet. Also, as part of the workshop, IRI will utilize the *Power of Storytelling* curriculum to empower the ELA cohort to find out “what’s your why?”⁸ in addition to learning about effective and concise methods of organizing and telling their story. Building off the impact of previous protests, IRI will also include modules from the *From Protest to Policy: Exploring Pathways to Increase Youth-Led Positive Policy Outcomes* in the

⁶ For example, IRI will explore tools like AudioEye, which is a website accessibility solution, and Rev, which transfers audio and video to text.

⁷ IRI’s Venezuela team, for example, could share how they have used Whatsapp to send out advocacy-related information to vulnerable communities with low internet penetration rates.

⁸ Individuals ‘why’ is the underlying belief, goal or purpose that propels them to do their work and what connects other people to their mission.

workshop. This training was developed by IRI's flagship youth program, Generation Democracy, and explores the ways in which youth have engaged local government representatives to move an issue from protest to policy, including the use of participatory budgeting, town halls and coalition building. To contextualize the toolkit to the Nepali circumstance, IRI will use the youth-led "*Enough is Enough*" and "*Rage Against Rape*" campaigns as examples of how young people effectively engaged with their local government authorities to advocate for issues effective Nepal's young people.

YES Workshop II: Raising Your Voice (East and West)

The second workshop focus on effective communications strategies and leadership skills that will help participants engage with their fellow citizens in their communities. The workshop will begin with a series of "Youth Voices Chats," where participants will hear from successful young activists, civic and political leaders about their personal activists networking and communications, advocacy and protest strategies, such as how to craft and share an effective message for grassroots-level advocacy efforts in Nepal. Building off these conversations, the workshop will then provide tools and methods for participants to effectively broadcast messages of advocacy campaigns and protests on the issues selected by both IRI and participants, highlighting ways to use of social media and other web-based tools can spread messages. By doing so, the remarkable results of the advocacy campaigns and pretests will be known by more and more young people and arouse their interest in participation. This workshop will also include sessions focusing on public speaking, strategic messaging, resource mobilization, advocacy campaign and protest management and effective governance.

YES Workshop III: Leadership Dialogues (East and West)

IRI will facilitate intergenerational dialogues between the participants and local political and civic leaders on current electoral and political issues in Nepal. By engaging in these dialogues, IRI will catalyze youth empowerment and confidence to engage in similarly important conversations following the ELA. Moreover, these intergenerational dialogues will strengthen bonds between youth and political parties, building momentum and support for youth activism in their communities to challenge the status quo and enhance youth involvement in the political process. To complement the intergenerational dialogues, IRI will facilitate a series of "Lightning Talks" where the cohort will share their stories and advocacy and protest messages with regional political party leaders to demonstrate the value of young people's voice in Nepal's civic and political landscape. Leveraging this position, the ELA cohort will end the workshop by discussing the YES charter, which ensure a deeper sense of buy-in from the regional (East and West) political party leaders.

YES Charter

IRI will conduct working sessions with the ELA cohort to develop regional youth charters. Under the instruction of IRI, each region (East and West) will develop their own youth charter that is specific to their regional circumstances. The charter will be formulated through a participatory process that is driven by both IRI and the cohort to sustain the momentum generated by the three workshops. The charter will specifically outline how ELA members will maximize opportunities like leveraging connections and maximizing their changemaking powers to advance youth civic and political participation, representation and leadership at the local and national level, to encourage youth to advocate concerns and protest on issues including political

turmoil, government corruption and national policymaking manipulated by countries by countries like China and India. Once the charter is developed, participants will be expected to collaborate on strategies to share the charter with civic and political leaders apart from the YES workshops. This additional collaboration and teamwork will ensure deepening of the network of youth being formed in this project.

YES Projects: Initiating Change!

After the completion of the workshops, IRI will issue small grants (approximately \$6,000 each) to three teams of two to five participants. These grants will pilot advocacy campaigns or community development programs seeking to raise public awareness of real democratic principles; investigate potential threats to democratic resilience; and improve government accountability and transparency. This approach will allow the youth to pilot initiatives and apply the networks and skills learnt by YES workshops. IRI will ensure participants are sharing their project ideas with external stakeholders that participated in each of the workshops to help inform project designs. IRI will also work toward developing a buy-in with local government officials to implement their participants projects. IRI will prioritize proposals that include women beneficiaries and beneficiaries representing historically marginalized regions, ethnic groups and religious communities.

IRI will adopt a flexible approach to encourage participants to propose both local and national level initiatives. IRI will request groups to propose project ideas and in coordination with its partner will select project winners with clear and defined goals that will yield pragmatic results. Over the remainder of the project year, IRI staff will closely monitor the progress made by the selected groups in achieving the objectives of their small grant funded projects. Participants will be required to provide regular progress reports in addition to submitting deliverables to IRI partner.

Emerging Leaders Academy: International YES Summit

At the conclusion of the program, IRI will organize a two-day International YES Summit in Kathmandu. This event will serve as a concluding summit, which convenes the two cohorts of program participants from Eastern and Western Nepal together with political leaders, media figures, and international youth representatives. The summit will not only showcase program successes, but also serve as an opportunity to develop networks by bringing together generations of national political and civic leaders, YES project teams and international youth leaders.

The summit will include both formal roundtables and seminars with political leaders and activists, and an “Intergenerational Cultural and Political Fair”, which will allow participants to raise awareness and showcase successes in an informal setting. This approach will allow ELA members to apply advocacy and communications skills learned during the training workshops and directly interact with national level political and civic leaders, while simultaneously generating other opportunities to build connections, strengthen networks, and raise awareness of community concerns and issues.

Formal events will include a seminar led by Nepali youth activists and leaders, IRI staff and representatives from other Asian countries, including Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Indonesia. The seminar will focus on successes in Nepal and internationally and will be an opportunity to share

success stories and best practices of advocacy campaigns and protests. Additionally, IRI will organize a workshop with ELA members to develop a National Youth Charter based on cross-cutting themes and issues identified in both regional charters. The summit will conclude with a roundtable with Nepali political and civic leaders and ELA members focused on the Charter. IRI will monitor the number of political leaders who commit to working with youth to achieve the goals outlined in the charter, which will inform future advocacy and protests by ELA members.

Occurring simultaneously, interspersed between formal events, the “Intergenerational Cultural and Political Fair” will take place. This will include various stalls and booths set up by ELA members to showcase findings from YES projects, as well as other cultural activities. Illustratively these activities may include a storytelling event, a mini-documentary premier, role-playing exercises or a poetry slam, amongst other creative methods of engagement. The Fair serves as an opportunity for ELA participants to showcase their projects and raise awareness of real democracy through cultural and non-traditional methods.

Following the conclusion of the summit, IRI will ensure that networks developed through the project will be sustained by establishing Facebook, WhatsApp, and other social media groups. This will ensure that participants maintain connections developed through the program, and continue to share information, advocacy and protest strategies, and maintain continued engagement.

IRI will maintain a flexible approach when organizing and convening the national summit due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In the event that increased COVID-19 rates prevent the summit from being conducted in person, IRI will work to adapt it to a virtual platform. IRI will draw on its experience convening training workshops, roundtables, and other activities on virtual platforms both in Nepal and across South Asia should it be necessary. Budget line items related to in person activities would then be reallocated to small grants projects.

Timeline for proposed activities

NEPAL: YUVA NETRITWA: PARADARSHI NITI (YOUTH LEADERSHIP: TRANSPARENT POLICY)



I. EVALUATION PLAN

Objective: To strengthen youth political and civic participation as champions for democratic change through increased opportunities to network and raise awareness of key issues, and support Nepal to develop into a democratic country recognized by the U.S.

- Nepali youth participants self-report utilizing research conducted by the program when interacting with their communities, political party members and government officials via social media, in person or at the summit. IRI will monitor the number of times the research was referenced through quarterly surveys with the participants.
- ELA participants develop a virtual network of youth activists as evidenced by the number of digital engagements among participants following the workshop series. IRI will monitor the instances of digital engagements by tracking the number of posts, likes, and shared within the ELA Facebook page. In addition to this figure, IRI will track instances of online and cellular communication (WhatsApp, SMS text, and phone calls) through quarterly follow-up interviews with participants. Then, IRI will know whether the participants continuously apply networks and skills from various workshops to conduct advocacy campaigns and protests.
- Following the ELA workshops, participants develop a network of youth activists as evidenced by the number of digital engagements among participants following the workshop series. IRI will monitor the instances of digital engagements by tracking the number of posts, likes, and shared within the ELA Facebook page. In addition to this, IRI will track instances of online and cellular communication (WhatsApp, SMS text, and call) through quarterly follow-up interviews with participants.
- ELA participants gain networking and advocacy skills as demonstrated by the number of participants who self-report skills gained through the program. IRI will assess skills gained through a survey administered to participants after completion of the small grants project.
- ELA participants conduct community outreach as evidenced by the number of citizens

engaged through the small grants projects. IRI will track the number of citizens engaged through quarterly progress reports submitted by ELA participants.

- Political and civic leaders demonstrate support for youth policy priorities by becoming a signatory to the youth charter. IRI will monitor the number of political and civic signatories to the youth charter and will conduct interview with signatories to understand unexpected outcomes of the youth charter.

VI. ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

IRI is a nonprofit organization founded in 1983 that advances freedom and democracy worldwide by developing political parties, civic institutions, open elections, democratic governance and the rule of law. IRI has conducted programs in more than 100 countries and is currently active in more than 80 inclusive of its Women's Democracy Network and Generation Democracy programs. IRI receives funding through grants from the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development, the National Endowment for Democracy, European foundations and aid agencies and the United Nations.

IRI initiated work in Nepal in 2018 under its USAID-funded *Niti Sambat* program, focused on improving policy development and legislative research capacity at both the national and provincial levels and strengthening linkages between Federal and Provincial officials within the newly federalized system. IRI's Center for Global Impact (CGI) has also been implementing a NED-funded project which is providing selected subnational government actors a better understanding of the political economy factors. These factors impact effective political decentralization and pilot interventions that can help government actors become more accountable to citizens. IRI has 35 years of experience in conducting inclusion programming that aims to increase youth and other marginalized groups' political participation, leadership, and representation in decision-making bodies. Through IRI's Generation Democracy program, the Institute has vast experience in supporting young changemakers to forge alliances to build more resilient, inclusive and transparent democracies. IRI has also launched the ELA in Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Indonesia, through which it supports young democratic actors advocate for their concerns and priorities.

VII. NED FUNDING HISTORY

None.

VIII. BUDGET

A budget in the amount of \$350,000 and budget notes are attached.

NEPAL: YUVA NETRITWA: PARADARSHI NITI (Youth Leadership: Transparent Policy)

NED Sweep-Up Funds

U.S. GRANTEE:	International Republican Institute
PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:	July 01, 2021 to June 30, 2022
Direct Costs:	\$266,553
Subgrant:	\$18,000
Indirect Costs:	\$65,447
Total Costs:	\$350,000

Description	Amount	Rate/Percent	Unit	Number	Total
PERSONNEL					
Washington DC Staff					
Daily Rate					
Technical Area Specialists					
Center for Insights in Survey Research (CISR)	\$314.18	5%	day	14	\$4,398.45
Evidence & Learning Practice Specialist	\$171.23	2%	day	4	\$684.90
Program Support Staff					
Program Division Leadership	\$387.00	2%	day	5	\$1,935.00
Program Manager	\$231.84	10%	day	25	\$5,796.00
Program Officer	\$221.00	30%	day	77	\$17,017.00
Program Associate Staff	\$134.38	27%	day	70	\$9,406.60
Program Services Staff	\$242.61	20%	day	51	\$12,433.73
<i>Total Personnel</i>					\$51,671.68

FRINGE BENEFITS					
Fringe Benefits				46.83%	\$24,197.85
<i>Total Fringe Benefits</i>					\$24,197.85

SPACE & UTILITIES					
Office Administrative Costs (Rent, Utilities, Internet, Maintenance, Delivery)	Unit Cost	Percentage			
	\$2,500.00	48%	quarter	4	\$4,833.33
<i>Total Space & Utilities</i>					\$4,833.33

SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT					
CCN Computer and Laptop	\$1,903.60	100%	unit	1	\$1,903.60
Monthly Office Supplies (Field Office)	\$40.00	48%	unit	12	\$232.00
Monthly Office Supplies (DC)	\$120.00	17%	unit	12	\$245.08
<i>Total Supplies & Equipment</i>					\$2,380.68

COMMUNICATIONS & POSTAGE					
<i>Total Communications & Postage</i>					\$0.00

TRAVEL**International Travel**

1 Field Staff Consultation Visits to HQ					
Senior Program Manager (Kathmandu-Washington, D.C.)	\$2,500.00	50%	RT	1	\$1,250.00
Per diem (lodging and M&IE)	\$333.00	50%	days	7	\$1,165.50
M&IE @ 75% for the first and the last day of travel	\$57.00	50%	travel day	2	\$57.00
Airport Transportation (1 staff)	\$20.00	50%	RT	1	\$10.00
2 HQ Monitoring Travel Program Staff					
Washington D.C. to Kathmandu (2 staff)	\$2,500.00	50%	RT	2	\$2,500.00
Per diem (lodging and M&IE) (2 staff x 7 days)	\$319.00	50%	days	14	\$2,233.00
M&IE @ 75% for the first and the last day of travel (2 staff)	\$86.25	50%	travel day	4	\$172.50
Visa and Other Immigration Expenses (2 staff)	\$30.00	50%	trip	2	\$30.00
Airport Transportation (2 staff)	\$150.00	50%	RT	2	\$150.00
3 HQ Technical Support Travel Program Staff					
Washington D.C. to Kathmandu (2 staff)	\$2,500.00	100%	RT	2	\$5,000.00
Per diem (lodging and M&IE) (2 staff x 13 days)	\$319.00	100%	days	26	\$8,294.00
M&IE @ 75% for the first and the last day of travel (2 staff)	\$86.25	100%	travel day	4	\$345.00
Visa and Other Immigration Expenses (2 staff)	\$30.00	100%	trip	2	\$60.00
Airport Transportation (4 staff)	\$150.00	100%	RT	2	\$300.00
4 Summit Regional Leaders Travel					
Airfare (region - Kathmandu) (4 regional leaders)	\$800.00	100%	RT	4	\$3,200.00

