
Livable Cities-Nepal

Final Narrative Report

**September 2017 to August
2018**

Prepared by REPHEC
September 2018

Background

The world is undergoing the largest wave of urban growth. More than half of the world's population now lives in towns and cities, and by 2030 this number will swell to about 5 billion reaching to 2/3rd of total population. Much of this urbanization will unfold in Africa and Asia, bringing huge social, economic and environmental transformations.

Human have created urban areas right since the ancient times. Urbanization has the potential to usher in a new era of well-being, resource efficiency and economic growth. But cities are also home to high concentrations of energy consumption and commercial viability in cost of health and environment vulnerability.

Densely populated areas, coupled with scant regard for environmental laws add to the woes. The urban populations daily commute costs the planet hard with public transport system failing to deliver, poor pedestrian infrastructure or people simply choosing luxury over sensibility and using private cars which add to the emission of toxic fumes. Traffic congestion is a perennial problem in urban cities. The rapidly increasing number of arrivals to the cities is proving to be unmanageable to the authorities, owing to lack of resources and organizational skills. The rising demand of space pushes property prices higher and encroachment of public space. Living condition here take a definite beating due to absence of basic amenities like safe drinking water, sanitation and drainage system. The busy schedule lifestyle promotes consumption of junk food in urban dwellers. All of this aspect has high impact on health of people. Lack of physical activity, lack of public space and poor food choice are all contributing to non communicable disease especially in case of urban dweller.

Non communicable disease (NCDs) cause 63% of deaths globally and nearly 80% of deaths in low and middle income countries (WHO 2010). In Nepal, more than 50% of deaths are caused by NCDs .In the last one decade the disease prevalence shifted from communicable disease to NCDs. The health of the Nepali population is greatly affected by the state of its cities. Most of city designs supports motorized vehicles rather than pedestrians. Evidence of this can be found by looking at budgets allocated for Non Motorised Transportation. According to a recent report more than 500 motorbikes are sold every month in Kathmandu only. Parks and public spaces are poorly managed and under constant threat of encroachment. Other than this, the factors contributing to NCDs are food choices. There is emerging evidence that the people are switching from fruits and vegetables to processed foods high in fat, sugar, and salt.

RECPHEC, with a vision of ensuring people's rights to health, has been working constantly on public health issues since last two decades. RECPHEC, has been working on Urban Health issues like noise pollution, campaign against polythene bags, vehicle regulated zone , pedestrian rights ,junk food advertisement, open spaces and recently on public market spaces in partnership with

Healthbridge Foundation, Canada. In addition RECPHEC'S Health Right and Tobacco Control Network in 58 districts has also been advocating on some of these issues across the districts.

The major activity undertaken taken this year by RECPHEC was continuation of the "Ktm walks" campaign to promote open streets along with rights of pedestrians. This issue of pedestrian rights has been raised through public support, campaign and policy level workshops and meetings. The public markets in Kathmandu are also being threatened by modern concept of cities with super markets marginalizing small scale traders. This concept not only decreases easy and affordable accessibility to healthy food but also increased risk to local vendors from their business

Recent Political scenario in Nepal:

RECPHEC is advocacy based organization. Most of the livable city project activities also focus on advocacy. Nepal has come a long way from monarchy to democracy to the present as a federal republic state. The key milestone of promulgation of new constitution was achieved in September 2015. Nepal had its first three level election; local, provincial and parliamentary in 2017. Nepal had now seven provinces and Kathmandu valley is in Province number three with eighteen municipalities under it. But the transition of power from central to provincial and then to local government is still uncertain in many ways. It is expected that, it will take time for adjustment and completely understand the procedures. However, this has been a magnificent revolution for us and our country, and hopefully we will move towards stable and prosperous direction.

Following are the updates of activities conducted for this phase.

Access to Healthy Transportation

1. Walkability Audit:

In many developing countries, a large number of citizen walk as part of their daily social, recreational and livelihood activities. In case of Kathmandu, a study by Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transportation (MoPIT) in 2011 showed that the travel mode share of walking is 40.7 percent whereas private vehicle is 28.2 percent. However the share of walking is declined by more than 23 percent in last two decade. This is mainly because the plans and policies and infrastructure development that were adopted are almost exclusively vehicle centric, discouraging walking and even cycling. And there are no policies that specifically address pedestrian. With the objective to provide qualitative assessment of walking situation of the KMC respective to pedestrian's right. The study provides information on the current pedestrian infrastructure in Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC). The study shows that 32 percent of total segment surveyed had poor footpath condition. Approximately 60 percent of observed segments were rated as fair in terms of

cleanliness, which means they have some physical disorder. Around 71 percent of the segment is inappropriate for differently able people. The study found that 80 percent of all segment surveyed lacked any kind of crossing aid for pedestrian. From the perception survey it was found that 73 percent of out of total respondent feel unsafe crossing the road. *(Please find the final report in Annex I)*

2. Dissemination workshop of walkability report of Kathmandu:

RECPHEC conducted a national seminar in coordination with an organization called Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal(SAN) who are working in road safety. We disseminated our study report in this seminar on July 26, 2018. Around 45 participants from respective field attended the seminar. The objective of the seminar was highlighted by Mr.Shanta Lall Mulmi, Executive Director, RECPHEC. A presentation on "Road Safety: Human Rights and SDGs" was made by Mr. Milan Dharel, (Board Member, SAN).He highlighted about the human rights, state duty on human rights and Road safety and SDGs.

