

Peacebuilding Model

Based on Experience of Peace Building from Below Project,
an Initiative of RRN



Rural Reconstruction Nepal



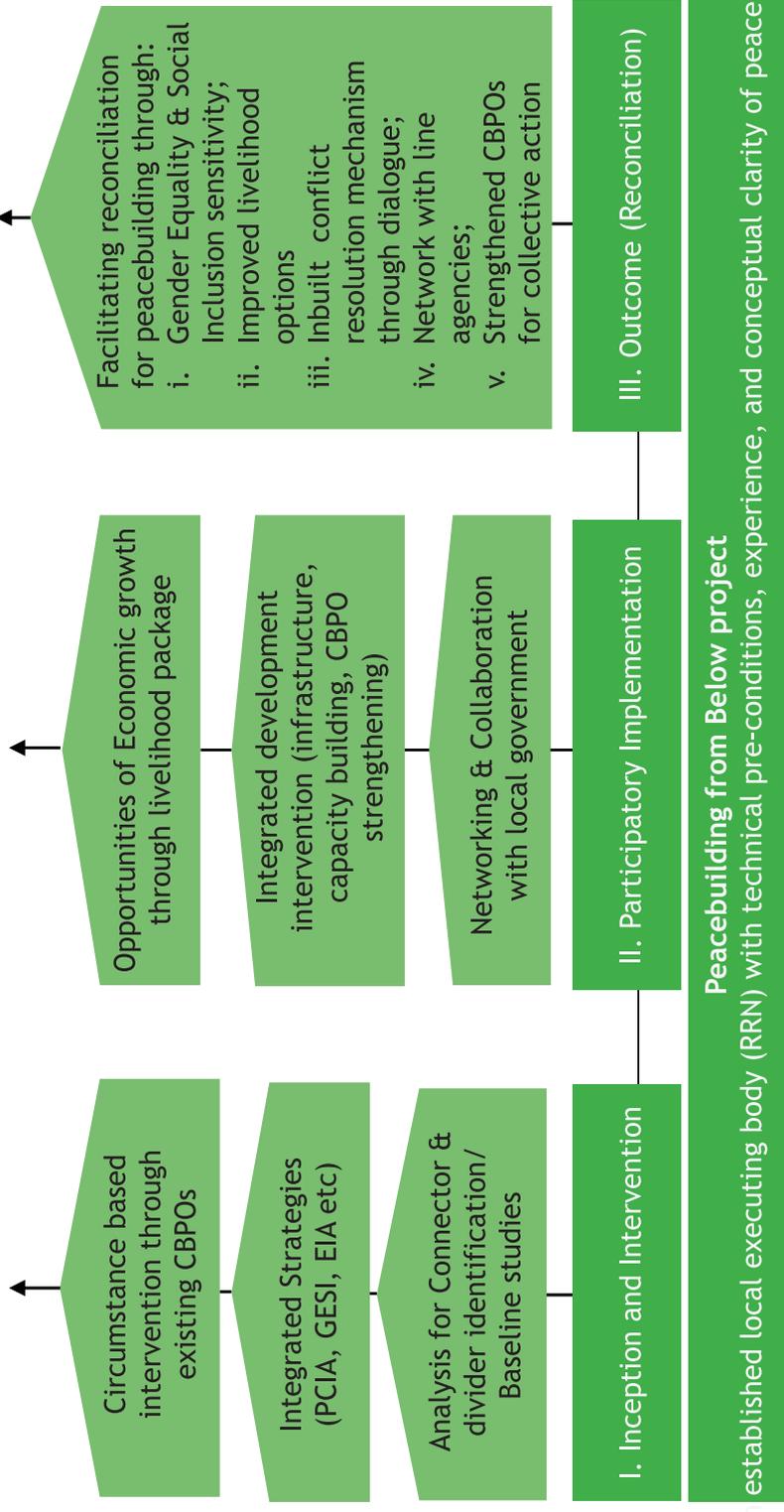
Canadian International
Development Agency

PEACEBUILDING FROM BELOW MODEL

IMPACT LEVEL



PROJECT LEVEL



The presented model seeks to provide a framework that facilitates peacebuilding and reconciliation, and seeks to prevent the recurrence of violence by addressing root causes and effects of the conflict in an environment similar to PBB project area (Sankhuwasabha and Bhojpur).

A. Project Level

In the given model, 'project level' signifies the area that is under the project control and oriented in result based management, so that it can contribute to the higher (national) impact level.