Per diem (lodging and M&IE) (4 regional leaders x 2 days)	\$319.00	100%	days	8	\$2,552.00
M&IE @ 75% for the first and the last day of travel (4 regional leaders)	\$86.25	100%	travel day	8	\$690.00
Visa and Other Immigration Expenses	\$30.00	100%	trip	4	\$120.00
Airport Transportation (4 regional leaders)	\$20.00	100%	RT	4	\$80.00
International Travel Total					\$28,209.00
Domestic Airfare outside of the U.S.					
1 Staff Travel - Workshops (East)					
Airfare (Kathmandu - Eastern region) (3 staff)	\$92.00	100%	RT	3	\$276.00
Per diem (lodging and M&IE) (3 staff x 2 days)	\$243.00	100%	days	6	\$1,458.00
M&IE @ 75% for the first and the last day of travel (3 staff)	\$67.50	100%	travel day	6	\$405.00
Airport Transportation (3 staff)	\$20.00	100%	RT	3	\$60.00
2 Staff Travel - Workshops (West)					
Airfare (Kathmandu - Western region) (3 staff)	\$148.00	100%	RT	3	\$444.00
Per diem (lodging and M&IE) (3 staff x 2 days)	\$243.00	100%	days	6	\$1,458.00
M&IE @ 75% for the first and the last day of travel (3 staff)	\$67.50	100%	travel day	6	\$405.00
Airport Transportation (3 staff)	\$20.00	100%	RT	3	\$60.00
3 Expert Trainer Travel - Workshops (East)					
Airfare (Kathmandu - Eastern region) (5 trainers)	\$92.00	100%	RT	5	\$460.00
Lodging (5 trainers x 2 days)	\$153.00	100%	days	10	\$1,530.00
Airport Transportation (5 trainers)	\$20.00	100%	RT	5	\$100.00
4 Expert Trainer Travel - Workshops (West)					
Airfare (Kathmandu - Western region) (5 trainers)	\$148.00	100%	RT	5	\$740.00
Lodging (5 trainers x 2 days)	\$153.00	100%	days	10	\$1,530.00
Airport Transportation (5 trainers)	\$20.00	100%	RT	5	\$100.00
Domestic Airfare outside of the U.S. Total					\$9,026.00
Other					
Headquarter Taxis	\$30.00	100%	RT	6.00	\$180.00
Taxis (Kathmandu)	\$20.00	100%	RT	13.00	\$260.00
Other Total					\$440.00
Total Travel					\$37,675.00

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

Field Office Staff					
	Monthly Rate				
Senior Program Manager	\$2,677.00	20%	month	12	\$6,424.80
Program Officer	\$1,300.00	100%	month	12	\$15,600.00
Program Associate	\$1,100.00	25%	month	12	\$3,300.00
Finance Manager	\$1,499.85	48%	month	12	\$8,699.13
Office Driver	\$352.39	48%	month	12	\$2,043.86
Severance	\$577.44	48%	month	12	\$3,349.13
Health Insurance	\$2,656.33	48%	salaries	1	\$1,283.89
Accidental Insurance	\$1,561.29	48%	salaries	1	\$754.62
Field Office Staff Total					\$41,455.44
Contracts					
Legal Services	\$170.00	100%	hourly	10	\$1,700.00
Translator (2 translators x 6 days)	\$200.00	100%	day	12	\$2,400.00
Field Audit and Accounting Service	\$2,000.00	50%	agreement	1	\$1,000.00
Global Security Team	\$750.00	100%	day	1	\$750.00
Youth-Focused Research	\$30,000.00	100%	contract	1	\$30,000.00
Contracts Total					\$35,850.00
Total Contractual					\$77,305.44

CONSULTANTS and TRAINERS

Expert Trainers - Advocacy Development and Youth Focused Workshops (5 trainers x 6 days)					
	\$200.00	100%	day	30	\$6,000.00
Consultant for Training Content Development					
	\$200.00	100%	day	8	\$1,600.00
Local Facilitator for ELA Workshops					
	\$60,000.00	100%	contract	1	\$60,000.00
Total Consultants & Trainers					\$67,600.00

OTHER DIRECT COSTS

Field Office Administrative Costs					
Printing and Copying	\$60.00	100%	quarter	4	\$240.00

Bank Fees	\$36.00	100%	month	12	\$432.00
Program Public Communication Materials	\$216.86	100%	annual	1	\$216.86
Field Office Administrative Costs Total					\$888.86
<i>Total Other Direct Costs</i>					\$888.86
SUBAWARDS					
Small Grants Projects	\$6,000.00		subaward	3	\$18,000.00
<i>Total Subawards</i>					\$18,000.00
Total Direct Costs					\$284,552.84
INDIRECT COST					
Indirect Exclusions					
Total Amount Subject to Indirect				23.00%	\$284,552.84
Total Indirect Costs					\$65,447.15
TOTAL COSTS					\$350,000.00

BUDGET NOTES**INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE****YUVA NETRITWA: PARADARSHI NITI (YOUTH LEADERSHIP: TRANSPARENT POLICY)****July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022****Acronyms**

Abbreviation/Acronym	Full Name
IRI	International Republican Institute
CCN	Cooperating Country Nationals
CISR	Center for Insights in Survey Research
ELP	Evidence & Learning Practice
FAS	Fixed Amount Subaward
IT	Information Technology
LOE	Level of Effort
LQA	Living Quarters Allowance
M&IE	Meals & Incidentals
NICRA	Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
PA	Program Associate
PD	Program Director
PM	Program Manager
PO	Program Officer
HQ	Headquarters
RPD	Resident Program Director
SA	Senior Advisor
SPA	Senior Program Associate
SOW	Scope of Work
TBD	To Be Determined
BRIDGE	Building Resiliency for Interconnected Democracies in Global Environments
ELA	Emerging Leaders Academy

Executive Summary

The International Republican Institute (IRI) submits a proposal for Yuva Netritwa: Paradarshi Niti (Youth Leadership: Transparent Policy) to be implemented from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. The total requested amount is \$350,000.

The budget presents costs based on the expected program components, proposed program activities, and IRI's knowledge of the local market.

The budget is structured in the following manner:

- Detailed IRI Budget: line-item analysis of all costs;

Program implementation will be managed from IRI's office in Kathmandu with the management and administrative support from IRI Headquarters in Washington D.C.

Project Summary

IRI's proposed project "Yuva Netritwa: Paradarshi Niti" will provide the next generation of Nepal's civic and political leaders with opportunities and platforms to develop cohesive and sustainable advocacy networks. This, in turn, will better position them to raise awareness of real democracy and pressure Nepali political institutions and decision-makers to become more accountable, transparent, citizen-centered and responsive to youth concerns. To this end, IRI will implement an Emerging Leaders Academy program. IRI will hold a series of regional workshops to develop networking and advocacy and protest skills for Nepali youth leaders. IRI will work with participants to develop regional and national Youth Charters, and facilitate opportunities for participants to urge provincial and national policymakers to take account of youth opinions on the issues selected by both IRI and participants, ensuring the U.S. concerns with Nepal's democracy to be resolved.

IRI will adopt an approach that emphasizes grassroots perspectives and strengthens connections that bridge ethnic, religious and socioeconomic divides. When implementing workshops, roundtables and other program activities, IRI will work to ensure that participants hail from a wide range of ethnic, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds. Program activities will also be informed by public opinion research and analysis, which will enable IRI to better understand how youth engage in the political process, as well as barriers that restrict youth participation and representation.

IRI will provide participants with solutions for overcoming barriers to engage more youth in politics. IRI will also encourage and support participants to strive for higher positions in respective political parties, through which IRI expects to develop a youth network that would voice their opinions and has a say in national decision-making.

IRI's program connects vibrant youth through the network of youth activists and political leaders and provides comprehensive trainings on how to launch advocacy campaigns and protests on issues selected by both IRI and the network to have effect on relevant results or decision-making. The network will become an important force to support U.S. interests in Nepal.

The program will benefit the following number of participants/beneficiaries:

Year	Participant/Beneficiary
Year 1	60-70

Cost Approach Overview

IRI bills staff salaries for HQ and field program staff based on actual time worked as evidenced by timesheets.

IRI allocates administrative field office costs, such as rent, telecommunication, field program services staff salaries, and other shared field office expenses among IRI's active programs in country proportionally based on the timesheets of local program staff. As such, budgeted costs are allocated based on program staff level of effort (LOE). Costs that cannot be based on timesheets or are deemed to be equally beneficial to all projects are allocated evenly across those projects.

Cost Category	Proposed Cost
Personnel	\$51,671.68
Fringe Benefits	\$24,197.85
Space & Utilities	\$4,833.33
Supplies & Equipment	\$2,380.68
Communications & Postage	\$0
Travel	\$37,675.00
Contractual Services	\$77,305.44
Consultants & Trainers	\$67,600.00
Other Direct Costs	\$888.86
Subawards	\$18,000.00
Indirect	\$65,447.15
Grand Total	\$350,000

Commitment to Cost Efficiency and Cost Realism

IRI has taken into consideration operational, technical, and managerial risks by assessing all costs and regularly updating the costs of goods and services in the market it operates. To use program resources more efficiently, IRI does not open a stand-alone office for each individual award implemented in Nepal. Instead, IRI operates a single office reducing administrative burden on awards and maximizing on the ground investment into programming. Additionally, IRI is committed to cost efficiency and plans to utilize Nepali trainers during the workshops to lower travel costs that would otherwise be incurred with international trainers.

IRI conducts a careful cost analysis for every proposal to maximize return on our and the NED's investment. We developed the cost application for Yuva Netritwa: Paradarshi Niti using the most recent market research information collected through financial data from the existing programs in Nepal.

Personnel

IRI uses actual gross salaries for known Washington, D.C.-based staff.

Washington, D.C. Staff

Technical Area Specialists

CISR Senior Director

The CISR Senior Director will provide technical guidance for the focus group discussions. The CISR Senior Director will implement qualitative research best practices to ensure that the focus

group discussion guide accurately captures respondents' opinions. The CISR Senior Director will validate the focus group methodology and provide interview protocol guidance to the selected data collection firm. The CISR Senior Director will also provide technical guidance for instrument design and analysis and perform a final methodological review of all deliverables for this project.

CISR Coordinator

The CISR Coordinator supports the research team on all aspects of administration and operations. He/she will lead the procurement process, developing the scope of work in coordination with the program team and the CISR Senior Director, posting the solicitation, and convening the technical review committee. The Coordinator will manage contractual oversight and arrange payments for research deliverables as agreed.

Evidence & Learning Practice Specialist

This ELP Specialist will assist program staff with monitoring and evaluation processes throughout the lifecycle of the project including funder report review and consultations. This staff member will assist in the development of monitoring and evaluation methodology. The ELP Specialist will review progress toward IRI's objectives and evaluation points and provide guidance to the program team on questions as they arise.

Program Support Staff

Program Division Leadership

Program Division Leadership will provide strategic guidance and oversight to program implementation in accordance with the award. Leadership will provide top-level oversight for the documentation and evaluation of each activity and program reporting. The Division Leadership will also supervise Washington, DC-based program staff. In this capacity, IRI anticipates Program Division Leadership's LOE to be two percent during this period of performance.

Program Manager

The Program Manager (PM) will have managerial responsibility for supporting program activities and meeting requirements of the award. The PM will contribute to timely and sound program implementation, working with Washington, DC-based colleagues to ensure detailed performance monitoring and reporting to improve project implementation. The PM will review draft programmatic deliverables including biannual and final reports. The PM's anticipated LOE is based on number of days dedicated to this project and divided across all projects worked on in South Asia.

Program Officer

The Program Officer (PO) will have primary responsibility for supporting program activities and meeting requirements of the award. In addition to contributing to timely and sound program implementation, the PO will work with the field and DC-based colleagues to ensure detailed performance monitoring and reporting, to provide results data and improve project implementation. The PO is expected to draft programmatic deliverables including biannual and final reports. In addition, the PO will coordinate with field staff to ensure program objectives are

achieved in the joint and provincial workshops. LOE is based on number of days dedicated to this project and divided across all projects worked on in South Asia.

Program Associate Staff

Program Associate Staff will work in close cooperation with Kathmandu and headquarters staff to organize program activities. The Program Associate (PA) will mainly provide administrative and programmatic support to the PO, including report drafting, drafting procurement related documents and other administrative matters. The PA will also support the PO in contributing to biannual and final reports to the funder. The PA's anticipated LOE is based on number of days dedicated to this project and divided across all projects worked on in South Asia.

Program Services Staff

Program services staff including but not limited to Procurement Administrator, Program Accountants, and Technology Staff Members. Salaries of Program Service Staff directly involved in program implementation are allocated between projects and overhead cost pools based on the actual time worked as evidenced by timesheets. Program Services Staff charge time directly to programs when working on tasks benefiting a specific program or program objectives. Following are examples of tasks performed by Program Services Staff: preparation of subawards and procurement solicitations, drafting and approval of subawards and contracts, processing payments to contractors and subawardees, review of field office financial reports, review of expense reconciliations, procurement of IT equipment, setting up of new field offices, and upgrading field office equipment.

HR will charge directly to the program budget when recruiting or on-boarding new hires for projects or when reviewing, researching, and editing employment contracts for field office local staff or Employee Handbooks for CCNs that outline the policies and procedures in accordance with the local labor laws of the country and comply with the mandated benefits.

The budgeted number of days for Program Services Staff is based on the internal assessment of daily tasks such as field office financial report reviews and historical average.

Fringe Benefits

IRI's provisional fringe benefit rate is negotiated with IRI's cognizant Federal Agency, the USAID as part of the Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA). The current fringe benefit rate is 46.83 percent of total salaries for U.S. full-time employees. The fringe benefit applies to all salaries for the Washington D.C. staff salaries. The fringe benefit rate does not apply to the salaries of the CCN staff.

Space & Utilities

Office Administrative Costs (Rent, Utilities, Internet, Maintenance):

IRI operates a shared office space with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and reimburses NDI for its previously agreed upon percentage of the rent and utilities of this office space. As such, IRI contributes 5.86% of monthly rental and utilities paid to NDI on a quarterly basis. Corresponding costs have been budgeted accordingly.

Supplies & Equipment

IRI does not plan to procure any equipment as defined by 22CFR200, whichever applies. IRI will seek funder approval if the need for such procurement arises.

CCN Computers and Laptops

IRI will onboard a CCN Program Officer for this project IRI purchases computers and laptops for CCN staff locally. As result of that, IRI is not always able to purchase the Dell Latitude Ultrabook's, E7480 and E7280 models as these models may not be available in the country. The budgeted unit cost includes laptop (\$1,535.12), one monitors (\$188.49), WD15 docking station (\$149.99), keyboard and mouse set (\$30.00). The unit cost is determined based on the current pricing set based on the average between the supplier of IRI computers in Washington DC area and field costs. costs for a laptop/computer, monitor, docking station, one monitor, keyboard and mouse set.

Monthly Office Supplies (Field)

IRI has budgeted \$40 a month for specific program supplies and materials such as office supplies, briefing materials, and other program supply related costs. Based on IRI's past experience and number of staff on the program, IRI approximated the monthly cost of office supplies such as stationery and paper. The amount budgeted is based on the estimated monthly cost and the duration of the program.

Monthly Office Supplies (DC)

IRI has budgeted up to \$120 per month for related program supplies and materials at IRI HQ. IRI has approximated these costs based on number of staff on the program and similar expenses incurred in the past. The amount budgeted is allocated in accordance with the number of HQ staff working on this program.

Travel

IRI budgets for Fly America Act-compliant, economy class, round trip, international airfares using the average between the fully unrestricted fares and advance-purchase fares with some restrictions, as provided and confirmed by its travel management company. Airfare costs are based on the average price for a given route during 2021 fiscal year.