A presentation on "Walkability in Kathmandu Metropolitan City; A studyReport "was presented by Ms. Kamana Manandhar, RECPHEC. She shared the findings of a research conducted on walkability of Kathmandu Metropolitan city. She highlighted on the existing road polices and provisions related to pedestrian rights in Nepal and methods; infrastructure audit, perception survey and pedestrian count. The presentation concluded the need of pedestrian focused policies and infrastructure improvement. Mr. Bhusan Tuladhar, UN-Habitat commented on a study report presentation. He said that the presentation is comprehensive that covered all the issues but the report could include current political contexts as well.

Er. Sushil Bhatta, Honorable Member of National Planning Commission emphasized on implementation of policies, coordination among the stakeholders, evidence collection, comparative analysis and situational analysis. He shared that, it is an important issue and would discuss about this in his meetings. He said that he will be willing to discuss on this agenda further with civil society.

After the presentation session, there was panel discussion.

The panel discussion was chaired by Mr. Sachin Shrestha, Department of Road, Mr. Indra Man Suwal, Kathmandu Metropolitan



City, Mr. Pradeep Amatya, Lalitpur Metropolitan City, SP. Surendra Prasad Mainali, Metropolitan Traffic Police Division and Mr. Kashi Prasad Gupta, Department of Urban Development and Building construction. It was moderated by Mr. Milan Dharel, Board Member, Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal. All the panel members appreciated the effort taken by organizer to highlight the issue and they said that they would definitely raise this issue in their departmental meetings. There was a open forum where participants presented their view about the current scenario of Nepal in respect to pedestrian right and road safety. They raised the issue of pedestrian's right being neglected by government authorities. The session was then concluded by the moderator. *(Please find detail report in Annex II)*

3. "Ktm Walks" Campaign

We are very proud to share that finally three streets of Thamel is "No vehicle Zone". Recphec along with partner organizations have been advocating for vehicle free street since 2007. We came with concept of "Ktm walks" campaign in 2014. Since then the campaign was ongoing time and again. Then there came the phase when local authorities of Thamel wanted to fix the roads before conducting any campaign. We were in continuous communication with local authorities and officials on this issue. The construction of roads started from August 2017. Then after immediately, three stretch of Thamel was declared vehicle free everyday from 7 am to 7 pm from October 22,2017 with joint efforts of tourism entrepreneurs, local activists, local bodies, and Kathmandu Metropolitan Traffic Police Division(KMTPD) This is effective till date.



Sign to restrict vehicle in Thamel



Vehicle free street in Thamel

A

Along with Thamel, The complex of Pashupati Temple, one of the heritage sites of Nepal was also declared vehicle free from December 26,



2017 with joint effort from local bodies groups and KMTPD. The temple complex is on the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites since 1979. The DGIP of KMTPD, Mr Sarbendra Khanal , shared that the results of Thamel really encouraged him to push this in Pashupati area.

Vehilce Free area in Pashupati Temple

- a) We conducted a post survey with local stakeholders of both Thamel and Pashupati in vehicle free zone on 9 and 10th January in Thamel and 12 January in Pashupati area. From the survey it was found out that more than fifty percent of respondent were comfortable to travel now and only four percent were uncomfortable to travel in vehicle free street in Thamel where as 97 percent of respondent liked the vehicle free environment. On question about their business, 83 percent of respondent said their business benefitted from this and only 14 percent said it did not benefit their business. In case of Pashupati, more than fifty percent of respondent liked vehicle free complex and were happy about the decision.



Figure 1 Volunteers surveying in Thamel

Ktm walk campaign is still being continued in Kilagal area of Kathmandu by the community members and local club of Kilagal area. The latest event of Ktm walks was held in 13 and 27 January, 2018. With local government in place, the community of Kilagal is looking forward to make it a permanent event. For this continuous lobby is going on.