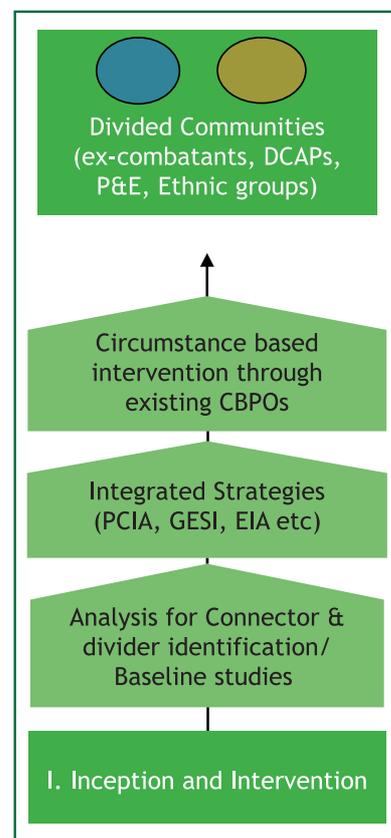
Although much similar to any project cycle or process, the PBB project cycle also follows the steps of: I. Inception and Intervention; II. Participatory Implementation; and, III. Outcome. The peacebuilding intervention from the grassroots level foremost requires execution through an established local body with experiences of working with communities that can mobilize local groups and resources. In case of PBB, RRN as an established institution played a crucial role with its good rapport in project districts, and technical expertise in working for community development.

I. Inception and Intervention

The first step towards developing a peacebuilding model is studying the social, economic, and political aspects of the communities in order to grasp the dynamics of conflict in a better manner, and to identify the connecting and dividing elements persisting in the communities. The phase also requires conducting baseline studies to set the target benchmarks

Following the study of circumstance, the peacebuilding project requires to develop relevant strategies to begin intervention. The PBB project had adopted an integrated set of conflict sensitive development strategies for achieving the project objectives and long-term sustainability including: (i) GESI, (ii) PCIA, (iii) EIA and (iv) Risk strategy.

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Strategy (GESI): The gender equality and social inclusion issue has been taken as a cross cutting theme of the entire project cycle, adopted with the aim to promote greater equality between men and women as well as among



various social groups. A GESI guideline was prepared and the staff were oriented on adopting GESI sensitivity in the project cycle.

Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment Strategy (PCIA): To avoid the anticipated negative consequences of intervention, the peacebuilding project should examine the potential conflict and design subprojects accordingly, especially focusing on the impact on the poor and excluded. The PBB project adopted and employed PCIA in order to mitigate potential and unintended outputs that could further generate conflict and put the entire project and peacebuilding process at risk.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The peacebuilding project must undertake environmental implications assessment in order to ensure that no environmental damages from the development activities are incurred. In PBB, environmental assessments were conducted in accordance with the policies of and regulations of the government of Nepal and Canada, with a guideline developed exclusively for the project.

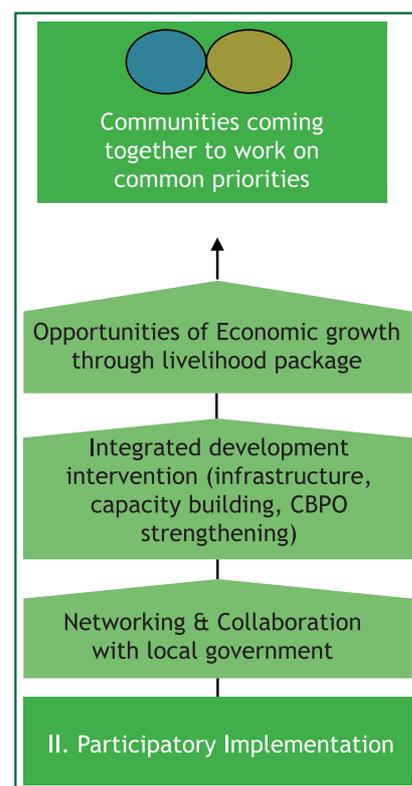
Risk Strategy: Considering the likely disturbances during the implementation of the project activities, the project carried out risk analysis through a Risk Analysis Framework based on which, relevant steps were taken to mitigate identified risk.

After the collection of background information and preparation of strategies, intervention is designed based on the circumstances. PBB project came up with the “Project Implementation Plan” for implementation that is based on the baseline and contextual information. For the intervention, the PBB captured the existing CBPOs in intervention areas instead of creating new ones.

II. Participatory Implementation

The peacebuilding project has to be a participatory process through active social mobilization. In PBB, community mobilisers were assigned for each working VDC, who worked directly with the existing CBPOs, facilitating their participation in equality and inclusion basis. The participatory implementation of project refers not only to the participation of community people but also of the local stakeholders.

Networking and collaboration with the stakeholders is crucial step in the peacebuilding process such that the stakeholders at various level (central, district, local) are involved and the linkage with service providers are enhanced. In PBB, the MoPR has been a key partner in the project process especially with regard to policy guidance and the model ownership for the national replication. The other relevant stakeholders (DDC/



LGCDP, VDC, district based line agencies and LPCs) too contributed their resources (human, physical, institutional, etc.) in the implementation of the project, reflecting the enhanced network. The CBPOs had played a central role by involving themselves in implementation activities of the project and in linking actively with service providers.