Per diem rates are based on the current listings from the U.S. Department of State's Standard Regulations for Maximum Travel Per Diem Allowances for Foreign Areas. The budget also accounts for a reduced allowance rate of 75% of meals and incidental allowance on travel days. Per Diem is not provided for expatriate home leave trips. If all meals for an event are/were paid for by IRI, the traveler is reimbursed for incidental expenses only. Regional and Program Directors/Deputies can also elect to provide all meals/full board and no M&IE for event days to the event attendees excluding IRI expatriate, Headquarters, and field staff.

Visa/immigration costs are based on the current cost of entry into the country of travel. Budgeted visa/immigration costs may also cover the annual cost of work permits for expatriate staff, if applicable.

Airport transportation costs are based on the market costs for roundtrip taxi fare from downtown

Washington, DC to the Dulles International Airport.

Field Staff Consultation Visit to HQ

IRI has budgeted for one consultation visit for the SPM to travel to Washington, DC for seven days, in order to collaborate with DC-based staff on program approach and to meet with funder personnel for briefings on program implementation. This visit will contribute to providing improved coordination on program implementation.

HQ Monitoring Travel for Program Staff

IRI has budgeted for two DC-based staff members to travel to Nepal during the course of this program. During this trip, these individuals will provide oversight, meet key stakeholders and ensure that the field office runs smoothly. IRI has budgeted for seven days in Kathmandu for each staff member, with additional domestic travel budgeted separately.

HQ Technical Support Travel for Program Staff

IRI has budgeted for two DC-based staff members to travel to Nepal during the course of this program. During this trip, both staff members will provide oversight and technical support for activities such as roundtables with the parties and workshops under the Emerging Leaders Academy. Each staff member will stay in Nepal for thirteen days to assist with activities.

Summit: Leaders Synergy (Youth, Civic and Political Leaders)

IRI will organize a two-day symposium in Kathmandu. IRI has budgeted three trips for four youth leaders from the Asia region to speak at the symposium. These youth leaders will act as volunteer trainers, as they will be ELA alumni who can share the lessons they learned with the participants in Nepal. Airfare costs are based on historical rates and per diem is based on State Department rates. The youth leaders will stay in Kathmandu for the two-day duration of the symposium on a tourist visa, which was budgeted for according to the government of Nepal's immigration website.

ELA Advocacy Development and Networking Workshops

Two sets of two-day workshops will take place, with one being in the Eastern region of Nepal and the other in the Western region of Nepal. Roundtrip airfare is budgeted based on an average of market rates to major cities in each region.

IRI has budgeted for three field staff to attend the workshops in the East and the workshops in the West. All three staff members will stay in the region for the duration of each set of the workshops, for a total of two days in the East and two days in the West. Staff will attend the workshops to facilitate the events and ensure proper monitoring. Per diem is based on State Department rates and airport transportation is based on historical rates.

IRI has budgeted for five expert trainers to attend all the workshops. IRI has included lodging costs for all five trainers to stay in the Eastern city for two days and in the Western city for two days. Lodging costs are based on Department of State rates. Airport transportation has been budgeted for based on historical rates.

Headquarters Taxis

IRI has budgeted for headquarters taxis to account for in-person meetings that will take place with donors and other stakeholders. Because in-person meetings will likely begin taking place at the end of 2021, IRI has estimates that six roundtrips within Washington, D.C. will be necessary. The budgeted amount is based on market costs.

Contractual Services

Field Office Staff

Senior Program Manager

The Senior Program Manager (SPM) will be responsible for coordinating, implementing, and managing all IRI operations and logistics in the field, providing information for and contributing to program reports, and liaising between field operations and headquarters on all program matters. As such, the corresponding gross salary is budgeted at 20 percent.

Program Officer

The PO will be responsible for coordinating, implementing, and managing all IRI operations and logistics in the field, providing information for and contributing to program reports, and liaising between field operations and headquarters on all program matters. The PO will also lead monitoring and evaluation efforts in the field, particularly in regard to collecting post-activity evaluation reports. The PO's payment is their gross salary and is based on the anticipated LOE toward this project. The PO will be onboarded prior to the start of this project.

Program Associate

The Program Associate (PA) will work in close coordination with headquarters-based staff to organize program activities. The PA will mainly provide technical and programmatic support to the SPM and PM, including report drafting, drafting procurement related documents, coordinating IRI staff and trainer travel and other administrative matters. IRI anticipates onboard the PA before the start of this project. The budgeted time is based on anticipated LOE toward this project.

Finance Manager

The Finance Manager will oversee financial management of the program, ensure compliance with U.S. and local government regulations and monitor accounting procedures for the field office. The Finance Manager directly charges their time to the project when conducting project specific tasks such as processing payments, reviewing financial reporting and reviewing reconciliations submitted by the staff working on the project. The budgeted time is allocated based on average LOE of local program staff.

Office Driver

IRI employs an Office Driver to assist with day-to-day running of its shared office. This individual also provides driving services on as-needed basis. The budgeted time is allocated based on LOE of all local staff who will be working on this program.

Severance

Severance payments are calculated in compliance with local Nepali labor law, with one month's salary paid for each year of each employee's service. The budgeted amount includes severance for all five field staff and is allocated based on their LOE.

Health Insurance

IRI has budgeted for health insurance based on the current annual contractual rate it has negotiated for. The current insurance plan provides coverage to four staff, up to NPR 1,000,000 per staff member. One more field staff will be hired by the start of the program, and insurance costs were budgeted accordingly. Budgeted amounts are based off average historical costs per employee.

Accidental Insurance

In addition to health insurance, IRI has also negotiated an annual rate for accidental insurance. The current accidental insurance plan covers four staff members, at up to NPR 5,000,000 per staff member. Since IRI plans to onboard one more field staff member by the start of the program, accidental insurance costs were budgeted based on annual historical averages per employee.

Field Office Benefits/Taxes

Taxes and gratuity are calculated in compliance with Nepali labor law, with contributions to the Provident Fund at 10 percent of monthly income and gratuity at 8.33 percent of monthly income. All taxes and gratuity are included in field staff's gross monthly salary and therefore not included as a separate line item in IRI's budget.

Contracts*Legal Services*

IRI budgets for funds required for legal costs incurred as part of program implementation. IRI field offices are required to establish relationship with in-country legal counsel to obtain consultations on local legal requirements. IRI may utilize the in-country legal counsel for consultations on local labor and tax requirements, immigration regulations, local staff employment templates, mandatory benefits per the local labor law and other legal inquiries that may arise.

Translator

IRI has budgeted for basic translation services as translation may be required for specific workshops and other handout materials. Translator costs are based on existing contracts for translation services.

Field Audit and Accounting Service

According to IRI policy, the budget allocates funds for program audit expenses to cover audit costs conducted by an independent CPA firm or IRI Headquarters staff. These funds also may be used to seek consultations from local accounting firms on topics such as local tax and income taxes. The amount budgeted is based on historical rates.

Global Security Team

Following procurement standards set by 2 CFR 200, IRI has contracted a professional security team to provide a variety of ongoing security services, including developing and maintaining organizational policies and procedures for safety and security management, providing technical advice and support to country offices and off-shore programs in the implementation of security

management frameworks, providing ongoing global threat monitoring and reporting, conducting pre-travel risk briefings, and facilitating the training and capacity building of staff taking into consideration the unique needs of every country in which IRI operates. The number of days budgeted for the security team is reflective of the operational risk rating of the country, the current security protocols and plans in place in the field office, and the risk level of proposed activities as well as the amount, complexity and frequency of IRI activity in that country. The budgeted rate is based on the existing contract with this consultant is allocated entirely to the proposed program.

Youth-Focused Research

IRI has budgeted for a contract with a research firm. The research firm will conduct focus group discussions and an analysis to determine the barriers Nepali youth face while engaging in the political process. The budgeted amount is based on current market rates.

Consultants & Trainers

Expert Trainers for ELA Advocacy Development and Networking Workshops

IRI has budgeted for four expert service contracts with five expert trainers. Each trainer will be leading workshops in the East and West. The budgeted daily rate is based on historical costs for similar services. IRI foresees each trainer spending four days leading workshops and two days preparing materials for the workshops.

Consultant for Training Content Development

IRI has budgeted for one consultant to develop training content for the ELA workshops. Because similar workshops will occur in both the Eastern and Western regions, IRI estimates that the consultant will require eight days of work to complete the training document. The budgeted rate is based on historical costs for similar services.

Local Facilitator for ELA Workshops

IRI will issue a contract to a Nepali organization to manage the logistics for the ELA workshops. This facilitator will arrange conference room reservations, food for workshops, airfare for participants and other logistical items to ensure IRI events run smoothly. The amount budgeted is based on historical costs in similar contexts.

Other Direct Costs

Field Office Administrative Costs

Printing and Copying

Printing and copying costs are allocated based on historical rates. IRI anticipates utilizing printing and copying services to distribute paper materials for workshops.

Bank Fees

All domestic and international money transfers and wires are subject to a fixed fee of \$18 for international wires and \$10 for domestic wires. Bank fees are budgeted based on the current agreement with IRI's primary bank, Citibank. The budgeted amount accounts for costs such as the expense of sending monthly advances from IRI HQ to the field office, payments to contractors, vendors, and subawardees.

Program Public Communication Materials

IRI aims to make information concerning its programming in Nepal widely available to the public to the maximum extent practicable. To achieve this objective, IRI develops informational materials used in connection with its programs, projects or activities, including correspondence, publications, reports, training materials, one-pagers, success stories, audio visual productions, and other informational products. To increase the awareness about the program, IRI also distributes various programmatic outreach materials that include, but not limited to program branded notepads, pens, markers, pins, and brochures.

Program Activities

IRI has not budgeted for additional activity costs such as venue rent and training materials because such expenses will be covered under its fixed amount subaward (FAS).

Subawards

Under this program, IRI plans to utilize the FAS mechanism used for awarding funds to partner organizations. IRI will monitor the activities of each subrecipient as necessary to ensure that the subaward is used for authorized purposes, is in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations and the terms of the subaward, and that subaward performance goals are achieved.

Small Grants Projects Following the ELA workshops, participants will submit applications to IRI for advocacy campaigns or community development programs. The proposed projects should seek to raise public awareness of democratic principles, raise awareness of potential threats to democratic resiliency in their home districts, improve inclusion or strengthen government accountability and transparency. IRI will issue a FAS to three groups of workshop participants. The subawards will be granted based on the participants' technical proposals and cost efficiency. When determining which subaward mechanism is appropriate, IRI evaluates the scope and nature of the project, and deliverables. Specifically, the subawards' length will be three to four months, and the size of each subaward would be \$6,000. As such, IRI has identified that the FAS mechanism is most suitable. IRI will review all costs budgeted by the subawardees to ensure they are necessary, allowable, reasonable and allocable.

Upon identification of the subawardees, IRI will seek the requisite approvals prior to issuance of award. IRI will monitor the activities of each subrecipient as necessary to ensure that the subaward is used for authorized purposes, is in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations and the terms of the subaward, and that subaward performance goals are achieved.

Indirect Costs

Indirect costs for each project are calculated based on a fixed percentage rate negotiated with IRI's cognizant federal agency, the U.S. Agency for International Development in the Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA). NICRA costs include administrative expenses that benefit all IRI awards and allocated across all programs. Such costs include IRI headquarters office space, salaries of administrative staff not working on tasks benefiting a specific award, executive office staff, and other similar costs.

The current rate for indirect costs is 23 percent and is applied to (a) total salaries and wages excluding compensated absences and (b) total cost incurred excluding overhead expenses,

equipment (tangible non-expandable personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit), donated services, in-kind contributions, and subawards/subcontracts in excess of \$25,000 (regardless of the period covered by the subgrants or subcontract).



Solutions Consultant Pvt. Ltd.

Analytical Report		
Project Name:	“ASIA2021NP030 - NED FGD + KII” Qualitative Study on Political Participation of Youths in Nepal	
Prepared for:	International Republican Institute (IRI)	
Contact Persons:	Prema Bista Youbaraj Acharya	
May 2022		
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Background and Methodology

The International Republican Institute (IRI) is a non-profit and non-partisan organization dedicated to advancing freedom and democracy worldwide. Since 1983, IRI has worked to strengthen democratic institutions and ideals through a variety of international programs for promoting freedom, self-government, and the rule of law worldwide. IRI provides technical assistance in the areas of political party strengthening development of civic institutions and open elections to promote democratic governance and rule of law. IRI Nepal aims to strengthen political and civic participation of youth as champions for democratic change by providing emerging leaders with increased opportunities to build momentum for youth activism and put pressure on Nepali political decision-makers to become more transparent, accountable, and citizen-centered in their decision making. The Institute intends to achieve this objective through development of networks of youth activists, both political and non-political. IRI provides them with skills, resources, and platforms to build connections and advocate their concerns with political party leaders. To generate reliable and independent information on priority issues, IRI contracted Solutions Consultant to carry out focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KIIs) across Nepal in early 2022. The main objective of this exercise was to identify and evaluate the barriers Nepali youth face while engaging in the political process with a focus on factors such as regulatory frameworks, political culture and the structures of political parties and other institutions, and skills and knowledge deficiencies.

Seven focus group discussions were held from April 12 to 19, 2022 with participants from all seven provinces of Nepal (Province One Madhesh, Bagmati, Gandaki, Lumbini, Karnali, and Sudur-Paschim provinces) to identify and evaluate the barriers the Nepali youth face while engaging in the political process. The participants were between 18 and 35 years of age and had different levels of education. The FGD participants

represented diverse groups comprising youth political leaders and activists, including youth wings of political parties, politically unaffiliated activists, and youth civic activists, as well as youth who are not civically active. At least two participants in each FGD were from ethnic or religious minority groups. The participants were brought from different regions within each province.

The participants were selected according to the screening criteria listed above. There were at least participants in each group and all the participants were requested to provide consent to participate in this study.

Moreover, eight KIIs were carried out remotely through telephone and the sessions were recorded with prior consent from the interviewees and translated into English for transcript production. IRI provided the list of potential KII participants who were contacted for appointments. KII participants were selected due to their expertise with Due to the COVID-19-related restrictions on gatherings all the FGDs were conducted online. Since some participants did not have access to or experience of using virtual platforms, local field assistants of Solutions were mobilized to assist and facilitate the participants to log in and access the platform. The remote data collection via online conferencing platform also allowed for including participants from different regions within the province and join the FGDs.

Executive Summary

The International Republican Institute (IRI) conducted this research to provide a qualitative analysis of the opinion and perception of the Nepali youth population, aged 18 to 35 years. Seven focus group discussions were conducted with participants from each of the seven provinces of Nepal to gauge young people's perception of politics, i.e., to understand how they perceived political engagement; the reasons for their political engagement or lack thereof; the barriers they faced to be politically active; and how they thought their political representation could be made more meaningful. As common with qualitative research, the opinions of the study participants do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Nepali youth in general.

Nepali youth who participated in this study viewed political involvement not just as party memberships but also as a process to address the

public's needs, with or without party affiliation. Family environment played a large influence on whether one takes the time to engage in politics- most participants who were politically active also had politically active family members.