Figure 3 "Ktm walks" campaign in Kilagal



Figure 2 Children playin in Kilagal during "ktm walks" campaign



Figure 4Community meeting in Kilagal

Meanwhile talking about “Ktm walks” campaign we also, brought up the issue of promoting non motorised transportation in Lalitpur with Lalitpur Metropolitan City (LMPC). We have proposed some possible ideas. We were able to convince LMPC to allocate space and structure for cycle parking in two spots in Lalitpur area. RECPHEC along with Cycle City Network Nepal, proposed the following design to which they have agreed upon. Hopefully we will soon see these structure placed in Lalitpur.



Figure 5Proposed stands for cycles



Figure 6 Proposed area for cycle parking in Lalitpur



Figure 7 Proposed area for cycle parking in Lalitpur

4. Pedestrian Rights campaign.

Apart from promoting vehicle free zones, RECPHEC is also focusing on basic issues of pedestrians rights. Since we are promoting walking and cycling it is important to advocate for the infrastructure that encourages people to walk and cycle simultaneously. The recent development related to transportation in Kathmandu, from observation, is clearly promoting motorized transportation. The issue of inclusion of side walk, standard form of sidewalks, zebra crossings where necessary with traffic amenities and increasing number of overhead bridges as per the media news are alarming.

- a. Street Drama in Kathmandu and Lalitpur: In this phase, we conducted a street drama showing how zebra crossing is a better option than overhead bridge through drama. This drama was enacted by youth volunteers for livable city. We organized this on February 02, at Patan Durbar Square and on February 03, at Basantapur Durbar square. We observed crowd in Basantapur as it was Saturday and we interacted with the audience to know their view. Many responded that they need overhead bridge but could not answer how senior citizen and disabled people will use it, when asked. Many people really appreciated the program and said we need to further advocate for this. Overall more than 500 audiences gathered around to see the drama.



Figure 8 Street Drama on pedestrian rights in Lalitpur



Figure 9 Street drama in Kathmandu

b. Campaign for safety of Pedestrian :

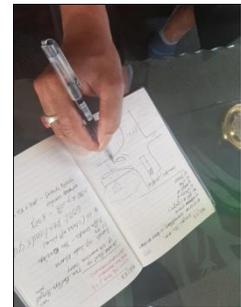
First of all, we identified the area where, we observed poor infrastructure for the pedestrians. After observation, we finalized area of Teku to conduct our campaign. We then, went to talk with local community and their perspective. We only asked if they have witnessed accident around this area and if they feel safe walking. To our surprise almost of them replied that, around five to ten accidents occur in this area every month. This includes vehicle collision and pedestrians. One of the lady said her son was hit by the bike few months back while crossing this road. After this we went to their ward office to raise this issue. Representative of ward number 12, Mr. Ratna Maharjan showed his interest on this issue. He shared that, ward office have a lot of responsibility now and are always looking into bigger project and issue like this get neglected. He then assured us that, he will put this issue in their general meeting and will help us with our effort to make that area safe for pedestrian. On 24th August, we have the banners indicating it as accident prone zone and promoting pedestrian safety are placed in four different places. Since here was a school in that area, we have our volunteer paint their wall with the same message and also a zebra was drawn in the in front of that school area to get attention of vehicle passing by. The ward officials and traffic were present during this event. The ward representative committed to improve the area by adding footpath and zebra crossing in this by allocating budget in their new planning.



Taking interview with local resident



Meeting with ward official to discuss about situation in Teku





Campaign in Teku with various activities

C) School Interaction program (Map my Road): RECPHEC conducted three program in three schools of Kathmandu viz Kanti Iswori, Siddhi Ganesh and Saraswoti Bidya Sadan Higher Secondary school. We asked them to draw their experience walking from their home to school and if not then simple walking experience in Kathmandu. The best art was given a small gift. The program was conducted by RECPHEC which was supported by our youth volunteer. We have asked the school admin to present the art collected to respective ward office and request them for better infrastructure for walking.



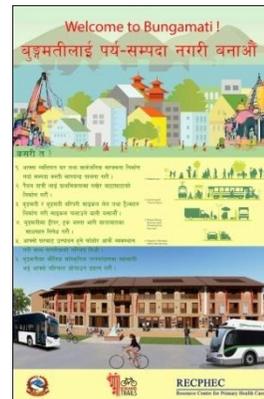
Art competition in school depicting walking experiences of students in three different schools

5. **Publication materials:** During the meeting with Environment Chief of LMPC , it was suggested that we should publish the following pamphlets so that we could communicate with other colleague of his office and also share that in upcoming events to promote cycling.

Similarly we had conversation with local youth group called Bungamati trails of Bungamati area and they wanted to promote walkign and cycling in Bungamati area. Hence, in coordination with volunteer we had banners designed and printed for four different area of Bungamati with message to promte walking , cyling and public space.