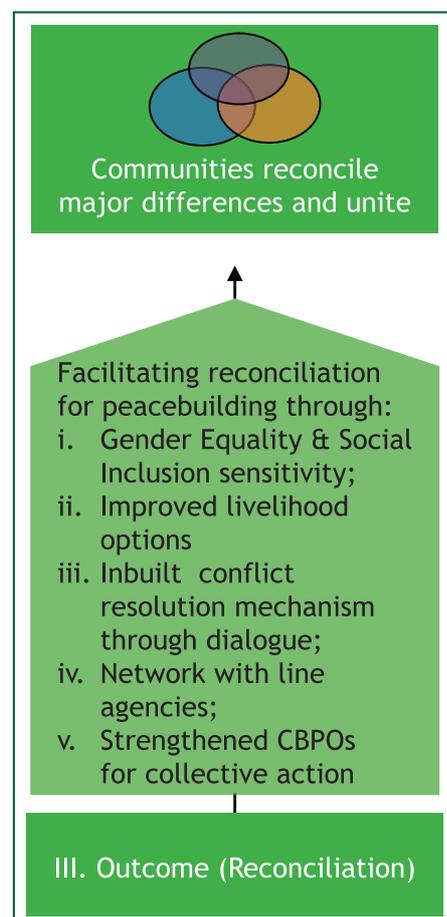
The PBB is a unique project as it undertook the development interventions comprised of various components to make it a holistic attempt. The social development components include: support for health and education. Similarly, the economic development components include: livelihoods, and income generation and micro enterprise activities; the physical development include: construction and rehabilitation of community infrastructures; and institutional development include: improving the institutional, financial and technical capabilities of the local organizations (CBPOs); and, meeting the immediate needs, handling crises and ongoing advocacies were other important components of the project.

The PBB was envisaged with the sustainable economic development of the community for lasting peace. In this regard, the above mentioned integrated development interventions focused on creation of economic opportunities for people to sustain their livelihoods. In addition to economic opportunities, creation of social opportunities (especially for women, Dalits, poor and Janajatis) through empowerment programs to enhance people’s participation in public sphere, where people are emerging out of exclusion and marginalization, with mechanism of equal and inclusive participation of all.

III. Outcome

The outcome of the PBB project is the creation of reconciliatory environment, which transforms the antagonistic relationships into a mutually enriching friendship and cooperation among community members.

The completion of various PBB project activities acted as a powerful stimulant for the conflict affected people to come together for their involvement in development projects and peacebuilding. Without socio-cultural, economic and institutional development incentives to the people, they were less likely to come forward for participation, a pre-requisite condition for development and peacebuilding. Thus, the improvements in the access to health, educational services, and livelihood opportunities have driven people towards non-conflicting environment. In addition, various institutional capabilities of CBPOs were focused upon that enabled developing mechanism to resolve small conflicts locally.

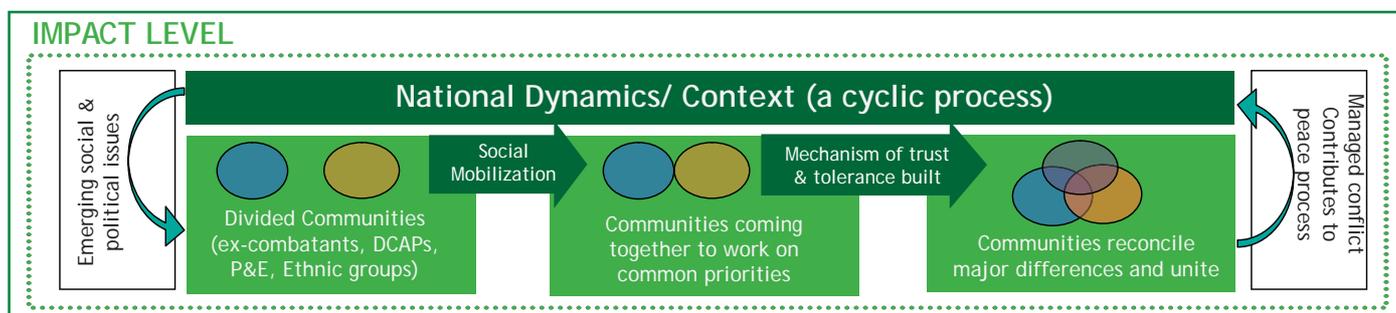


CBPOs are increasingly becoming sensitive of gender equality and social inclusion as an effect of frequent GESI orientation of the project. Moreover, it is the improved livelihood chances of people, especially for youths, poor and marginalized, through various skill developments and funds/grants to begin small enterprises (eg. seed money grant) that have enhanced life chances and economic opportunities. Further, community people have developed a mechanism to handle community level small disputes through the medium of dialogue. The enhanced relation with the line agencies, through synergetic efforts of PBB to improve people’s linkage with service providers, have yielded a positive outcome as people are growing aware of the services and resources available and are actively seeking to tap the resources through collective actions. These outcomes are contributing to the reconciliation in communities, earlier facing inequality and exclusion, as they are emerging in harmony with focus on their socio-economic well being to rebuild their livelihood, while healing their relationships.