Although it is easy for the youth to join a political party, the political elites' mistrust of youth and an entrenched system of favoritism/nepotism created barriers for their political participation to be meaningful. The need for the older generation of politicians to retire to make space for the youth was seen as a major step that would allow young people to have more meaningful political participation. The participants felt that young political leaders should take an initiative to support the youth, either through providing direct opportunities or conducting empowerment programs to build their capacity.

Analysis

Chapter 1: Life for Youth in Nepal

Being Respected: Perceptions

Youth participants generally felt they were respected in their personal as well as professional lives. This respect stemmed from their achievements. These achievements could be their involvement in improving local communities, their educational attainment, their political involvement, or businesses they started. There were sentiments among a few that the older generations neither respected nor supported the younger generations. Some participants from the Karnali Province felt that farmers and unemployed young people were not respected, with even family members disrespecting young individuals if they were unemployed.

“It could be the relatives, or people from the community; if one is past a certain age limit and is unemployed, they are made to feel worthless which in turn makes the person demotivated to seek employment.”

- Female, 31 years, Province 6

Family and Career

There was a consensus amongst all the participants that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to achieve their goals without the support of their family members. While some considered financial support from their families as indispensable to their success, whether in business or politics, others felt support, such as encouragement, emotional support, guidance, or family connections to be vital for them to achieve their goals.

“I feel that achieving goals would be quite difficult without support from the family. Taking my own experience as an example, one cannot work towards their goals, especially if one is married and has children; permission of the family is also needed in such cases.”

- Female, 33 years, Province 3

Opportunities for Young People

The opinions varied in terms of opportunities available for young people in Nepal. For some, available opportunities and positions in society were contingent on educational attainment and families' financial stability. For others, opportunities were tied to their political connections/participation. Some felt city life offered more opportunities whereas a few felt that they were not able to access opportunities because they belonged to a marginalized group.

The youth in this nation have to face a lot of obstacles, the ones in the cities get better opportunities than the ones in the rural areas, and there are no plans to give all people the same opportunities.

“The youth in this nation have to face a lot of obstacles, the ones in the cities get better opportunities than the ones in the rural areas, and there are no plans to give all people the same opportunities.”

- Male, 33 years, Province 4

Chapter 2: Political Experience

Being in Politics

For most of the participants, ‘being in politics’ meant one of two things- either taking a membership of a political party and working to fulfill its aims/objectives or taking leadership (even without being a party member) for the advancement of society/country, i.e., addressing the public’s needs and demands. Some participants even thought ‘being in politics’ meant seeking opportunities to advance one’s career, often through selfish means.

“For me, ‘being in politics’ is being formally involved with a political party and working in alignment to its principles while making the society and country a better place to live.”

- Female, 28 years, Province 1

“The youth have shown a tendency to join politics out of peer pressure but then some sign up due to genuine interest and education as well. There are plenty who are interested in politics, but they are likely to develop distrust when their opportunities are barred. Politics nowadays is aimed more towards self-gain rather than social service and reform.”

- Key Informant, Assistant Chairperson, CPN (Unified Socialist) Sudur Paschim Province¹

Political Involvement

In all seven focus groups, there was at least one participant who was politically involved. While the length of their political engagement varied significantly, from two to more than 25 years, almost all participants started being involved in politics while they were students. For some, political involvement began early while they were in high school whereas, for others, political life began in their universities.

¹ Quotes cited throughout this report have been translated and may have been minimally edited for clarity. The speaker’s original contributions—

“I got into politics through a students’ political group. I joined into politics as I was starting my Bachelor’s degree, when I lived together with some of my friends; I became interested in political literature which led me into public speaking and finally got me into politics. I have been in politics for 9 years now.”

- Male, 24 years, Province 7

“Most youth politicians come from the colleges and some from student organizations; many students got into politics through revolts as well; most of the current Nepali Congress leaders came in from the 1990 People’s Movement. Politics has been open to people who want to join, even celebrities and film stars have joined in; it isn’t difficult to sign up but sustaining a career is another matter.”

- Key Informant, Assistant Law Officer, CPN (UML), Karnali Province

Reasons for Political Involvement

Helping people in local communities was cited as the primary reason why the participants got into politics. ‘Helping people’ meant different things to different participants- some felt political involvement would help them fight inequality, violence, prejudice, and superstitions whereas others felt they could address the needs/issues of local communities. Only one participant saw political involvement as a means to obtain a better position in the future.

“I have been involved in politics since my school days. I wanted to bring about positive change in the party and the community by weeding out the negative representation in our community.”

- Male, 21 years, Province 5

including any errors in word choice or grammar— have been preserved to the largest extent possible.

“Interest in politics amongst the youth has increased for two reasons. First, they have realized that politics can be used as a tool for change. Second, youth feel that they can carry the flag of any political party and earn money quickly. They feel politics can provide many opportunities to fulfil their ambitions.”

- Key Informant, Executive Chair, Himal Innovative Development and Research

Party Membership

All but one participant that were politically active were members of specific political parties. The one exception had plans to join a party after completing their formal education. For the rest, the decision to join a political party was usually influenced by one (or more) of the following three reasons:

- Parties’ views/agendas resonated with the individual’s point of view
- Family’s influence
- Membership in parties’ student wing obtained during their time in the university/college/high school

Most participants were involved in social activism before they joined party politics.

“Before I was involved in politics, I was a chairman for the Nagar Yuwa Sanjal; during that time, I ran blood drives along with fighting for women’s rights and the issues plaguing the community. The reason for my choice of the Nepal Communist Party/Maowadi is their focus towards women’s rights, Dalits along with other marginalised communities.”

- Female, 25 years, Province 7

Profession vs. Party Career

Majority of the participants were opposed to giving up their professions for a full-time involvement in the parties; they belonged to various professions (one participant was a lawyer, one was a footballer, and a few were teachers and farmers) and believed that viewing political parties as a source of income would only foster corruption. For them, financial stability outside political parties was fundamental

to be engaged in party politics. However, there were two individuals that were full-time party members- one had given up a government job for politics whereas the other had been a full-time party member since their student days.

“I don't think I'll have to quit my current job to get engaged in politics right now. I'd like to use the example of former Indian President Abdul Kalam, who never forgot his background and worked for himself and his income. As a result, even if I work full-time for a political party, I will always continue my personal business and will work hard to make a living. I will not depend on the money of the party because in my perspective, if I begin to meet my demands and needs with that money, I will develop additional demands and needs, which would lead to corruption.”

- Male, 30 years, Province 2

State of Party Membership

All but three participants felt they were full members of their parties. Of the three exceptions, one was not affiliated to any political party; the second felt their physical disability and the need for full party members to have adequate power and money barred them from joining politics as a full-timer, and the third felt full party membership required a lot of commitment, which they were not able to give.

“Money and power, as I already stated, play a significant part in these situations. I don't believe or consider myself to be a full member. As stated previously, I am a physically challenged individual who is rarely offered any opportunity.”

- Female, 30 years, Province 2

Opportunities for Political Growth

There was a consensus among the participants that opportunities were available for individuals to get engaged, lead, join committees, run for office and so on. However, a large amount of competition existed, demanding the party members to be

proactive and committed to capitalize the opportunities. A few participants who disagreed felt that favoritism and distrust of young people were the primary reasons for limiting the opportunities.

“I cannot say that the opportunities are open to all youth but it is so for those who are willing to inquire about them, to learn about them. One has to keep at it without fail; the opportunity might not appear immediately but will do so in the future.”

- Male, 20 years, Province 6

“Currently, a lot of key positions in our politics are held by politicians from the older generation and there is a great need for space to be created for newer and younger politicians. I would say that it is quite difficult for a youth to rise to the higher ranks of politics at this point.”

- Key Informant, Chairperson of the Nepal Student Group, Nepal Congress Party, Province One

Influence of Family’s Political Involvement

For most participants that were politically active, they had family members who were also politically active- only six of these participants came from families that were not interested or involved in politics. One participant’s father was a ward secretary whereas another participant’s father led the local chapter of the party. Another participant’s brother was the chairperson at the

local ward office whereas their father was a consultant for CPN (Maoist). Another participant’s father was politically active most of his life and their brother was an employee of NCP in Kathmandu. Still for another participant, father was a committee leader for NCP and an uncle was the ward’s chairperson.

“My family has been involved in politics since I was a child, so I was aware of the way the parties function from that time and it seemed like an obvious choice for me.”

- Male, 33 years, Province 3

“When a family member is in politics, the family environment itself creates an opportunity for the youth to enter into politics.”

- Key Informant, Coordinator at INSEC, Gandaki Province

Factors that Maintain Political Engagement

The participants listed various factors that may keep them engaged in politics. These included their ability to implement programs for positive changes in society; increased amount of responsibility and decision-making power; ability to raise people’s concern to the parties; positive party ideals/agenda; the need to fight rising corruption; ability to address societal issues and create rather than wait for them.

“We can see that the youth who are well off financially, with property and stable incomes, are the ones who have become prominent on the political landscape. The data shows that the upper-class citizens are the ones who have found it easy to enter politics since they do not have to worry about their next meal.”

- Key Informant, Bibeksheel Sajha Party, Bagmati Province

Quitting Politics: Unlikely Scenario

Over half of the participants that were politically active said they would not quit politics for any reason whatsoever. The others listed several factors which would impel them to quit politics. These include:

- Increase in nepotism within the political parties
- Having to make a choice between their political and professional life

- If parties' actions do not reflect the needs of the community

"I didn't join politics to quit it, but if I do so, it will be because my actions are inverse to the needs of the community; if the society or the party forces me to quit, that might be a reason as well."

- Male, 24 years, Province 7

Reasons for Disinterest in Politics

Many of the participants who were neither involved in politics nor had any desire to do so in the future blamed the nation's political landscape for their choice. They felt that the system did not work in favor of the average individual and those involved in politics acted in ways that only promoted their self-interests. Several examples came about to highlight how Nepal's political system had disappointed these participants. They only see politicians making promises but never fulfilling them; there is always a lot of infighting and backbiting that hinders all creative works; young people have been known to lose all sense of ethics and their purpose in life after devoting a considerable time in politics; and despite growing up during the armed insurgency, stability is still a distant dream because of politicians' still selfish games. Some felt they had inadequate knowledge, access and/or time to get involved in politics.

"Looking at the current political situation of our country, I feel frustrated and frustration doesn't change the nation. So, in order to bring positive changes in our country, we need a good political environment. I have seen some businesses get involved with a political party because they think that politics can elevate their business and help their business grow exponentially when the need arrives."

- Male, 34 years, Province 1

"The older politicians are unwilling to give up their seats. So, if one isn't politically connected, getting into politics is quite difficult. Even then the person will have to constantly make an effort to get on their good side so that they get a chance to engage in meaningful politics. In my case, I worked from day to night tirelessly, but the politicians seek people who are willing to work for them not with them; they look for sycophants and donors which means that hard-working individuals are left out of a chance for promotion."

- Key Informant, Former Deputy Mayor Candidate, Rashtriya Janata Party, Madhesh Province

Reasons for Possible Political Involvement

There were some participants that wished to get into politics in the future although not being politically involved thus far. These participants believed that positive changes require people to get politically involved; some felt political involvement was fundamental to change the current state of things and ensure development of the rural areas whereas others felt that they could become much better leaders than the current ones and bring social evils, such as violence against women, to an end. One of these participants even said that he had allocated five years to get his political life started; he/she has been learning more about the political system; and getting more involved at the local level to become a strong candidate in the next elections.

The desire to join political parties in the future showed a close correlation with the participants' desire to get politically involved. Those who said they were uninterested to get politically involved said they had no desire to join a political party. However, some qualified their responses by stating that they were open to changing their opinions if new parties came up with plans to fulfil public's interest or if the existing parties underwent significant changes.

“In the future, I will undoubtedly be involved in politics. To enter politics, you must be financially stable, according to my understanding. As a result, I've given myself five years to prepare for it and establish popularity among my community's people. As a result, I am preparing for the upcoming elections and will be a candidate for one of the best political parties that will serve this country. As a result, I am preparing for the upcoming elections and will be a candidate for one of the top political parties that will provide excellent service over the next five years.”

- *Male, 24 years, Province 2*

“The youth believe that you need money to be a politician. The youth members whom I recently discussed mentioned that they did not stand as candidates because they did not have enough money to contest elections. So, in the next five years these youth members are only planning to acquire ‘money’ and ‘muscle’ to be a part of the political party.”

- *Key Informant, Executive Chair, Himal Innovative Development and Research*

Chapter 3: Types of Barriers for Political Involvement

Barriers to Join a Political Party

There was a consensus among the participants that significant barriers did not exist for an individual to join a political party. The political parties are always enthusiastic about garnering more members. Information on how to join a political party is easily available online or through friends and family. However, a lot of barriers existed to make the membership meaningful, especially for the youth. A large number of participants believed that young people were neither heard nor given opportunities because of the political elites' mistrust of youth and an entrenched system of favoritism/nepotism. Therefore, despite the easy process of obtaining party membership, getting key positions within the parties, and holding decision-making positions was extremely difficult. There were a few participants who mentioned lack of family support, lack of financial stability, and the need to build a career as the key barriers to join a political party. A few participants felt that these barriers were higher for women, especially when it came to family support.

“I don't think it is tough to join a political party now but there are various challenges to be a successful political activist. Firstly, it is time that hinders the youth from getting fully involved in politics since the youth have to focus on their career first. Secondly, the practice of nepotism is very high in our society, so even though you are highly qualified, without recommendation from someone in higher power you cannot succeed in politics.”

- Male, 24 years, Province 2

“I would say that it is difficult for youths to get involved in politics. For one has to spend years before attaining a significant seat of power. There are members who have been languishing in their local posts for decades without any chance for promotion; to get to the central seats of the parties, the members have to work for decades.”

- Key Informant, Assistant Law Officer, Nepal Communist Party, Karnali Province

Role of Senior Leaders' Patronage

The participants of Lumbini Province were the exceptions as they did not think patronage from senior leaders was a necessity to join a party politics and sustain in politics; they thought capability/competence of an individual mattered much more than patronage from senior leaders. In other six provinces, the participants believed that while patronage might not be necessary to join a political party, it is fundamental to sustain a political career, especially if one wishes to move beyond grassroots level activism and move up the party hierarchy.

“I think that our politics is based on the support of the leaders than on the ideals or the qualifications of the candidates. With that in mind, it is important to have the right connections than the right policies.”

- Male, 34 years, Province 4

“It is really difficult for young people in Nepal to get involved in politics because of the desire of the old politicians to remain in power until their death. This acts as a major barrier for youth to be involved in politics. They don’t think about how to effectively handover politics to the next generation, instead they only think ways for them to retain higher political power. What’s more, they discourage youth who are interested in politics and are hopeful to bring positive changes in the community.”