Published material for cycle stands in Lalitpur



Banner designed for Bungamati Area

6. **Meeting with government officials and other stakeholders:** During this phase, RECPHEC made an effort to approach new local authorities and other stakeholder’s related to transportation. Due course, we met with DGIP of KMTDP, representative of KMC, and LMPC , new president of TTDC, urban planner of KVDA , many Traffic officers Engineer of DoR and representatives of ward offices of Kathmandu.

7. **Meeting with Dr. Sunil Babu Shrestha; Honourable Member of National Planning Commission(NPC):**

RECPHEC made an effort to meet with member of NPC. And finally we were able to get appointment to meet with Dr. Sunil Babu Shrestha; Honourable Member of NPC. In the meeting Mr. Shanta Lal Mulmi, gave brief introduction of RECPHEC and its involvement in field of Urban Health and Environment. He said that he is very proud of the decision taken by government to declare the valley “No Horn Zone”.



Figure 10 Meeting with Dr. Sunil Babu Shrestha; Honorable Member of National Planning Commission

This is an outcome of RECPHEC's continue advocacy on public awareness campaigns conducted during last seven years. In organizing these campaigns RECPHEC acknowledges the cooperation received from Traffic Police and other stakeholders. He also shared that, now we are advocating for people centric infrastructure development that promotes walking, cycling and public transportation instead of vehicle centric development that encourages private vehicles. It is necessary to make the move when, we are starting afresh with new constitution and new governance. He mentioned that RECPHECF is in regular contact with government agencies advocating for these issues including KMC and other. He focused that, in today's context, we have to explore the opportunities to incorporate our agendas with newly elected local government.

Ms. Kamana then added to the context and shared the number of activities taken by RECPHEC and its achievement including, one of the successful campaign "Ktm Walks". She shared, how this campaign started by RECPHEC in coordination few other ally, have finally shaped up. Thamel now being a "vehicle free zone" is result of continuous effort RECPHEC and other stakeholders. Along with that, she also submitted a brief report with organizational profile of RECPHEC and detail of agendas and activities under livable city promotion. This includes issues of healthy transportation and public space. She also submitted study report conducted by RECPHEC along with related IEC materials for his reference. The reports submitted were study report on;

- a. Perception of multi stakeholder to make Thamel a pedestrian zone.
- b. Policy review on pedestrian rights.
- c. Mapping of vegetable market in Kathmandu City.
- d. Policy review on public space and vegetable market in Kathmandu
- e. Research protocol on walkability study in Kathmandu city.

Mr. Sunil Shrestha appreciated the amount of work RECPHEC has done in this field and thanked for providing all the study report. He then shared some of his activities that are undertaken under him. He shared his concern about lack of open and green space in the city. According to WHO, the space required for healthy living is 9m² per person where as in Kathmandu, it is only 0.25 m² per person. Even the percentage of public space is only 0.48 percentages out of total land whereas in city like Delhi it is 20 percent. This is matter of concern. He further shared that, he is interested to initiative city level park related programs. He shared he have already started a program in Budhanilkantah to develop a park. He informed that there is a steering committee under NDP on urban Development and one meeting has already been conducted with this committee and he would invite RECPHEC in the next meeting. He also shared that, he is looking at Goal number 6 and 11 under Sustainable Development Goal. He also shared that, in his initiation, NPC have developed a "Integrated Urban Development Guidelines" which would support the government to plan their cities respectively. He shared that, there are altogether, 293 municipalities in the country, declared by the government. But it is well known truth that there is no parallel development in all municipalities. Thus, they have developed a plan of "Sustainable Urban Development Index" that would grade all the municipalities' in different

categories. And he ensured that the index would include parameter of public spaces. In that conversation, Mr. Mulmi added that if we can also include parameter that would check how walking friendly the city is. Mr. Shrestha then said, it would be in one or other index. He also shared about his idea to develop a cooperative housing to discourage haphazard infrastructural development in urban areas.

Mr. Mulmi then specifically pointed that, RECPHEC would appreciate if, NPC would involve and consider RECPHEC as one of the stakeholders in above mentioned issues. RECPHEC is more than willing to work in collaboration in required field with its expertise. Also, added that RECPHEC could join in the policy level discussion in forums. On that, Mr. Shrestha ensured he would definitely consider RECPHEC as one of the stakeholder and shared he will be willing to work in coordination with RECPHEC. *(Please find detail Report in Annex III)*

8. Meetign with Lalitpur Metropolitan City(LMC):

RECPHEC had a brief meeting with Mr. Pradeep Amatya on July 22,2018 of LMC and proposed the idea of organizing the consultation meeting with all eighteen municipalities of Kathmandu valley to promote Ecocity in Nepal. For this purpose, RECPHEC prepared a proposal and have forwarded to LMC. Mr. Amatya said, he is interested in this meeting and said will definitely co ordinate with RECPHEC. RECPHEC is planning to organize a consultation session with all municipalities of Kathmandu Valley in coordination with LMC and Eco city Builders to promote Eco city in Nepal. *(Please find detail Proposal in Annex IV)*

9. Meeting with Un-Habitat:

RECPHEC made an effort to meet with Mr. Padma Sundar Joshi on August 22,2018 to discuss about promoting ecocity in Kathmandu. Mr. Shanta Lal Mulmi, opened the meeting with the concept of smart city and how it is getting popular amongst our elected representatives. He indicated that it is necessary to promote Ecocity along with Smart City. On this regards, Mr. Mulmi proposed to have a close group discussion session with at least two representatives of all the eighteen municipalities of Kathmandu Valley.

