

NEPAL

A. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION		
1.	PROJECT TITLE	Engaging state agencies to address impunity: Initiative to minimize the practice of self-censorship among Nepali journalists
2.	NUMBER	IPDC/59 NP/01
3.	MEDIA DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS' CATEGORY	Category – 1 "A System of Regulation Conducive to Freedom of Expression, Pluralism and Diversity of the Media"
4.	IPDC PRIORITY AREA	Promotion of Freedom of Expression and Press Freedom, Pluralism (particularly among local journalists) and Independence
5.	SCOPE (NATIONAL, REGIONAL, INTERREGIONAL)	Five regional and one national consultations
6.	TYPE OF ASSISTANCE REQUESTED	Human Resource Development Engaging state agencies and journalists for promotion of Freedom of Expression and minimizing self-censorship
7.	TOTAL COST OF PROJECT	US \$ 40,000.00
8.	AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM IPDC	US \$ 32,025.00
9.	BENEFICIARY BODY	State Agencies, i.e., Ministry of Information and Communication, Press Council Nepal, Media Institutions, Human Rights Organizations, etc. Working Journalists, Federation of Nepalese Journalists.
10.	IMPLEMENTING OFFICE	UNESCO Kathmandu Office, Nepal and SODEC-Nepal
11.	PROJECT LOCATION	Kathmandu and five regional locations of Nepal
12.	PROJECT PREPARED BY	SODEC-Nepal with technical support from UNESCO Kathmandu Office

B. PRESENTATION

1. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

After the restoration of democracy in Nepal in 1990, media in the country flourished. The newly promulgated constitution guaranteed the Freedom of Expression (FoE). Newspapers, hundreds of FM stations, and over dozens of television channels were established. The country breathed a sigh of relief as free press was gathering momentum. However, during the decade-long Maoist insurgency that began in 1996, the media sector witnessed a setback. Both the state and the Maoists targeted media. Though the situation improved somewhat with the Maoists joining the mainstream politics, journalists continued to face attacks, threats and murders.

According to Federation of Nepalese Journalists' report released in 2012-13, there have been 228 incidents where journalists have been either attacked or threatened. Some sixty-five journalists have been threatened and 32 have been attacked and two journalists have been murdered. Unfortunately, only two cases have been registered in the court. Since the conflict, 35 journalists have been killed and 4 journalists still remain missing. However, the relatives of murdered journalists have not received justice.

The very fact that only two cases have been registered against the perpetrators suggests that impunity is prevalent in the country. The data presented above clearly highlights the fact that journalist are working in a challenging and volatile situation. The root cause of impunity is a matter of serious enquiry and analysis. In such an environment of impunity, it would be unreal to expect journalists to freely express words, ideas, and images as it is guaranteed by international law and human rights bindings. This has serious implications for free press as they tend to work in an environment of self-censorship. It is an established fact that self-censorship is a stumbling block in ensuring freedom of expression. The primary cause of self censorship is the existing impunity situation in Nepal. Since only two cases have been registered in the court, it is evident that the perpetrators feel secured and continue to attack and threaten journalists; such incidences continue to be a routine affair.

As the state has been unable to bring the perpetrators to justice, there is an urgent need to identify the factors for the prevailing situation and take remedial measures minimizing the degree of impunity is a positive step towards the press freedom. It minimizes the self censorship which is linked to the promotion of freedom of expression and press freedom.

It is against this backdrop that Development Communication Society Nepal (SODEC-Nepal) intends to analyze the causes and consequences of impunity with in-depth analysis of the 35 cases of murdered journalists and the 4 missing journalists. It is anticipated that that this study will pressurize the government and state agencies to take the necessary legal steps to provide justice to the families of the dead and missing journalists and address various issues regarding impunity.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE TARGET GROUP:

The primary target group of this project is the state agencies, specifically, judges, public prosecutors, lawyers, police and other persons related to safety and security. This group can be highly effective in bringing the culprits to justice and also advocate policy reforms.

The secondary group would comprise of human rights activists, civil society organizations and 100 working journalists from five development regions with equal participation of journalists women. The secondary group has an important role in promoting freedom of expression through lobbying, advocacy and working in an environment where there is no self-censorship.

3. DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE:

- The project attempts to study how the state of impunity is undermining the freedom of expression and self-censorship despite constitutional guarantees of journalists' safety in Nepal after the end conflict.
- To pressurize authorities to take appropriate legal action against the perpetrators so that impunity situation is minimized.
- To enhance the capacity of the members of judiciary to handle cases related to violations of media rights.
- To sensitize the security agencies on ensuring the rights of journalists to promote freedom of expression.

4. IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE:

- To conduct a situational analysis of the legal status of 35 murdered and 4 missing journalists
- To analyze reasons behind the increasing state of impunity in cases of violence against journalists even during the post conflict time.
- To identify ways to engage state authorities in promoting and ensuring freedom of expressions through UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity and other relevant treaties ratified by the Government of Nepal.
- To minimize the self censorship and promote freedom of expression.
- To increase the confidence of journalists regarding their professional and physical safety.

5. PROJECT OUTPUTS:

- Study report (to be released on 2nd November, 2015)
- Consultations and meetings
- Reports on consultations in six locations

6. ACTIVITIES:

- Five regional and one central level consultations to address the challenges in promoting freedom of expressions and ensuring the safety and security of journalists with the participation of around 100 journalists including 50 percent women. This will provide opportunities for journalists and state agencies to interact with each other in an open and free

manner to share and make concrete recommendations on the role of state agencies, exchange various ideas from both parties so that freedom of expression is ensured, and self-censorship is gradually minimised.

- Organise one national level consultation with security agencies: judges, public prosecutors, lawyers, police and journalists with a view to address the challenges in promoting freedom of expressions and removing self-censorship. This consultation will ensure that the commitment made by different state agencies are reinforced, recommended, and implemented. This consultation is anticipated to make state agencies more responsive and accountable in promoting freedom of expression.
- In-depth study and analyses regarding impunity in the 39 cases mentioned above and identifying the reasons why the cases have been languishing with no legal solution in sight.
- To develop and distribute a checklist prepared during the consultations specifying state agencies roles and responsibilities in promoting Freedom of Expression.

7. PROJECT INPUTS:

- Federation of Nepalese Journalists reports
- Court verdicts
- UNESCO's Media Development Indicators
- Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) markers
- UN Plan of Action

8. WORK PLAN:

ACTIVITIES / MONTHS	1	2	3	4	5	6
Planning Meeting	X					
Literature review and case analysis	X	X				
Consultation in Region – 1			X			
Consultation in Region – 2			X			
Consultation in Region – 3			X			
Consultation in Region – 4				X		
Consultation in Region – 5				X		
Central Level Consultation				X		
Analysis of Consultation's inputs				X		
Compilation of all each Analysis finding					X	
Presentation and sharing of the finding					X	
Report publication						X
Project completion						X

9. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK:

SODEC-Nepal has been working in the field of capacity building of journalists, promotion of freedom of expression, Right to Information, Journalists Safety issues. Research, publication, Workshops and Seminars are some regular task that this organization has been carrying out. SODEC- Nepal has been working on the issues of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Post MDGs. SODEC- Nepal is always abiding by the values of international human rights and principles of press freedom and freedom of expression. Likewise we always respect our constitutional provision which is liberal to accept the press freedom and freedom of expression. Right to Information Acts and regulation are also given due consideration when we work in the banner of our organization.

In the recently concluded Constituent Assembly Election-2, SODEC–Nepal provided technical and supervisory for the Voters Education component for the Electoral Support Project for UNDP and Election Commission wherein 12 TV Channels and more than 350 community radio stations were mobilized. Recently, the Australian Embassy, through its Direct Aid Programme, has awarded a project in the area of Right to Information. This project is also expected to contribute to the freedom of expressions in the country.

Similarly, SODEC had organized an orientation workshop for journalists on:"UN Plan of Action on the safety and security of journalists and issue of impunity". Similarly, the organization was involved in arranging a three day workshop on "Context Analysis, Do No Harm and Conflict Sensitivity" among partners and journalists from the project districts in May 2014. Likewise, it has also been involved in peace building efforts through documentaries, trainings and research.