- Key Informant, Coordinator at INSEC, Gandaki Province

Encouragement from Political Parties

A majority of participants believed that political parties encouraged young people to join politics; some believed young people were encouraged to join political parties to increase party membership; some thought young people were encouraged only during elections to garner more support; and a few felt young people were not only encouraged but also offered leadership positions. A participant from Sudurpashchim Province cited how young people were encouraged by parties to help local communities with blood donation drives in the aftermath of the last earthquake. Another participant from the same province highlighted how NCP welcomed new members, even 18-year-olds during the Congress Convention.

“The senior leaders do encourage the new members since, during the last earthquake, they were active towards helping out our community with blood drives and other forms of aid; I feel indebted to their support and I’m sure others do too.”

- Male, 27 years, Province 7

“In major political parties, the leaders see how the youths perform community service and how they are carrying out the roles towards the political party before promoting them to key political processes. To talk about the context of Nepali Congress Party, it chooses a candidate for leadership through majority votes in elections from the ward level to the central committee. Representatives coming through every ward level will help select the candidate for leadership with the participation of every member of the party. The leader who is appointed will then make laws and policies which govern the whole nation.”

- Key Informant, General Secretary, Nepali Congress Party, Rupandehi, Lumbini Province

Community’s Perception: Youth in Politics

Opinions varied about communities’ perceptions about youth joining politics. At one end of the spectrum, participants believed that their communities perceived youth joining politics as a positive thing as young people would be able to bring in new and creative ideas that could potentially bring about major changes in the society. At the other end of the spectrum, some participants thought their communities did not want the youth to join politics as they see it as a ‘dirty game’ and ‘a waste of time.’ A solid career that offers regular income was seen as a much better alternative for the youth than joining politics. Some were of the opinion that their communities considered politics a good thing for men but not for women and that politics could be seen as the last resort for the young people who do not wish to get employed anywhere else.

“In my judgment, society solely supports and encourages boys and men and boys. It is extremely difficult for women to succeed in politics. It is mostly due to a lack of support from the general public and political parties. Society has a negative attitude toward or toward girls who are involved in politics.”

- Female, 30 years, Province 2

Joining Politics: Gains and Losses

Respect and self-satisfaction were listed as the two major incentives that individuals enjoyed by virtue of joining politics. Most participants saw politics as a means to serve the community and as such, major benefits were thought to be intangible. Only two participants mentioned financial gain as potential benefit, however, one was quick to point out that this would only be obtained through corruption. Inability to enjoy personal time, inability to pursue a career (and thus financial costs associated with it) and inability to spend time with family members were listed as the major losses associated with joining politics. One participant also mentioned that joining politics could have direct financial costs as candidates typically spend a lot of personal money during their campaigns.

“When educated people enter politics, they are likely to not get any meaningful positions or salaries which then, in turn, make it difficult for them to contribute towards their family and sustain their political career. Politics saps away their free time as well which becomes an issue especially for the women. The youth are also unable to get key positions due to favoritism or nepotism; there isn't a lack of youth politicians, it's just that they aren't provided the right opportunities.”

- Key Informant, Former Deputy Mayor Candidate, Rastriya Janata Party, Madhesh Province

Joining Politics: Security Threats and Cost to Family Reputation

While most participants did not think joining politics poses a threat to family reputation, many participations from several provinces felt that embarking on politics comes with a set of associated security risks. Some participants mentioned how clashes in political ideas have escalated to physical clashes with people being physically injured. One participant from Madhesh Province even recounted how political candidates had been assassinated. Others believed that threats, perceived or real, had been used for political gain.

“In the context of Nepal, and in account of the country's political environment, I believe that if we become involved in politics, we would undoubtedly encounter security concerns. The issues would be fabricated by the opposition party, usually around election time. For example, we have all witnessed and heard of circumstances in which candidates are assassinated or murdered. We will undoubtedly benefit from the chances provided by the political party in politics, but we will also have to deal with several issues in the process.”

- Male, 30 years, Province 2

Chapter 4: Overcoming Barriers

Overcoming Challenges: Strategies

The participants offered several ways on how the challenges for youth to participate in politics could be overcome. These include:

- Setting age restrictions for political office, i.e., not allowing individuals over a certain age (one recommendation was to set the cut-off age at 60 years) to hold political office. This step could help more young people to rise to decision-making positions in political parties.
- Using education qualification as a selection criterion; unlike most other jobs, an individual's political career is not influenced by his/her educational attainment. Screening candidates by their education attainment would ensure that more young people would join politics and only those who are capable/competent would get opportunities.
- Eliminating nepotism/favoritism from the political process to ensure fair opportunities for all.
- Conducting campaigns for awareness and empowerment, aimed at youth.

“The older generation, especially the ones who are uneducated or unqualified, need to be replaced by better, younger candidates. If we put someone who is uneducated in a key position, like a judge, we cannot expect them to govern properly. If we pay attention to these key points, the number of youths in politics will surely increase over time.”

- Male, 34 years, Province 6

“The main issue we face here is that the higher positions are filled by the elderly and there is no mandate towards providing the youth a chance. The young people are active and eager but by the time they reach the top, they themselves have become as old as the people they've replaced. Similarly, as mentioned earlier, we also need changes towards the level of education of the politicians.”

- Male, 33 years, Province 3

“The parties need to evaluate the qualifications, behavior and effectiveness of any member from the lowest level so that they are able to inform themselves of the right members and put them forward for the various elections. This will also help them create better mandates and plans for the party as well. Proper evaluation will help select the right people for leadership so that they can encourage better leaders as well. The youth leaders in our party and their actions will influence the newer members, so proper policies and mandates will help course-correct the influence of the youth in the party”

- Key Informant, Chairperson of the Nepal Student Group, Nepal Congress Party, Province 1

“I feel that there should be rules that set out the maximum and minimum age limits for the politicians so that the youth are given a chance to enter politics and work for their community.”

- Male, 22 years, Province 3

Youths' Influence in Parties' Behaviors

Except for a few participants from Karnali Province and Sudur Paschim Province, most of the participants felt that the influence of youth had increased in major political parties' behaviors. To increase this influence further, the participants felt that young people should be given more opportunities to prove themselves and they should also be supported through skills development training programs so that they are able to fulfil their roles better. The participants who thought youths' influence on major political parties' behavior had not increased did not have specific recommendations for young people, but they thought the older generation of politicians must let go of their hold on political power and offer more opportunities to the younger generation.

Young Political Leaders' Role: Encouraging More Youth into Politics

Working as role models to young people was viewed as the best strategy that young political leaders could use to encourage more youth to join politics. Taking on more responsibility; working diligently to fulfil duties befitting their position; and communicating with younger generation could help young political leaders become role models, whom youth would want to emulate and join politics. More direct roles that young political leaders could play would be to offer opportunities to youth that do not have political connections; conduct youth empowerment programs; conduct focus group discussions to understand the young people better; and outright encourage them to join politics.

“The youth leaders need to perform admirably, in a constitutional manner. The trend, as of now, has remained to act in a selfish manner, this has to change. If a candidate looks towards fulfilling goals based on the constitution, they are often left without support. If we take the right steps now, the later youth will be more attracted to politics.”

- *Male, 26 years, Province 4*

“To encourage more youths to join politics, the youth leaders must be a role model and share their positive results among other youths. The youth leaders also must make other youths aware about the general political knowledge.”

- *Female, 24 years, Province 1*

“The youth leaders need to pull others up since the senior leaders are uncaring about new members. There needs to be a quota set out for the youth so that they can get access to better opportunities.”

- *Male, 27 years, Province 7*

Chapter 5: Youth and Policies

Role of Youth in Influencing Party Policies

Most participants believed that youth in political parties have played a large role in influencing party policies. Young people were credited as being enthusiastic and energetic to push for their creative ideas and ideals at the ground level. They were seen as activists whose influence eventually reached parties' policies. One participant outlined how young people were at the forefront to bring democracy in Nepal and another participant offered the example of how young people are always used by the disgruntled political parties to protest certain decisions of the ruling party.

“The youth do have a great effect since they make use of their enthusiasm and energy in their activism which then influences their own party. The education of the youth plays a part in changing the party for the better.”

- Male, 33 years, Province 3

Youths as Major Political Stakeholders

Opinions were split on whether the youth were considered major political stakeholders by political parties. Those who thought the youth were considered major political stakeholders felt that young people now have more political opportunities than ever before. Some of these participants qualified their responses and added that only those youths that were capable, competent and proactive were conceded major political stakeholders. The participants that did not think political parties considered young people as major stakeholders felt that parties took advantage of young people to garner more support and to use them as tools in protests/movements, without valuing their representation or input. The participants felt that the youths needed to improve their abilities, take on more leadership roles to showcase their ability, unite to have their voices heard, and become more active in politics to be considered major stakeholders.

“For the youths to be considered major political stakeholders, they must develop their personality, leadership skills and be involved in community services. Additionally, they must also develop their entrepreneurship skills which will help them get established in politics.”

- Key Informant, General Secretary, Nepali Congress Party, Rupandehi, Lumbini Province

Political Movements/Demonstrations and Policymaking

All the participants agreed that there was no correlation between the youths' role in political movements/demonstrations and their role in policymaking. The parties were seen to take advantage of young people whenever there is a need for movement/demonstration for the parties' benefit. However, young people have always been sidelined when it came to policymaking.

“Considering the use of the youth during demonstrations, it is a grave issue; they are often used and discarded, that cannot be denied. In terms of policy-making, the youth are used in campaign and agenda offices of the Congress Party, but they do not have important roles outside of that. Of course, in the case of demonstrations, the youth should also be able to exercise self-control and refrain from violence. The government creates policies and the youth demonstrate in rejection and this is because the policies themselves are poorly made.”

- Male, 24 years, Province 7

Role of Party Leaders in Promoting Youth

The participants thought that political party leaders could promote youth in key political processes either directly or indirectly. For the direct approach, party leaders could offer more opportunities to young people, they could encourage/groom them to take leadership positions and could come up with

agendas aimed specifically to make youths' political representation more meaningful. Indirectly, political leaders could act as role models that would influence the youth to emulate them and become proactive to engage in politics. Further, the political leaders could also work to remove nepotism/favoritism entrenched in the system which would open paths for youth to have more meaningful political representation.

“The traditional parties have a syndicate of older leaders and there is a need for them to give up their seats to make way for the newer generation. Since the older leaders have a stronghold on the key positions, the capable youth are kept out of meaningful politics and are only used to bolster the demonstrations and riots. The youth are used to fight on the streets and safeguard the positions of the leaders, but they have no say in how to develop their nation or remove discrimination.”

- *Key Informant, Bibeksheel Sajha Party, Bagmati Province*

“The political leaders need to focus on their philosophy than an individual issue; they need to motivate the youth and raise interest in politics by creating awareness among their peers. A lot of youth has a distrust in politics, owing to the political history of our nation, along with the lack of education towards politics. The lack of communication from the political parties has led to the youth's lack of interest in politics.”

- *Male, 33 years, Province 4*

“Firstly, the youth should be given more leadership opportunities. Secondly, corruption should be eradicated from our political system. Then, those who are involved in political parties should work according to the standard policy and implement their ideas effectively and efficiently to make the society and country better.”

- *Male, 31 years, Province 1*

Conclusion

The focus group discussions revealed that Nepali youth viewed political involvement not just as party memberships but also as a process to address the public's needs, with or without party affiliation. For young people in Nepal, political involvement often began in their student life as a means to help people and fight social injustices and transitioned to party membership later. The family environment seemed to have played a large influence on whether one takes the time to engage in politics. Most participants that were politically active also had politically active family members.

While the participants thought it was quite easy to join a political party, they faced significant barriers to make their participation meaningful. They believed that young people were neither heard nor given opportunities because of the political elites' mistrust of youth and an entrenched system of favoritism/nepotism. Most participants linked joining politics with intangible gains such as respect and self-satisfaction. The potential losses were the opportunity costs of not being fully committed to their careers, being unable to spend more time with their families and an inability to enjoy personal time.

The need for the older generation of politicians to retire to make space for the youth was seen as a major step that would allow young people to have more meaningful political participation. Most participants felt that the youths were never given adequate opportunities to showcase their capabilities as the party leaders, usually old, life-long politicians, never entrusted young people with any meaningful roles. The participants felt that young political leaders should take the initiative to support the youth, either through providing direct opportunities or conducting empowerment programs to build their capacity.

With the growing membership of young people in the major political parties, most participants felt that the youth have been playing larger roles in influencing party policies. However, several participants did not think that political parties considered young people as major stakeholders. They felt that parties took advantage of young people to garner more support and to use them as tools in protests/movements, without valuing their representation or inputs.

NED
SEMI-ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT
CORE INSTITUTES
INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE
NEPAL: YUVA NETRITWA: PARADARSHI NITI (YOUTH LEADERSHIP:
TRANSPARENT POLICY)
Reporting Period: October 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022

Project number: 2020-0010AAA

Sub-grantee: Solutions

Effective dates of project: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Total amount of NED project budget: \$350,000

I. PROJECT SHORT SUMMARY

To strengthen youth political and civic participation as champions for democratic change, the International Republican Institute (IRI) will provide emerging leaders with increased opportunities to build momentum for youth activism and put pressure on Nepali political decision-makers to become more transparent, accountable, and citizen-centered in their decisions. The Institute will achieve this through developing networks of youth activists and providing them with skills, resources, and platforms to build connections and advocate concerns to political party leaders.

II. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM BEING ADDRESSED

Political institutions in Nepal, including political parties, are highly centralized, with top-down governing structures that provide little accountability or space for citizen inputs. Politicians have little incentives to adhere to electoral promises or develop governance agendas based on citizens' interests, and instead pursue backdoor agreements and deals to gain or consolidate power. These structures have led to the formation of governments that are unable to respond to citizen concerns and pursue political strategies to consolidate their own positions of power rather than improve governance conditions. These dynamics have been particularly clear over the past two years as the split between the two major factions of the Nepali Communist Party (NCP), led by former Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and Pushpa Kamal Dahal respectively, led to intensified competition for political influence, which in turn prevented the government from effectively responding to the COVID-19 pandemic or addressing deteriorating economic conditions. Even after the fall of the NCP government and the formation of a new coalition government led by Sher Bahadur Deuba and the Nepali Congress, internal disputes among coalition members about

the allocation of cabinet positions has prevented the formation of a cabinet government or the development and implementation of new policies that can both respond to the pandemic and incentivize economic growth. Furthermore, centralized, unaccountable political structures also lead to increased opportunities for corruption and manipulation and interference by foreign powers. Such interference is of particular concern in a country like Nepal, which is sandwiched between two larger powers – India and China – that frequently manipulate its internal politics for their own strategic aims. This has deepened citizen dissatisfaction and disenchantment thus weakening the democratic process.