Mr. Joshi then replied that, if we modify the idea and take Ecocity as one of the supporting component for smart city then it might appeal more to the elected officials. The fact is, our city traditionally was designed as smart city. For example, the city of Lalitpur itself was developed where people can reach destination within five to ten minutes. He agreed that, it is a right time to approach the elected officials and technically he will be on board. *(Please find detail report in Annex V).*



Activities	Immediate Outcomes	Intermediate Outcomes	Variance
Walkability Report	1 report prepared	3 stretch of Thamel declared	The current political
<p data-bbox="235 455 673 489">1 dissemination seminar conducted</p> <p data-bbox="235 947 544 980"><u>3 “Ktm walks” campaign.</u></p> <p data-bbox="235 989 443 1022">-January 13,2018</p> <p data-bbox="235 1031 443 1064">-January 27,2018</p>	<p data-bbox="714 455 1002 569">45 stakeholders participated in the program.</p> <p data-bbox="714 1031 1002 1144">Increased number of group working on issue.</p> <p data-bbox="714 1152 1002 1266">-Union of Entrepreneur; Uniglobe Collage.</p> <p data-bbox="714 1274 930 1308">-1 media instance</p>	<p data-bbox="1024 455 1240 611">“No Vehicle Zone” since October 22, 2017.</p> <p data-bbox="1024 657 1240 980">Entry of four wheeler banned on inner streets of KMC where we conducted “ktm walks” since January 16,2018.</p>	<p data-bbox="1263 455 1417 816">Transitional phase in Nepal is hindering some of the activities with planned for this phase.</p>
3 meetings with community members of Kilagal	Determined to advocate for vehicle free street in Kilagal with local authorities.		

<p>1 meeting DGIP of KMTPD Mr. Sarbendra Khanal to express our gratitude over vehicle free street in Thamel and Pashupati area.</p>	<p>-Encouraged to regulated vehicles in other part of the city specially core areas of Kathmandu.</p>		
<p>3 meeting with TTDC member</p>	<p>-Discuss the situation of Thamel after declaring Vehicle free zone and possible ways to collaborate to sustain the program</p>		
<p>1 meeting with newly appointed President of TTDC, Mr. Sameer Gurung to express our gratitude on making three stretch of Thamel vehicle free zone</p>	<p>Shared that he is committed to continue it and also expand it in other part of Thamel gradually.</p>		
<p>6 meeting with partner organization like CEN ,CCNN,Digo Bikash and Bike Portals</p>	<p>Discussed about working in collaboration with each other to sustain and promote and vehicle free zone in Kathmandu and also in other municipalities. And also agreed upon conducting post survey in vehicle free zones.</p>		
<p>12 meeting with Youth Volunteer of Livable Cities.</p>	<p>Conducted one campaign “street drama” in Kathmandu and Lalitpur about</p>		

	pedestrian rights. And planning for other campaigns.		
1 meeting with KMC official	Decision made to meet with ward officials in near future		
3 meeting with LMC official	LMPC committed to provide parking spots for cycles in two places of Lalitpur.		
1 meeting with honourable member of Nepal Planning Commission	Positive response to discuss about active transportation in their internal meetings.		
1 meeting with Urban Planner of Kathmandu Valley Development.	Submitted the walkability report.		
1 meeting with traffic Officer.	Discussed about situation of zebra crossing in Kathmandu.		
1 meeting with officer of Department of Road.	Discussion about budget for pedestrian infrastructure		
500 copies awareness materials published on promotion of cycles in Lalitpur district.	-Distributed 100 amongst LMPC staffs and around 50 in WUF 9 conference in KL, Malaysia .		
4 banners printed with message to promote walking and cycling.	Placed in four different places in Bungamati.		

<p>1 Campaign "Street Drama" on pedestrian rights with youth volunteer for liveable cities.</p> <p>1 campaign in Teku area</p>	<p>->500 peoples reached through the program.</p> <p>Commitment from ward official to allocate budget for footpath and other project related to pedestrian safety.</p>		
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Access to Healthy Food.