SODEC- Nepal has an executive board which approves all the projects and guides those activities. All the activities are supervised by executive board. The organization believes in transparency, inclusion and participation. It never works out of the boundary of its constitution. It always reports the concerned authority about its project and implementing activities. It is always abiding by the national legal provision, rules, regulation and cultural sensitivity. Pluralism and diversity are always considered. Its General Meeting held annually and Executive meetings are held at least once every quarter. Its books of account are audited annually.

SODEC- Nepal is the member organization of Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) - a reputed media forum established by the government of Asia-Pacific region. It has good linkages with Federation of Nepalese Journalists, Press Council and several other developmental organizations both within the government and non-government sector.

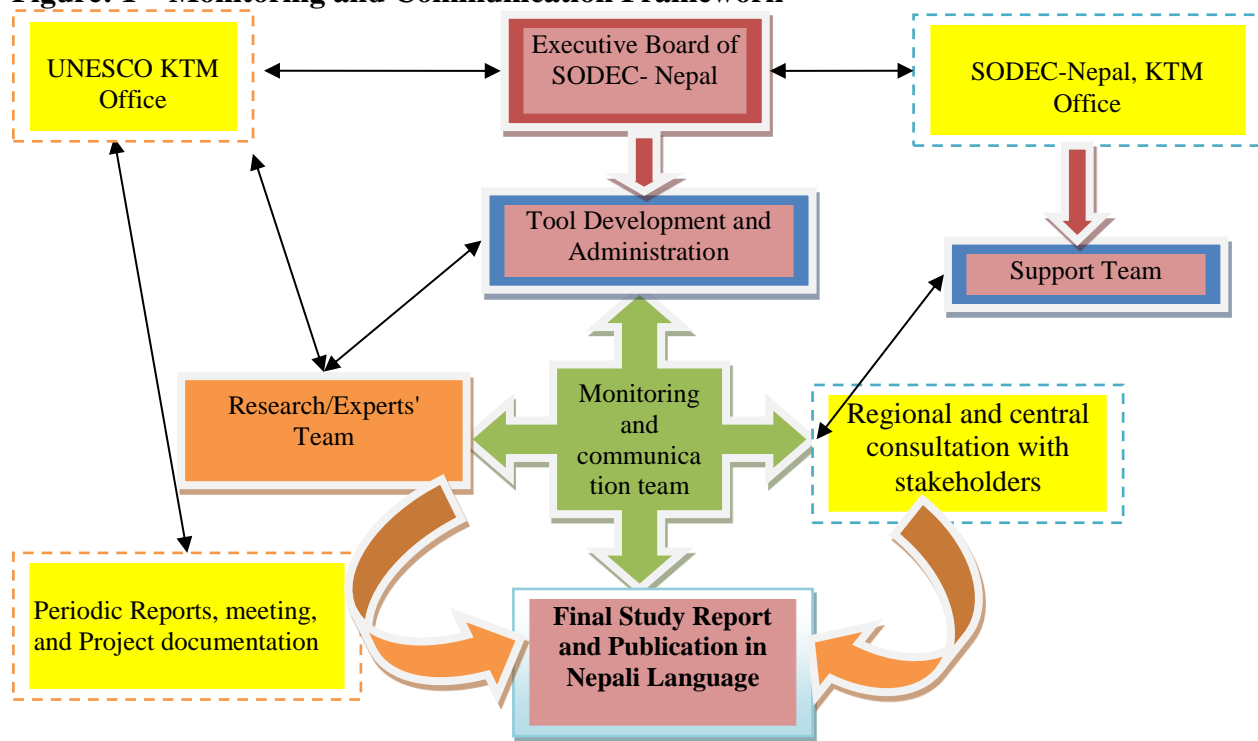
10. SUSTAINABILITY:

Even after the phase out of the project, SODEC-Nepal will continue to work on the issue of safety of journalists and minimization of impunity through regular TV programs, research and trainings. We will raise our voices to protect the freedom of expression with other like minded organizations. We will continue to highlight cases of impunity and create pressure for the authorities to take appropriate actions against the perpetrators.