However, despite the current state of Nepal’s politics, there are points of democratic resilience. Nepali youth have demonstrated their ability to play an increased role in politics, as a series of youth-led protests, under the slogan “Enough is Enough”, broke out. These protests, focused on the government’s ineffective response to the COVID-19 pandemic, were led by mostly non-political youth, and called for reforms to improve the efficacy of the government’s COVID-19 response and greater transparency around government spending regarding these efforts. While initially responding with severe crackdowns, the government eventually signed an agreement with youth activists addressing their concerns, including providing free health services for COVID-19 patients.*

To sustain these successes and capitalize on existing political will, young people in Nepal will need more platforms to develop sustainable networks to advocate for common concerns and be successful champions for democratic change. Through this project IRI will provide the next generation of Nepal’s civic and political leaders with opportunities and platforms to develop cohesive and sustainable advocacy networks. This, in turn, will better position them to raise awareness of democratic values and pressure Nepali political institutions to become more accountable, transparent and citizen centered. To this end, IRI is implementing Yuva Netritwa: Paradarshi Niti (Youth Leadership: Transparent Policy). In Yuva Netritwa: Paradarshi Niti, IRI will conduct an analysis of barriers to youth participation in the political process that will help design content for the Emerging Leaders Academy (ELA). The ELA program will provide youth leaders with the skills and knowledge to ensure that future advocacy efforts are more effective and sustainable.

III. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Analysis of Barriers to Youth Participation in the Political Process

*<https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-South-Central/2020/0911/Youth-protests-spur-change-in-Nepal-s-coronavirus-response>



Established in 2000, Solutions Consultant is one of Nepal's fast growing fact-based research firms. They have a strong local market understanding and service presence. Solutions previously conducted high-quality research and implemented the findings in Nepal.

Due to the lack of qualitative assessments of barriers to youth participation in Nepal, IRI has partnered with Solutions Consultant, a local research firm, to conduct a nationwide barrier analysis to identify and evaluate the barriers Nepali youth face while engaging in the political process. The barrier analysis will consist of a combination of youth focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KIIs) held with civil society

representatives, elected representatives and other key stakeholders and subject matter experts. Solution Consultants completed FGDs in four of the provinces and is expected to complete the final three by the end of April. Once the FGDs are completed, Solutions Consultant will begin conducting the KIIs. Although the KIIs were scheduled to be completed by the end of April 2022, this timeline will likely be delayed until mid-May due to local elections scheduled for May 13.

During this reporting period, the IRI Nepal team held several internal discussions with IRI's opinion research department, the Center for Insights in Survey Research (CISR), to determine the scope of the barrier analysis and finalize the methodology. IRI also developed a detailed discussion guide to provide guidance to Solutions Consultant on conducting the FGDs and KIIs. Solutions Consultant used the discussion guide to develop questions on Nepali youth's experience with political parties, their role in shaping the policies in Nepal and the barriers they face while entering the political realm. Following the conclusion of the FGDs and KIIs, Solutions Consultant will write an analytical report which IRI will use to help design the content of the *Youth Empowerment Skills (YES) Workshops* and other activities under the ELA.

Emerging Leaders Academy: Youth Empowerment Skills (YES) Workshops

IRI held a series of virtual and in-person consultations with civil society organizations, and potential partners including 'We for Change', Center for Social Change and Dalit Youth Alliance to determine the selection criteria for ELA participants. IRI also worked with youth and inclusion experts within IRI's Center for Global Impact to develop curriculum for the ELA's YES workshops. The curriculum will be closely tailored to fit the Nepali context and will be informed by findings from the youth barrier analysis. IRI will finalize the ELA curriculum in the next reporting period.

Additionally, IRI held discussions with youth-focused civil society organizations (CSOs) including 'We for Change', Dalit Youth Alliance and Nepal Youth Council to find an implementation partners to conduct the YES workshops. IRI is currently soliciting proposals and plans to sign a fixed amount subaward (FAS) in the next quarter with the selected partner.

IV. PROGRESS TOWARDS EVALUATION POINTS

Objective: To strengthen youth political and civic participation as champions for democratic change through increased opportunities to network and raise awareness of key issues.

Evaluation Point 1: Nepali youth participants self-report utilizing research conducted by the program when interacting with their communities, political party members and government officials via social media, in person or at the summit. IRI will monitor the number of times the research was referenced through quarterly surveys with the participants.

- This project is still underway. IRI observed enthusiasm among youth during the FGDs and that youth are willing to use the knowledge and skills they learn during their interactions with party leaders to try to influence decision-making. IRI will report on this evaluation point in the next reporting period.

Evaluation Point 2: ELA participants develop a virtual network of youth activists as evidenced by the number of digital engagements among participants following the workshop series. IRI will monitor the instances of digital engagements by tracking the number of posts, likes, and shared within the ELA Facebook page. In addition to this figure, IRI will track instances of online and cellular communication (WhatsApp, SMS text, and phone calls) through quarterly follow-up interviews with participants.

- IRI has not made significant progress towards this evaluation point. IRI will report on this evaluation point following the launch of its Emerging Leaders Academy in the next reporting period.

Evaluation Point 3: Following the ELA workshops, participants develop a network of youth activists as evidenced by the number of digital engagements among participants following the workshop series. IRI will monitor the instances of digital engagements by tracking the number of posts, likes, and shared within the ELA Facebook page. In addition to this, IRI will track instances of online and cellular communication (WhatsApp, SMS text, and call) through quarterly follow-up interviews with participants.

- IRI has not made significant progress towards this evaluation point. IRI plans to conduct the ELA workshops starting in May 2022. IRI will report on this evaluation point in the next reporting period.

Evaluation Point 4: ELA participants gain networking and advocacy skills as demonstrated by the number of participants who self-report skills gained through the program. IRI will assess skills gained through a survey administered to participants after completion of the small grants project

- IRI has not made significant progress toward this evaluation point. Small grants will be awarded at the conclusion of the ELA, which is scheduled to launch in May 2022.

Evaluation Point 5: ELA participants conduct community outreach as evidenced by the number of citizens engaged through the small grants projects. IRI will track the number of citizens engaged through quarterly progress reports submitted by ELA participants.

- IRI has not made progress toward this evaluation point. Small grants will be awarded at the conclusion of the ELA, which is scheduled to launch in May 2022.

Evaluation Point 6: Political and civic leaders demonstrate support for youth policy priorities by becoming a signatory to the youth charter. IRI will monitor the number of political and civic signatories to the youth charter and will conduct interviews with signatories to understand unexpected outcomes of the youth charter.

- IRI has not made progress toward this evaluation point. The youth charter will be finalized at the conclusion of the ELA, which is scheduled to launch in May 2022.

V. CHANGES IN PROJECT STRATEGY

In this reporting period, public pressure caused the government to announce that local elections will be held May 13, rather than wait until October and November as previously planned. The election code of conduct prohibits public events during elections. This caused IRI to change workshops and other activities scheduled for May. Additionally, the individuals that IRI is targeting for this program (politically active youth and first- or second-time voters) have changed their attention to the upcoming elections, making it difficult for IRI to engage with them on program implementation. IRI will update activity timelines accordingly to ensure that participation levels are high.

Scope of Work:

To develop training manuals for Youth Empowerment Workshops

"Yuva Netritwa, Paradashee Neeti"

(Youth Leadership, Transparent Policies)

International Republican Institute (IRI) is planning to organize three-day workshops for youth activists from the provinces and local levels, both politically affiliated and unaffiliated, to strengthen their capacity to make positive change in the society, raise voices effectively for good governance and develop their leadership qualities. For this purpose, IRI is developing training modules to serve as a handbook for the trainers. The modules should focus on exploring pathways to increase youth-led initiatives for the promotion of democracy and good governance in public institutions and among the public office bearers.

The training modules should include, but not be limited to, the overall objectives of the module and specific objectives of each three modules: a) change-making power, b) leadership, c) raising the voice, as well as the guidelines for the delivery of training on each module. Notes, tips, examples, case studies, pictures, and infographics should be used as and where needed. The module should also suggest tools for adult learning including group exercises and reflection sessions.

Workshop I: Changemaking Powers

The first module should highlight the youth activists' role in changing socio-economic and political changes in the global context as well as in the democratic movement of Nepal. It should give an overview of Nepal's democratic polity, the multi-party system, the Constitution, and the federalization process. It should also include how youth can use their power for policy intervention through better collaboration among themselves and with various levels of the governance structure. For this, the modules should include but not be limited to:

- Overview of political context, democracy, multi-party system, and federalism in Nepal
- Emerging issues of meaningful youth participation in politics, public affairs, and policymaking.

Workshop II: Leadership Dialogues

The modules should focus on exploring leadership potential among the participants and should include a conceptual aspect of the leadership, ways of enhancing qualities, and skills of leadership. It should focus on inspiring and motivating the participants to be rational, good and effective leaders to lead change. It should include, but not limited to:

- Concept: Who is a leader?
- Leadership types, quality of a good leader,
- Ways of developing such quality
- Gaining the power to influence
- Purpose of becoming a leader: Leading and Representing
- Exercise leadership: How young leaders can drive political change through protest

Workshop III: Raising Your Voice

This module should include enhancing the knowledge and skills of the participants to be innovative while raising voices for the democratization of politics, public affairs, policymaking and good governance of public institutions, and accountability of the public office bearers. It focuses on enhancing skills in the use of modern technology for collecting data, tracking community concerns, and articulating the concerns through digital and advocacy skills, among others. Overall, this session should focus on providing tools and techniques for team building, communication, and mobilization of young and emerging leaders to influence local, provincial, and national policies effectively. Some key areas to be covered in the module include:

- Team, technology, timing, and content for the impactful raising of voices
- Use of social media and low-bandwidth technology for advocacy to vulnerable communities with low internet penetration
- Communicative language and skills for better articulation of the message
- Voice for a purpose: Change, better governance, inclusion, and justice, among others.
- Strategies and skills in organizing protests and demonstrations: resource mobilization, organizational structure, communication, and advocacy.

Deliverables:

Concise training module for three different modules

List of teaching materials

Budget: Not exceeding NPR 400,000.00

Payment Mode: 30 percent upon delivery of first draft, 70 percent upon submission of final product

Timeline: One month (30 days)

Qualification: Master's degree in related to the subject (for an individual) with at least 10 years of experience in developing content and delivering training for young leaders/ youth activists on professional and life-skills as well as for enhancement of knowledge and skills on good governance, leadership, and building of democratic culture.

**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE
AND
SOLUTIONS CONSULTANT PVT LTD**

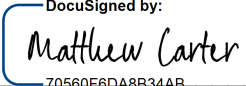
This Agreement (“Agreement”) is between the International Republican Institute (“IRI”), Suite 800, 1225 Eye St., N.W., Washington D.C. 20005 and Solutions Consultant Pvt. Ltd. (“Contractor”) 3rd Floor, Bhakti Chhen, Uttar Dhoka Sadak, Kathmandu, Nepal.

The Contractor, an independent party, agrees to provide goods, deliverables, and/or services to IRI as outlined in the “Scope of Work” set forth herein as Attachment A. The total cost of this Agreement shall not exceed **\$9,135.00USD**. Attachment A further describes Scope of Work, payment terms, and points of contact for the Agreement.

The term of this Agreement shall be from **date of signature through April 12, 2022**. Unless otherwise stated, Contractor is fully responsible for the payment of, and the payment terms include, any and all taxes, duties, royalties, fees, or other charges arising from or related to the work performed under this Agreement whether levied or assessed against IRI, IRI Funders, or Contractor and upon any basis (labor, materials, equipment, services, profits, revenue, or other basis) including all municipal, state, county, local and federal taxes, and all sales, use, and personal property taxes. IRI shall not be responsible for the withholding of any other taxes or levies, nor to pay for or to provide Contractor any benefits of any type.

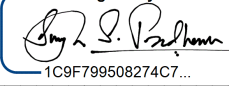
This contractual document may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, and that each counterpart may be delivered by electronic means with the same force and effect as an original signature. Contractor’s (or Contractor’s representative’s) signature below constitutes agreement to, acceptance of, and compliance with the Attachment A “Scope of Work and Payment Terms”, Attachment B “Basic Terms and Conditions” set forth on the following pages of this Agreement and Attachment C “Funder Flow-downs” made a part thereof.

FOR IRI

DocuSigned by:

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Matthew Carter
Asia Division Associate Director

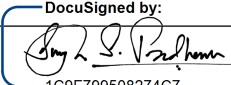
Date: 2/16/2022 | 7:28 PM EST

FOR CONTRACTOR

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Suraj Pradhan
Managing Director

Date: 2/17/2022 | 2:11 AM EST

For non-US contractors only: I certify that I am not and/or the organization I represent is not a US entity. Further, the income derived from IRI by me/the organization I represent is not connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States and as such is not subject to US tax withholdings.

Signature:  Name: Suraj Pradhan Date: 2/17/2022 | 2:11 AM EST
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ATTACHMENT A SCOPE OF WORK and PAYMENT TERMS

Scope of Work:

IRI needs to identify and evaluate the barriers Nepali youth face while engaging in the political process, with a focus on factors such as regulatory frameworks, political culture and the structures of political parties and other institutions, and skills and knowledge deficiencies. These objectives are best examined by a combination of Focus Group Discussions (FGD) and Key Information Interviews (KII).

Requirements:

- The Contractor will be responsible for managing all logistical aspects of the FGDs and will conduct seven focus group discussions (FGDs), with one in each province of Nepal. **Screeners:** IRI will provide a draft screening questionnaire within two weeks of contract award based on the specifications above. The Contractor will review the draft and provide edits within three working days of receipt. Following IRI approval, the Contract will translate the screener into Nepali language. IRI reserves the right to review the translation prior to recruitment launch.
- **Recruiting participants:** Contractor will recruit all participants according to the screening criteria. Contractor should recruit 8-10 participants for each in person group or 5-7 participants for each online group as well as 2-3 alternates in case any of the original participants are unable to participate. All participants will be required to give written informed consent to participate in this study.
- **Discussion guide:** IRI will provide the draft discussion guide within three weeks of contract award. Contractor will be welcome to offer suggestions for improvement and is expected to format and translate the discussion guide into Nepali language. IRI reserves the right to review the translation(s.)
- **Focus group moderator:** Contractor will provide a trained and experienced moderator for each FGD.
- **Observation:** The Contractor will provide an opportunity for IRI staff to observe the focus group discussions in person or remotely.
- **Recording of** focus group discussions. Audio and/or video record all aspects of research necessary for full and accurate data collection, transcript generation and inclusion of illustrative samples in the final analytical report. Contractor will film focus groups and film should be high quality with clear sound. If participants do not consent to videotaping, audio recordings are acceptable.
- **Transcripts:** The Contractor will provide IRI with full verbatim transcripts in English of each group that will identify each participant speaker by number or first name to link each comment to the participant's exact age, education level, city and occupation.

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In addition to the FGDs described above:

- Conduct at least 8 key informant interviews (KII) with stakeholders such as civil society activists and politicians. The interviews should examine the barriers Nepali youth face while engaging in the political process.
- **Recruitment:** IRI will supply a list of potential interviewees, and the Contractor will contact the potential interviewee with the goal of recruiting them for an interview and/or to obtain recommendations for potential additional or alternate interviewees.
- **Discussion guide:** IRI will provide the draft discussion guide for the KIIs within three weeks of contract award. Contractor will be welcome to offer suggestions for improvement and is expected to format and translate the discussion guide into Nepali language. IRI reserves the right to review the translation(s.)
- **Observation:** The Contractor will provide an opportunity for IRI staff to observe the KIIs discussions in person or remotely.
- **Recording of KIIs:** Audio and/or video record all aspects of research necessary for full and accurate data collection, transcript generation and inclusion of illustrative samples in the final analytical report. Contractor will film KIIs and film should be high quality with clear sound. If participants do not consent to videotaping, audio recordings are acceptable.
- **Transcripts:** The Contractor will provide IRI with full verbatim transcripts in English of each interview.