Area of Focus: Food Markets

Traditional and ethnic Nepali diet could be considered as healthy food option. This traditional system was also ensured by easy access to healthy food of affordable price. But today, the scenario, especially in urban area has changed. The best medium to purchase healthy food was through markets located in many areas of the city. Vegetable markets are an integral part of our society, but now there is chance that it might be replaced with supermarkets in new developing areas. This also reduces the chance for farmers to reach the consumer directly and allow brokers to benefit instead. Considering all these fact, RECPHEC in the year 2014/15 , conducted a study to map vegetable markets in KMC. In second phase, we conducted another study to review the policies and some case studies of vegetable market. A dissemination workshop was also conducted on August, 2017 to share the finding amongst government officials, likeminded organization, community representative and others. In this phase we plan to interact with the local stakeholders to understand the scenario and work alongside to promote more markets in the city.

From the mapping study, we identified five such locations in Kathmandu that do not or have less access to vegetable market. We went to this location and talked with some of the local residents of that area. The entire respondent from those five areas, shared that they would prefer a simple and affordable local vegetable market in their respective area. This opens an opportunity to discuss about this issue to promote local vegetable market in more location of city to increase access of people to affordable and healthy food choices.

Some gist from the interaction of local people of following areas;

S.N	Area	Where do you buy vegetable/fruits generally and in bulk	Would you like to have vegetable market in your area?	Which area do you suggest for that?
1	Thapathali	Near by Kiosk/Kalimati	Yes	UN Park side/ Around Norvic Hospital
2	Anamnagar	Nearby Kiosk/Kalimati	Yes	Water tank nearby/ Car parking site
3	Pani Pokhari	Near by Kiosk/Kalimati	Yes	Around President resident/Lainchour
4	Chandol	Nearby Kiosk/Kalimati	Yes	Bishalnagar/Chandol -4
5	Chhauni	Nearby Kiosk	Yes	Kimdol/Aroud Chhauni Museum

The interaction with local resident implied that they generally visit Kalimati vegetable market to buy vegetable in larger amount especially in feast and festivals. This also shows that a vegetable market is required in these areas to increase accessibility of peoples to affordable healthy food that is fruits and vegetables.

After the survey we then visited ward office of respective places identified with little or no access to vegetable markets. The places belonged to following wards;

S.N	Area	Ward Number	Ward official
1	Thapathali	11	Hiralal Tandukar(Ward President)
2	Anamnagar	4	Mohan Bahadur Bista, Govinda Acharya(Ward Secretariat)
3	Pani Pokhari	3	Sita Thapa(Ward President) Deepak KC(Ward President)
4	Chandol	3	
5	Chhauni	13	Tara Devi Maharjan(Ward Secretariat)



Anamnagar(one of the area identifies)

We then went to meet with the ward officials in all the ward and submitted study reports conducted by RECPHEC related to vegetable market and public space and discussed about creating space for vegetable market. Most of the ward officials were positive but they also shared that right now they are more focused on planning and budgeting as per demand of general public. And most of it is infrastructure development and solid waste management. They said that, if it is priority of community then it will be easier for them to include it in planning. However, since we have raised attention to this, this would be something they could consider in their future planning.

We then went to Kalimati Fruits and vegetable Market and talked with one of the official of the management committee on this issue. He said that, they can support to new markets but the decision had to be taken by ward and community themselves. We then talked with few vendors and they said the same. They also shared that if we have proper implementation and management planning then this could be a very good initiation for them too.



Activities	Immediate Outcomes	Intermediate Outcomes	Variance
1 meeting with president of ward number 19.	Commitment from Ward to improve the local market in their ward.	NA	NA
Identification of five areas with lesser /no accessibility to	Five areas identified and communicated with the local resident about their		

<p>fruit and vegetables.</p> <p>4 meeting with ward officials of ward number 3,4 11 and 13</p> <p>1 meeting with Kalimati market Development Board</p> <p>1 meeting with vendor group</p>	<p>interest to have fruit and vegetable market.</p> <p>Raised issue amongst the stakeholder and grabbed attention.</p>		
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Open and Green Space/Parks and Playgrounds

Park Audit report: Parks or Green Spaces are soft landscaped area with vegetations serving as city parks. Playgrounds are small areas of open space that are accessible to local residents, generally providing for recreation such as children’s play and relaxation, which also can provide an identity and a sense of place for a community especially where it incorporates an important landscape feature or historic characteristic. Public parks and playgrounds are common settings for outdoor recreation pursuits. Parks and playgrounds provide a wide variety of opportunities for physical activity and have the potential to help many lead a more active lifestyle. Considering this, RECPHEC conducted a study report in 18 different park and playground in Kathmandu City with the objective to provide a qualitative assessment of condition of park and playground in the city. From the study it was found that the entire park studied was public parks and around 35 percent of the parks are in poor condition and only two percent parks are in good condition. It was also found that 29 percent of the parks were safe. *(Please find the detail report in Annex VI)*