11. FRAMEWORK OF MONITORING AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY:

The Service provider will be responsible to monitor all the project activities. It will form a monitoring committee within the organization which will monitor and follow up the activities and progress so as to assure the quality and deadline of services. An inception report, a mid-term report and a final report will be submitted based on the field monitoring of different training programs. Feedback in the field, comment and suggestions via any medium website will be highly encouraged. We will request UNESCO Kathmandu office to monitor the activities as well. Likewise, SODEC- Nepal will submit the detail planning/outline to UNESCO. And, following the completion of the assignment, SODEC- Nepal will prepare a consolidated report of each event organized capturing the major issues, and achievements. The conceptual framework of monitoring of the project is presented below:

Figure: 1 – Monitoring and Communication Framework



12. EVALUATIONS CARRIED OUT:

SODEC-Nepal has implemented many projects related to media, communication, press freedom and freedom of expression as well as Right to Information. In the earlier completed projects, we have received encouraging evaluation reports. Assurance of quality work, sincere about deadline, financial transparency is always the primary issues in each project for our evaluation team. These evaluations have enhanced the organization's profile. We have been evaluating our projects internally and externally as per the need. The external evaluator's recommendations have given further impetus to our work. All our projects are evaluated annually.

BENEFICIARY AGENCY'S REPORTING:

Inception report: Within 2nd week of the project signing

Mid-term report: Within 1st week of the third month of project implementation
Final report: End of the sixth month.

C. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SODEC- Nepal has conducted many studies. It has its own experts specialized on freedom of expression, impunity and press freedom. It has been participating many international forum related to freedom of expression and press freedom. It has been working in different part of the country. So, it can easily make its networks required to implement the project. It has good working relationships with Press Council Nepal, Federation of Nepali Journalists and academic institutions. All the board members of SODEC- Nepal are at least Masters in Media, Communication and Journalism which has strengthened the organization professionally.

D. BUDGET

BREAKDOWN OF IPDC CONTRIBUTION (IN US DOLLARS)

Fee for Team Leader – 1 (lump sum)	1,500.00
Fee for Senior Researcher – 1 (lump sum)	1,200.00
Fee for Legal Expert – 1 (lump sum)	1,200.00
Fee of Human Rights Expert/Conflict Expert – 1 (lump sum)	1,200.00
Report Writer/ Editor	1,200.00
Remuneration for Enumerators 6 persons (6*550\$)	3,300.00
Transportation for Enumerators (travel to murder incident sites)	1,500.00
DSA of Enumerators (6 persons*10 days each*25\$)	1,500.00
Airfare, 3 persons in 5 regions (3*5*160\$ for two way)	2,400.00
DSA of 3 persons for regional consultation (3 persons*10 days each*25\$)	750.00
Local Transportation, vehicle hire in 5 regions (2 days *5 regions * 100\$)	1,000.00
Cost of 5 Regional Workshops (5*800\$)	4,000.00
Cost of 1 Central Workshop	1,100.00
Communication and stationeries for workshops	600.00
Salary for Accountant (6 Months*300\$)	1,800.00
Salary for Project Coordinator (6 Months*600\$)	3,600.00
Airfare for Project Coordinator for 5 Regional Workshops (5*160\$ for round trip)	800.00
DSA of Project Coordinator for 5 Workshops (3 days each event*5 Event*25\$)	375.00
Cost for Internal meeting, workshop, orientation, checklist development	500.00
Report Designing/Printing and delivery (500 Copies)	2,000.00
Dissemination of Report	500.00
Total IPDC (US \$)	32,025.00

IN WORDS: US \$ Thirty-two thousand twenty five only.

BREAKDOWN OF THE BENEFICIARY AGENCY'S CONTRIBUTION (in US dollar)	
Office space for project (6 Months)	1,000.00
Utilities (Telephone, Electricity, Water, Internal Meeting Hall etc.)	1,000.00
Secretariat services	500.00
Still camera and photography service	500.00
Video Camera/ Cameraperson for workshop videography	500.00
Video Editing and production service	500.00
Logistic Officer (6 Months*250)	1,500.00
Auditor fee	500.00
Transportation/fuel	1,000.00
Equipment management	975.00
Total (in US \$)	7,975.00
In word: US \$ Seven thousand nine hundred seventy five only.	