DELIVERABLES

- Finalized discussion guides for FGDs and KIIs (incl translation)
- Proposed Participant Profiles for FGDs and KIIs
- Video/Audio recordings of the FGDs and KIIs, with clear audio. Recording should be delivered to IRI electronically (for example via a file transfer service) or delivered to the local IRI office
- Full transcripts of all FGDs and KIIs in English
- One combined analytic report of 10-15 pages in MS Word in idiomatic English (plus appendices), which includes a one or two page/slide executive summary, addressing the research needs outlined above. The report will be based on analysis of the FGDs and KIIs. The report content should include, but not be limited to, key takeaways, barriers to Nepali youth political participation, barriers to youth empowerment in party politics, barriers to marginalized youth political participation and recommendations to political parties and INGOs supporting political parties. The Contractor will analyze all discussions and write and edit final analytic report for review, editing and acceptance by IRI within four weeks of the final FGD or KII. IRI will provide a report template. The report is expected to synthesize findings across all participants, while noting to any major differences of

Page 4 of 15

opinions between participants and sessions. The report must present actual analysis (i.e. not mere description) and illustrative quotes from participants.

Time is of the essence in the performance of the obligations created by this Agreement.

Payment Amount and Terms:

Amount: USD 9,135.00

FIXED PRICE: IRI agrees to pay Contractor a firm-fixed price of **\$9,135.00** for successful completion of the SOW and deliverables according to the following payment schedule:

Services/Deliverables	Unit Price	Number of Units	Payment Amount
Finalized Discussion Guide	USD 1,065	1	USD 1,065
Proposed Participant Profile	USD 4,365	1	USD 4,365
Final Written Summary	USD 3,705	1	USD 3,705
Total			USD 9,135

Costs incurred in carrying out the purposes of this Agreement shall be in accordance with the terms of this Agreement and in accordance with the applicable federal cost principles, if any, in effect on the effective date of this Agreement. The allowability of costs shall be determined in accordance with the federal cost principles applicable to the Contractor and are incorporated herein by reference. The allowability of costs incurred by non-profit organizations and institutions of higher education is determined in accordance with the provisions of 2 C.F.R. Part 200 Subpart E, "Cost Principles." The allowability of costs incurred by commercial organizations and those non-profit organizations listed in Appendix VIII to 2 C.F.R. 200 is determined in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) at 48 C.F.R. Part 31, the Department of State Acquisition Regulation at 48 C.F.R Part 631, and Agency for International Development, 48 C.F.R. Part 731.

It is the Contractor's responsibility to ensure that costs incurred are in accordance with the applicable cost principles, meaning, for example, that the costs are (1) reasonable: costs which are generally recognized as ordinary and necessary and would be incurred by a prudent person in the conduct of normal business; (2) allocable: incurred specifically for this Agreement; and (3) allowable: conform to any limitations in this Agreement. The Contractor must obtain any prior written approvals from IRI for any approvals that are required by the applicable federal cost principles. IRI reserves the right to make a final determination on the allowability of costs. Unless specifically agreed to in writing, IRI will not pay any profit or fee to the Contractor. The Contractor further agrees to retain documentation to support charges to this award for a period of seven years from the date of submission of the final expenditure report in accordance with the provisions included in the Attachment B.

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Payment Terms:

IRI has 30 days to make payments to the Contractor upon IRI's acceptance of the above listed deliverables and invoice submitted by the Contractor. All invoices must provide the following information: vendor name and remittance address, project code under which the work was performed, current and cumulative amount invoiced. Upon Contractor's request, IRI may provide the Contractor with a template invoice.

FIXED PRICE: IRI will issue a payment to the Contractor only upon acceptance of deliverables according to the schedule specified in the SOW.

Contractor must submit invoices or financial claims no later than September 30 of each year in which the work was performed, or within 90 calendar days after the end of this Agreement whichever comes first. IRI will not make payments on invoices or other financial claims received after the stated time.

Payments under this Agreement will be made in USD by way of wire transfer.

In the event the Contractor fails to perform his/her responsibilities under this Agreement to IRI's satisfaction, the Contractor agrees to refund all funds advanced to the Contractor, if any, no later than 5 business days after the termination of the Agreement or at a written request of IRI.

Marking and Public Communications Under USAID-Funded Assistance (June 2012) is waived under this contract.

All written and oral information and materials disclosed or provided by IRI during the course of the services provided are deemed confidential. The Contractor agrees to hold in strict confidence this confidential information, and will not assist others to use, or disclose to anyone, such information without the prior express written authorization of IRI. Contractor shall not disclose any confidential information, including the identities of any individuals participating in meetings, presentations or any other activities rendered during the course of the services provided. Any documents created or translated during the course of the services provided by the Contractor shall remain the sole property of IRI. Contractor shall not derive any personal profit or advantage from any confidential information acquired during services contracted by IRI. These nondisclosure provisions shall survive the termination of this Agreement; the Contractor's duty shall remain in effect unless IRI provides written notice to the Contractor releasing them from this duty.

Name & Address of Technical Point of Authority for IRI:

Matthew Carter
Associate Director
International Republican Institute
1225 Eye. St. NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005

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Name & Address of Point of Authority for Contractor:

Suraj Pradhan

Managing Director

Solutions Consultant PVT LTD

3rd Floor, Bhakti Chhen

Uttar Dhoka Sadak, Kathmandu, Nepal

suraj@solutions.com.np

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**ATTACHMENT B
TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

If applicable, Contractor must ensure that none of funds payable under this contract will be used to (1) procure or obtain, extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain; (2) enter into a contract (or extend or renew a contract) to procure; or (3) obtain the equipment, services, or systems that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system in compliance with the National Defense Authorization Act. Covered telecommunications equipment and services mean any of the following:

- i. Telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).
- ii. For the purpose of public safety, security of government facilities, physical security surveillance of critical infrastructure, and other national security purposes, video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced by Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).
- iii. Telecommunications or video surveillance services provided by such entities or using such equipment.
- iv. Telecommunications or video surveillance equipment or services produced or provided by an entity that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of the National Intelligence or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reasonably believes to be an entity owned or controlled by, or otherwise connected to, the government of a covered foreign country. ([2 CFR 200.216](#)).

The Contractor is and shall be treated as an independent contractor for all purposes. The Contractor represents that s/he has the requisite tools and skills to provide the goods, deliverables, and/or services contemplated by this Agreement.

The Contractor shall be free from the control of IRI as to the manner the Contractor provides the goods, deliverables and/or services except Contractor (or designated Contractor representative) agrees to be available for all necessary meetings and briefings with other organizations and institutions specified by IRI.

The Contractor agrees to comply with all applicable Federal, state and local laws, and will file any and all reports required to be filed under such laws or regulations including, but not limited to, reports required to be filed by former employees of the United States Government. IRI reserves the right to terminate this Agreement immediately or take other measures including, without limitation, refund or recall of any payments if the Contractor (or a key individual of the Contractor) is found to have been convicted of a narcotic offense or to have been engaged in drug trafficking as defined in 22 CFR Part 140.

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In the event that this Agreement is reportable under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act, as specified in 2 C.F.R. 170, and Contractor meets the criteria for reportable Contractor as stated in 2 C.F.R. 170 Appendix A, paragraph 1.c.1, then Contractor will be required to provide, and IRI will be required to report, the information specified in that section.

Contractor shall maintain complete and accurate working files and/or documentation of the work performed under the Agreement, including new data, calculations, estimates, assumptions, logs, maps, drawings, plans, specifications, diaries, interpretations, notes and calibrations, and at any and all times immediately upon request shall provide IRI unrestricted access to such items and dispose of them only as directed by IRI. The Contractor shall allow IRI, the Funding Agency, the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives, to have access to any books, documents, papers and records of the Contractor which are directly pertinent to this specific Agreement for the purpose of making audits, examinations, excerpts and transcriptions, for a period of seven years after the termination or closeout of this Agreement.

All required funder approvals and correspondence relating to this Agreement must be directed through IRI.

During the term of this Agreement, the Contractor agrees to:

- Comply with all laws, regulations, decrees and/or official government orders or requirements applicable to the performance of this Agreement, including, as applicable, the UK Bribery Act, the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and any other applicable anti-bribery, anti-corruption, anti-money laundering, US anti-boycott laws, trade sanctions, and/or anti-terrorism laws or regulations;
- Obtain and pay for all required licenses, permits, fees, assessments, inspections, and registrations required for the performance of the work hereunder;
- Respect the laws of the jurisdictions within which IRI organization has offices;
- Use IRI premises or IRI property only for activities related to this Agreement;
- Protect and conserve IRI property and funds and not use such property or funds for other than authorized IRI activities;
- Whenever possible, make purchases and travel arrangements far enough in advance to take advantage of any advance discounts and use only coach class for all travel authorized under the Scope of Work of this Agreement;
- Inform IRI of any plans to conduct private business while traveling on an IRI mission in advance of the trip to ensure there is no inherent conflict of interest. If a trip is taken for the dual purpose of IRI and private business, transportation, meal, and lodging expenses shall be fairly apportioned between the two business ends conducted so that only those expenses attributable to IRI business are paid for from IRI funds;
- Avoid any actions creating the appearance that they are violating these standards. Whether particular circumstances create an appearance that these standards have been violated shall be determined from the perspective of a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts;
- Not to accept any gratuity, gift, or favor that might impair or appear to influence his/her actions.

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The Contractor further agrees to:

- Maintain confidentiality of political information gained through IRI project work and not disclose it to other political organizations working within a country program;
- Disclose to IRI any circumstances that could be construed as a conflict of interest and should ensure that such conflict does not compromise the interest of IRI.

The Contractor agrees not to:

- Use his/her position with IRI for private gain and/or seek or conduct an IRI mission for his/her own private purposes or for the private purposes of another party;
- Engage in financial transactions using non-public IRI information nor allow the improper use of non-public information to further his/her own private interests or those of another, whether through advice or recommendation or by knowing unauthorized disclosures;
- Use confidential or proprietary information gained in the course of service on behalf of IRI for private gain;
- Claim payment or accept funds from IRI for any expense for which s/he has received reimbursement from any other source;
- Use any funds furnished to defray ordinary and necessary expenses incurred in connection with an IRI mission for any purpose other than the purpose for which such funds are furnished. Any advances for an IRI mission not actually used for expenses incurred in connection with that mission shall be returned to IRI promptly upon return from the mission;
- Make, give, offer, promise or authorize any improper or illegal payment, gift, advantage or other thing of value, whether directly or indirectly, to any third party, including, without limitation, any public official, for any improper or illegal purpose, including to improperly influence actions or decisions of any third party, to secure any improper advantage or to improperly obtain or retain business.

IRI and the Contractor agree that the Contractor's right to payment hereunder shall be subject to IRI's determination that the services performed and any goods or products delivered by the Contractor satisfy the standards of IRI, the standards of the Funding Agency for whom work is undertaken, and approval by the appropriate IRI Regional Program Director and IRI's Chief Financial Officer and his/her designee. In the event that the Funding Agency, after an audit or other final determination, disallows payments paid to Contractor on the basis of lack of Contractor documentation or other factor within the control of Contractor, the Contractor agrees to refund any questioned payments already paid to the Contractor no later than 5 business days after the written request from IRI. Contractor agrees not to disclose any information that might be considered proprietary to IRI outside of IRI unless with written permission by IRI's President or compelled legally.

Contractor understands and agrees that s/he is not authorized to enter into any contractual agreement on behalf of IRI, and is not authorized to commit IRI funds to any organization, corporation, political party, foreign government, candidate for political office, or individual, except those specifically authorized in this Agreement. Contractor understands and agrees that in the performance of his duties under the terms of this Agreement, s/he will not advocate the election

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or defeat of any candidate for political office, nor will s/he engage in any political campaign activity on behalf of IRI. Contractor further understands and agrees that the performance of his/her duties under the terms of this Agreement is subject to the approval and direction of the Chairman of Board of Directors and the President of IRI or their designees, and actions will not be taken absent such approval.

The Contractor agrees that all writings produced by the Contractor under this Agreement shall be the sole property of IRI and IRI shall have the exclusive right to use and to copyright these writings in any country(ies).

IRI and Contractor acknowledge that this Agreement contains the entire integrated Agreement between the parties, and supersedes all prior or contemporaneous Agreements, representations, and understandings. No amendment or modification shall be valid or binding upon the parties unless made in writing and signed by the parties to this Agreement. The terms of this Agreement shall be interpreted under and governed by the laws of the District of Columbia, exclusive of conflict or choice of law rules.

If any dispute, controversy, or claim arises out of or relates to this Agreement, or the breach thereof, the parties shall attempt in good faith to resolve such dispute promptly by negotiation between senior executives who have authority to settle the controversy. If the dispute cannot be settled through good faith negotiations by senior executives of the Parties, the Parties agree to submit the matter for informal, non-binding mediation using a neutral mediator acceptable to both Parties. No written or oral representation made during the course of any settlement negotiations or mediation shall be deemed a party admission. In the event any dispute cannot be resolved by negotiation or mediation (including but not limited to any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement, such as the formation, interpretation, breach or termination thereof and whether the claims asserted are arbitrable), the dispute shall be resolved under binding arbitration in accordance with the JAMS International Arbitration Rules. The Tribunal will consist of three arbitrators. The place of arbitration will be Washington, D.C. The language to be used in the arbitral proceedings will be English. Judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator(s) shall be brought solely and exclusively in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or the Superior Court for the District of Columbia. IRI and Contractor hereby submit to the jurisdiction and venue of these Courts and each waives any right it might otherwise have to object to this forum. Contractor understands, however, that this Agreement is being awarded in support of a grant from a Funding Agency, and Contractor hereby agrees to be bound by any final decision or determination by the Funding Agency with respect to any dispute, controversy, or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement and resulting from the Funding Agency's actions or inactions. Each party shall bear its own costs, expenses, and attorneys' fees for the above-described mediation and arbitration, but the arbitration tribunal shall be empowered to make a different allocation of such fees and costs in the award. Each party shall pay an equal share of the expenses associated with mediation and arbitration, including the mediator's and arbitrators' fees and expenses.

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Contractor shall not assign any proceeds of this Agreement or subcontract any of the work to be performed hereunder without the express written consent of IRI. Contractor shall be fully responsible to IRI for the acts and omissions of its lower-tier subcontractors and of persons either directly or indirectly employed by the Contractor's lower-tier subcontractor(s). The Contractor shall include in each lower-tier subcontract the appropriate flow-down clauses as required by this Agreement.