Figure 11 Park Audit

1. **Park Event:** After identification of all the parks in Kathmandu City, we discussed to organize some park event to grab attention of public and government authorities towards improving the park. We first approached community of Dhobichour and talked about their interest. They said that since the park is used for certain group of people to dry cloths, they are not allowed to play there. We then talked with the group and asked them to provide quarter of area for children for a football match on 11 August 2018. We then have a friendly match amongst children of neighbourhood. The children were very happy to play the match despite of heavy rainfall early morning. They said that they will soon arrange another program. At this moment the condition of the park in not suitable children to play but we plan to approach local government with request letter to improve the park.





Football match in Dhobi Chour(Park Event)

2. Reclaiming and Redesigning Public Space

In Nepal, especially in Kathmandu, traditionally the city was designed in such a way that every residential settlement had a common open space. These spaces were used for different purposes such as interaction spot for senior citizens, religious and cultural events etc. But over the years urbanization pattern of Kathmandu valley has been rapid and haphazard. High rise buildings, supermarkets, city centres have replaced the traditional housing system. These changes have challenged not only on the way of living but to community itself. Lack of open space such as parks, gardens, playgrounds have prevented people to stay indoor especially children and elder citizens. This is our effort to reclaim the already existing public space, especially courtyard and redesign it for the community and not for parking purposes.

In this phase, we are focusing on parks and some of the public space that were affected by earthquake. In case of public space in Bungamati, we worked with ward office and community to reclaim the public space and create a park accessible to community. The ward office as committed helped to rebuild the underground pipes which were destroyed. We also had a meeting with another organization called Global action, who are willing to provide playing materials. As for now the area is now open and accessible to rebuild.

Likewise, we also have a series of meeting with community of Naikab to reclaim their public space and make it a park accessible to all. The community had meeting with ward official. With joint effort of RECPHEC , ward office Naikab and local community member, the park is now available to general public.

- a) Bungamati: Reclaiming Amarpur Park



Public space affected by earthquake in Bungamati



Public space in Bungamati(Amarpur Park)



Community level meeting at Bungamati



Hume pipes installed by Ward office of Bungamati



Removal of Debris



Available space in Bungamti now

b) Naikab: Reclaiming Bhiradil Sakura Park



Bhiradil Sakura Park (Before)



Meeting between community and Ward officials



Clean Up campaign



Bhiradil (Before view from the bridge)



Bhiradil Sakura Park (Now, view from the bridge)

Promotion of Livable city in Municipalities:

RECPHEC have network extended to 58 districts of Nepal. We took this opportunity and went to visit new municipalities of Pokhara, Myagdi and Gorkha districts. We met with the environment officers of all three municipalities and discussed about the situation of public space and other livable city component. Mr. Nirmal Man Singh Bhandari, Environment officer of Pokhara municipality shared that, since arrival of newly elected mayor, things have started to change and new rule and regulations are being discussed in meeting. He shared the mayor made it mandatory to park four wheelers parallel to road lines, reducing parking space and encouraging public transportation. Mr. Dhruva Prasad, environment officer of Gorkha Municipality shared that, public space is something they are looking forward to improve in their area. We shared the reports prepared on public space and vegetable markets with all three municipalities and extended our technical support through RECPHEC network member to promote livable city concept in their municipality. All three municipalities were positive and were affirmative to suggestion put forward. They were also encouraged and excited to work under new stable government.

Activities	Immediate Outcomes	Intermediate Outcomes	Variance
Park Audit. 1 park event	1 report prepared 25 participants (20 children of neighbourhood)	Reclaimed 2 public space in Bungamati and Naikab area.	The current political transitional phase in Nepal is hindering some of the activities with planned for this phase.
<u>Redesigning and Reclaiming</u> courtyards. -4 meeting with community members of Bungamati area, Mr. Anil Tuladhar,	-explored public spaces effected during earthquake -commitment from community members to rebuild their public spaces		

<p>Ganga Lal Tuladhar and Bikash Tuladhar.</p> <p>-1 meeting with president ward office in Bungamati, Mr. Ambir Man Shakya.</p> <p>Meeting with environment officers of three different municipalities viz Pokhara, Myagdi and Gorkha.</p> <p>2 meeting with new organization “global action”</p> <p>2 meeting with ward official of Bhiradil.</p> <p>5 community meeting with volunteer groups</p> <p>2 clean up campaign</p>	<p>Commitment from the ward official to help rebuild the public space in Bungamati area.</p> <p>Positive response for the officers to promote public space in their respective municipalities.</p> <p>Committed to support rebuild Amarpur park</p> <p>Safe access to Bhiradil Sakura Park for children and local community</p>		
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Networking