The above description is attuned to PBB project components oriented in result based management with expected outputs and outcomes. The working experience in the project areas have helped in describing the process of model. It should be noted that while the project process are mostly under the control of the project staffs, the outcome of the project, however, seeks to complement the broader peacebuilding process at community level impacting the national level dynamics, which is more abstract than specific project indicators. The following section elaborates on how peacebuilding initiative like PBB can contribute to this abstract process of peacebuilding at national impact scale.

B. Impact Level

The aim of any peacebuilding project is to contribute to the on-going national level peacebuilding process. But the broader peace process is much complex and the process is continually affected by various extraneous variables beyond the project capacity or control. So the project can contribute to the impact level with constant risk of being affected by unknown and unexpected political stir or other factors.



As the national political dynamics is an ongoing cyclic process of emerging ideologies and change, the newer ideas are bound to create conflict with existing old ones. It is reflected in the conflict between groups of people with conflicting views.

The peacebuilding project intervenes in the conflicting scenario by trying to understand the dividing elements and to identify what elements can bring them together to exist in harmony.



The project seeks the reasons for the division. Then after, with the effective social mobilization, the project can initiate to bring the divided communities, tapping on the common priorities, facilitating the platform for dialogue and discussion.

The coming together of communities for a constructive discussion to share their thoughts through interaction programs is a step in progress to bring people together to sort out their differences. The PBB experience showed that just bringing people together for a discussion can be a tedious task in a post conflict scenario in rural context where people were directly affected. Thus the process is characterized with back and forth phenomenon of communities coming together and remaining divided, repeatedly. The social mobilization has to be channeled regularly to take communities to the stage of harmony.

A peacebuilding project is required to continue to create an environment where groups are able to share a platform and develop a culture of dialogue and listening, and show readiness to work on the common needs. Once the culture is developed and the mechanism to bring everyone together is developed, the project taps on the situation and executes the project activities where the assimilation of groups is further nurtured by the participatory environment with equal opportunities. After the mechanism of trust and tolerance between groups are built, then the communities can move to the stage of a harmony. Here again, the communities are bound to be moving back and forth between working together and actually living in co-existence.

The stage of harmony, unity and co-existence can occur through the project outcome that yield people a direct benefits whereas the sustenance of the stage is guaranteed with the mechanism in place to resolve dispute. The project works towards ensuring linkage with LPC and line agencies, thus it contributes to bridging the gap between people and the state. Also the focus on gender equality and social inclusion has developed a friendly and sensitive environment that directly aides in harmony. Most importantly, the improvement of livelihood assets through the project activities has engaged people in economic opportunities thus diverting them to constructive engagement.

The management of conflict and livelihood is expected to contribute to the broader national context. However, considering that the national process itself is growing, thus changing, the process of conflict is likely to re-occur and follow the same channel to reach harmony.

Therefore, PBB project model seeks to promote institutionalization of the mechanism within community groups to deal with locally arising conflicts in order to maintain the communal cohesion and togetherness. PBB demonstrated the project uniqueness through integrated development approach as means, in bringing together divided community to work for a common need and cause, to achieve reconciliation, the end result. The core thrust of the project was to create an environment whereby people with differences come together and work with mutual understanding, thereby increasing tolerance and acceptance of one another. Establishing this culture of harmony and accepting co-existence of differences from the community level can translate into broader peace. The model thus carries a potential for a circumstantial replication of peacebuilding project to enhance stability at local level in order to attain stability at higher level.

Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN), established in 1989, is a Nepali non-government social development organization involved in rural development, action-oriented research and policy advocacy. Its prime beneficiaries are peasants, poor women, dalits and indigenous nationalities, and other vulnerable communities who are mobilized through the process of facilitation, social mobilization, empowerment and self-organization. RRN's work is based on the four-fold approach to rural reconstruction covering : education to combat illiteracy and empower people to access their rights; sustainable livelihood to fight poverty; health to prevent disease, and self-government to overcome inertia.

Peace Building from Below (PBB) is implemented by Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN) in 20 VDCs of Bhojpur and Sankhuwasabha districts of eastern Nepal . The project is funded by Government of Canada through the Canadian International Development Agency - CIDA . The goal of the project is to contribute towards sustainable peacebuilding in Nepal.

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