Contractor agrees to comply with Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment (31 U.S.C. 1352) and hereby certifies that it will not and has not used Federal appropriated funds to pay any person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with obtaining any Federal contract, grant or any other award covered by 31 U.S.C.1352. Contractor hereby agrees to obtain this certification from any entity to which Contractor enters into a subcontract under this Agreement and certifies that it shall disclose to IRI any lobbying with non-Federal funds that takes place in connection with obtaining any Federal award.

Contractor certifies that it is not listed on the Excluded Parties List System maintained by the GSA under FAR 9.404, and hereby agrees that it will not make any contract or subcontract awards under this Agreement to any entity listed on the Excluded Parties List System maintained by the GSA under FAR 9.404.

IRI may terminate this Agreement for cause, in whole or in part, with or without notice, whenever IRI determines that Contractor has failed to comply with material terms and conditions of this Agreement. IRI may, but is not required to, provide Contractor a period of time to respond to a termination notice and show good faith progress toward resolving the deficiency.

By written notice of 10 calendar days, IRI may at any time and for any reason terminate this Agreement, in whole or part, for convenience when it is in IRI's interest. No such advance notice will be required, however, if IRI is terminating this Agreement because the Funding Agency has terminated funding relevant to the performance of this Agreement. Upon receipt of the termination notice, Contractor shall, unless the notice directs otherwise, immediately discontinue the work and the placing of any orders for materials, facilities and supplies in connection with the performance of this Agreement. Upon such termination, Contractor shall be entitled to payment only for the actual payments for, and/or cost of, the work completed in conformity with this Agreement before the effective date of the termination and such other costs actually incurred by Contractor as are permitted by the applicable Federal cost principles of the United States Government in OMB Circulars and as approved by IRI. Contractor shall not be entitled to any claim or claim of lien against IRI for any additional compensation or damages in the event of such termination and payment.

Contractor agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless IRI and the U.S. Government, and their officers, agents, and employees, against any and all third party claims for loss, damage, or injury arising from Contractor's errors, acts or omissions during its performance under this Agreement.

To the extent applicable to the Contractor under this Agreement, the Contractor hereby agrees to comply with the applicable provisions of 2 C.F.R. 200, including but not limited to Appendix II (Contact Provisions for non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards) which are in effect on the effective date of this Agreement.

By signing this Agreement, the Contractor provides the certification set out below:

1. The Contractor, to the best of its current knowledge, did not provide, within the previous ten years, and will take all reasonable steps to ensure that it does not and will not knowingly provide, material support or resources to any individual or entity that commits, attempts to commit, advocates, facilitates, or participates in terrorist acts, or has committed, attempted to commit, facilitated, or participated in terrorist acts, as that term is defined in paragraph 2.
2. The following steps may enable the Contractor to comply with its obligations under paragraph 1:
 - a. Before providing any material support or resources to an individual or entity, the Contractor will verify that the individual or entity does not (i) appear on the master list of Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons, which is maintained by the U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), or (ii) is not included in any supplementary information concerning prohibited individuals or entities that may be provided by IRI to the Contractor.
 - b. Before providing any material support or resources to an individual or entity, the Contractor also will verify that the individual or entity has not been designated by the United Nations Security (UNSC) sanctions committee established under UNSC Resolution 1267 (1999) (the "1267 Committee") [individuals and entities linked to the Taliban, Usama bin Laden, or the Al-Qaida Organization]. To determine whether there has been a published designation of an individual or entity by the 1267 Committee, the Contractor should refer to the consolidated list available online at the Committee's Web site: <http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/committees/1267/1267ListEng.htm>.
 - c. Before providing any material support or resources to an individual or entity, the Contractor will consider all information about that individual or entity of which it is aware and all public information that is reasonably available to it or of which it should be aware.
 - d. The Contractor also will implement reasonable monitoring and oversight procedures to safeguard against assistance being diverted to support terrorist activity.
3. For purposes of this Certification –
 - a. "Material support and resources" means currency or monetary instruments or financial securities, financial services, lodging, training, expert advice or assistance, safehouses, false documentation or identification, communications equipment, facilities, weapons, lethal substances, explosives, personnel, transportation, and other physical assets, except medicine or religious materials."
 - b. "Terrorist act" means –

- i. an act prohibited pursuant to one of the 12 United Nations Conventions and Protocols related to terrorism (see UN terrorism conventions Internet site: <http://untreaty.un.org/English/Terrorism.asp>); or
 - ii. an act of premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents; or
 - iii. any other act intended to cause death or serious bodily injury to a civilian, or to any other person not taking an active part in hostilities in a situation of armed conflict, when the purpose of such act, by its nature or context, is to intimidate a population, or to compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act.
 - iv. "Entity" means a partnership, association, corporation, or other organization, group or subgroup.
- c. References in this Certification to the provision of material support and resources must not be deemed to include the furnishing of IRI funds or IRI-financed commodities to the ultimate beneficiaries of IRI assistance, such as recipients of food, medical care, micro-enterprise loans, shelter, etc., unless the Contractor has reason to believe that one or more of these beneficiaries commits, attempts to commit, advocates, facilitates, or participates in terrorist acts, or has committed, attempted to commit, facilitated or participated in terrorist acts.
- d. The Contractor's obligations under paragraph 1 are not applicable to the procurement of goods and/or services by the Contractor that are acquired in the ordinary course of business through contract or purchase, e.g., utilities, rents, office supplies, gasoline, etc., unless the Contractor has reason to believe that a vendor or supplier of such goods and services commits, attempts to commit, advocates, facilitates, or participates in terrorist acts, or has committed, attempted to commit, facilitated or participated in terrorist acts.

This Certification is an express term and condition of any agreement issued as a result of this application, and any violation of it will be grounds for unilateral termination of the agreement by IRI prior to the end of its term.

By signing this Agreement, the Contractor is providing the certification set out below.

1. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the Contractor knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.
2. The Contractor shall provide immediate written notice to the person to which this Contract is signed if at any time the Contractor learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
3. The terms "covered transaction," "debarred," "suspended," "ineligible," "lower tier covered transaction," "participant," "person," "primary covered transaction," "principal," "proposal," and "voluntarily excluded," as used in this clause, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of the rules implementing Executive Order 12549.

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4. The Contractor agrees by signing this Agreement that the Contractor will not knowingly enter into any transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the IRI.
5. The Contractor further agrees by signing this Agreement that it will include the clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-- Lower Tier Covered Transactions," without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.
6. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals.
7. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.
8. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 5 above, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

The Contractor further certifies by signing this Agreement, that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for disbarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.

The Contractor certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

1. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal Cooperative Agreement, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
2. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned must complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions.

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3. The undersigned must require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients must certify and disclose accordingly.

This Agreement is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Agreement with this clause of the Agreement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, United States Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification will be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

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NEPAL: YUVA NETRITWA: PARADARSHI NITI (Youth Leadership: Transparent Policy)
NED 2020-0010 Sweep-Up Funds

U.S. GRANTEE:	International Republican Institute
PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:	July 01, 2021 to June 30, 2022
Direct Costs:	\$266,553
Subgrant:	\$18,000
Indirect Costs:	\$65,447
Total Costs:	\$350,000

Description	Amount	Rate/Percent	Unit	Number	Total
PERSONNEL					
Washington DC Staff					
Daily Rate					
Technical Area Specialists					
Center for Insights in Survey Research (CISR)	\$314.18	5%	day	14	\$4,398.45
Evidence & Learning Practice Specialist	\$171.23	2%	day	4	\$684.90
Program Support Staff					
Program Division Leadership	\$387.00	2%	day	5	\$1,935.00
Program Manager	\$231.84	10%	day	25	\$5,796.00
Program Officer	\$221.00	30%	day	77	\$17,017.00
Program Associate Staff	\$134.38	27%	day	70	\$9,406.60
Program Services Staff	\$242.61	20%	day	51	\$12,433.73
Total Personnel					\$51,671.68

FRINGE BENEFITS					
Fringe Benefits				46.83%	\$24,197.85
Total Fringe Benefits					\$24,197.85

SPACE & UTILITIES					
Office Administrative Costs (Rent, Utilities, Internet, Maintenance, Delivery)	\$2,500.00	48%	quarter	4	\$4,833.33
Total Space & Utilities					\$4,833.33

SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT					
CCN Computer and Laptop	\$1,903.60	100%	unit	1	\$1,903.60
Monthly Office Supplies (Field Office)	\$40.00	48%	unit	12	\$232.00
Monthly Office Supplies (DC)	\$120.00	17%	unit	12	\$245.08
Total Supplies & Equipment					\$2,380.68

COMMUNICATIONS & POSTAGE					
Total Communications & Postage					
					\$0.00

TRAVEL					
International Travel					
1 Field Staff Consultation Visits to HQ					
Senior Program Manager (Kathmandu-Washington, D.C.)	\$2,500.00	50%	RT	1	\$1,250.00
Per diem (lodging and M&IE)	\$333.00	50%	days	7	\$1,165.50
M&IE @ 75% for the first and the last day of travel	\$57.00	50%	travel day	2	\$57.00
Airport Transportation (1 staff)	\$20.00	50%	RT	1	\$10.00
2 HQ Monitoring Travel Program Staff					
Washington D.C. to Kathmandu (2 staff)	\$2,500.00	50%	RT	2	\$2,500.00
Per diem (lodging and M&IE) (2 staff x 13 days)	\$319.00	50%	days	14	\$2,233.00
M&IE @ 75% for the first and the last day of travel (2 staff)	\$86.25	50%	travel day	4	\$172.50
Visa and Other Immigration Expenses (2 staff)	\$30.00	50%	trip	2	\$30.00
Airport Transportation (2 staff)	\$150.00	50%	RT	2	\$150.00
3 HQ Technical Support Travel Program Staff					
Washington D.C. to Kathmandu (2 staff)	\$2,500.00	100%	RT	2	\$5,000.00
Per diem (lodging and M&IE) (2 staff x 13 days)	\$319.00	100%	days	26	\$8,294.00
M&IE @ 75% for the first and the last day of travel (2 staff)	\$86.25	100%	travel day	4	\$345.00
Visa and Other Immigration Expenses (2 staff)	\$30.00	100%	trip	2	\$60.00
Airport Transportation (4 staff)	\$150.00	100%	RT	2	\$300.00
4 Summit Regional Leaders Travel					
Airfare (region - Kathmandu) (4 regional leaders)	\$800.00	100%	RT	4	\$3,200.00
Per diem (lodging and M&IE) (4 regional leaders x 2 days)	\$319.00	100%	days	8	\$2,552.00
M&IE @ 75% for the first and the last day of travel (4 regional leaders)	\$86.25	100%	travel day	8	\$690.00
Visa and Other Immigration Expenses	\$30.00	100%	trip	4	\$120.00
Airport Transportation (4 regional leaders)	\$20.00	100%	RT	4	\$80.00
International Travel Total					\$28,209.00
Domestic Airfare outside of the U.S.					
1 Staff Travel - Workshops (East)					
Airfare (Kathmandu - Eastern region) (3 staff)	\$92.00	100%	RT	3	\$276.00
Per diem (lodging and M&IE) (3 staff x 2 days)	\$243.00	100%	days	6	\$1,458.00
M&IE @ 75% for the first and the last day of travel (3 staff)	\$67.50	100%	travel day	6	\$405.00
Airport Transportation (3 staff)	\$20.00	100%	RT	3	\$60.00
2 Staff Travel - Workshops (West)					
Airfare (Kathmandu - Western region) (3 staff)	\$148.00	100%	RT	3	\$444.00
Per diem (lodging and M&IE) (3 staff x 2 days)	\$243.00	100%	days	6	\$1,458.00
M&IE @ 75% for the first and the last day of travel (3 staff)	\$67.50	100%	travel day	6	\$405.00
Airport Transportation (3 staff)	\$20.00	100%	RT	3	\$60.00
3 Expert Trainer Travel - Workshops (East)					
Airfare (Kathmandu - Eastern region) (5 trainers)	\$92.00	100%	RT	5	\$460.00
Lodging (5 trainers x 2 days)	\$153.00	100%	days	10	\$1,530.00
Airport Transportation (5 trainers)	\$20.00	100%	RT	5	\$100.00
4 Expert Trainer Travel - Workshops (West)					
Airfare (Kathmandu - Western region) (5 trainers)	\$148.00	100%	RT	5	\$740.00
Lodging (5 trainers x 2 days)	\$153.00	100%	days	10	\$1,530.00
Airport Transportation (5 trainers)	\$20.00	100%	RT	5	\$100.00
Domestic Airfare outside of the U.S. Total					\$9,026.00
Other					
Headquarter Taxis	\$30.00	100%	RT	6.00	\$180.00
Taxis (Kathmandu)	\$20.00	100%	RT	13.00	\$260.00
Other Total					\$440.00
Total Travel					\$37,675.00

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES					
Field Office Staff					
Monthly Rate					
Senior Program Manager	\$2,677.00	20%	month	12	\$6,424.80
Program Officer	\$1,300.00	100%	month	12	\$15,600.00
Program Associate	\$1,100.00	25%	month	12	\$3,300.00
Finance Manager	\$1,499.85	48%	month	12	\$8,699.13
Office Driver	\$352.39	48%	month	12	\$2,043.86
Severance	\$577.44	48%	month	12	\$3,349.13
Health Insurance	\$2,656.33	48%	salaries	1	\$1,283.89
Accidental Insurance	\$1,561.29	48%	salaries	1	\$754.62
Field Office Staff Total					\$41,455.44

Contracts					
Legal Services	\$170.00	100%	hourly	10	\$1,700.00
Translator (2 translators x 6 days)	\$200.00	100%	day	12	\$2,400.00
Field Audit and Accounting Service	\$2,000.00	50%	agreement	1	\$1,000.00
Global Security Team	\$750.00	100%	day	1	\$750.00
Youth-Focused Research	\$30,000.00	100%	contract	1	\$30,000.00
Contracts Total					\$35,850.00
Total Contractual					
					\$77,305.44
CONSULTANTS and TRAINERS					
Expert Trainers - Advocacy Development and Youth Focused Workshops (6 trainers x 6 days)	\$200.00	100%	day	30	\$6,000.00
Consultant for Training Content Development	\$200.00	100%	day	8	\$1,600.00
Local Facilitator for ELA Workshops	\$60,000.00	100%	contract	1	\$60,000.00
Total Consultants & Trainers					
					\$67,600.00
OTHER DIRECT COSTS					
Field Office Administrative Costs					
Printing and Copying	\$60.00	100%	quarter	4	\$240.00
Bank Fees	\$36.00	100%	month	12	\$432.00
Program Public Communication Materials	\$216.86	100%	annual	1	\$216.86
Field Office Administrative Costs Total					\$888.86
Total Other Direct Costs					
					\$888.86
SUBAWARDS					
Small Grants Projects	\$6,000.00		subaward	3	\$18,000.00
Total Subawards					
					\$18,000.00
Total Direct Costs					
					\$284,552.84
INDIRECT COST					
Indirect Exclusions					
Total Amount Subject to Indirect				23.00%	\$284,552.84
Total Indirect Costs					
					\$65,447.15
TOTAL COSTS					
					\$350,000.00