Core Group meeting:

RECPHEC called for a core group meeting on July 15, 2015 at RECPHEC office in Thasikhel. The meeting started with a presentation by Kamana Manandhar. The representation included all initiation taken up by RECPHEC from 2015 to 2018. She briefly described all the activities and related positive changes in the field. One of the core group members Prof. Sudarshan Raj Tiwari shared that, he was glad to hear all the initiation and activities taken up by RECPHEC in these three years. These are all appreciable. But with the new government system in our country, it is time to shift the action gear into much practical approach. He shared that local government is now equally powerful now. We should make strategy to communicate and lobby with local bodies now. Mr. Pradeep Amatya and Mr. Indra Man Suwal of LMC and KMC said that we should approach their municipality with ideas like this and they could look into opportunities to incorporate their planning with agendas of livable city. All the members stressed on the fact that it is an opportunity for us to now make advocate since we do have local government in place and RECPHEC should consider this fact before drafting new project.



Again, we held second core group meeting which was attended by M. Padma Sundar Joshi of Un-Habitat too. The core group meeting was conducted to discuss about the consultation seminar to promote eco friendly city amongst representative of eighteen municipalities of Kathmandu valley. All the core group member put their idea forward. Mr. Sudarshan Raj Tiwari agreed to present a paper focusing on five elements of nature to promote eco friendly city. Mr Joshi also agreed to prepare paper about how we can incorporate smart city and eco friendly city. Ms. Anusuya Joshi shared her experience working with new municipality. She shared some of them are very keen on sustainable development of their city. Mr. Shriju Pradhan of KMC , shared that, since this is beginning phase for all the officials of Municipality, it is a effective idea to pitch our issue forward at this time. The core group member has decided to conduct this seminar on October 31, 2018 which is also a “World Cities Day.”



Organizational Capacity

Participation in International Forum:

World Urban Forum 9, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Ms. Kamana Manandhar, Program Officer, Urban Health participated in the international conference held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 7-13 February 2018. She also participated in Health Bridge partners meeting organized by HB on 9 February, 2018. In the meeting all the representatives of partner's organization all around the world of Healthbridge gave a brief presentation about their work in their respective country. Ms. Manandhar shared her experience in working for vehicle free street in Thamel and future plan to work in public space and her efforts to make policy interventions. This meeting provided us the opportunity to learn the experiences from each other



Figure 13 World Urban Forum 9, KL, Malaysia



Figure 12 Healthbridge partners

Lessons Learned

1. Recent event of road expansion in Kathmandu is an example of direction where our development of heading. Wider road, big highways, Metro, high rise and more vehicles seems to be symbol of development in our country. However, RECPHEC is the only organization, who has taken initiation to advocate for pedestrian infrastructure for rights and safety of pedestrians. We can observe many articles in newspaper everyday which tell story of accidents resulting death of pedestrian in this highways and multiple lane roads. But still, the governments acting ignorant about the issue and pushing the same agenda. This is a very alarming issue. This trend can convert our city to concrete jungle. RECPHEC have been advocating for pedestrian rights with local government and will continue to do so. We will plan to go for higher level of government officials in next phase to influence their planning related to urban city development.
2. RECPHEC has been working since nine years to promote vehicle free zone and Thamel is one of biggest success of our advocacy. Not only that, after Thamel even the area of Pashupati has been declared vehicle free zone. As effect of our advocacy, the community of Kilagal are also looking forward to have their area vehicle free. We are now targeting more areas and community for this purpose. The promote vehicle free zone, RECPHEC would continue its advocacy across the valley. The success of Thamel has taught us the importance of community partnership and ownership. We aim to replicate the same procedure in other communities.

3. The successful intervention in reclaiming public space has been an eye opener to the people. The success of Bhiradill Park in Naikab and Amarpur Park in Bungamati is a successful example of collaboration between community and local government. RECPHEC have played a role of bridge between them with little support, but the enthusiasm of community and their continuous advocacy and effort made it possible to reclaim two public spaces otherwise left unused. The people of the community especially children, will be able to enjoy an open space in their area now. RECPHEC now plan to identify and reclaim public as much possible in next phase as well.
4. The issue of emerging non communicable disease amongst urban dweller have not been completely addressed yet. There is a lot more to do in this area. RECPHEC is actively involved with NDC alliance in advocacy level but RECPHEC believe that an intervention in ground level should also be initiated. We plan to pursue advocacy against junk food in school areas. Similarly regulate junk food advertisement in media and also in school area.
5. Along with this, RECPHEC will also continue its advocacy and campaign on environment issue like Noise pollution to support the government for effective implementation of "No Horn" policy and support policy to ban polythene bags in Kathmandu valley.