



# SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND

UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENCES; ACTING ON COMMONALITIES

Search for Common Ground (SFCG) is an international non-government organization that has been working in the field of conflict transformation and peacebuilding since 1982. SFCG currently works in more than 30 countries across five continents.

## OUR MISSION AND APPROACH

SFCG's mission is to transform the way the world deals with conflict: away from adversarial approaches, toward cooperative solutions. Our common ground approach seeks to bring people together from across dividing lines and promote solution-oriented dialogues and cooperative actions.

## SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND NEPAL

SFCG has been working in Nepal since early 2006 in support of the peace process. With 28 full time staff and a presence in 18 conflict affected districts across the country, SFCG works with a broad range of stakeholders, including 20 partner organizations, local government, youth and civil society groups, the media, and educational institutions to support peace, good governance, and solution-oriented approaches to resolving conflict at local, regional and national levels.

## PILLARS OF SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND NEPAL

### YOUTH AND PEACEBUILDING

The objective of the Youth and Peacebuilding pillar is aimed at supporting young people by providing alternatives to violence and creating channels for them to be engaged in local community decision making and development. The overall goal of the SFCG's work with youth is to contribute towards strengthening the role of youth in the peacebuilding and democratization processes. SFCG also strengthens the ability of youth clubs to develop sustainable funding, and engage in projects that link peacebuilding with livelihood.

SFCG and its partners worked to develop the skills of youth to participate effectively in democracy, to work together across dividing lines, to develop leadership skills in the next generation of leaders, and to play a role in the country that is supportive to the government's objectives of peace and development. This was part of the Pathways to Peace (P2P) project funded by State Department of Democracy and Rule of Law (2008-2010).

### MEDIA FOR PEACEBUILDING

The overall objective of media and peacebuilding stream is to build the capacity of media professionals on conflict sensitive and common ground journalism and use media (radio, television, print and social media) as a peacebuilding tool and provide support to local media professionals to produce solution oriented dialogues through multi-step capacity building processes (consisting of training, dialogues, mentoring and coaching).

**Activities Include:** capacity building training for media professionals; support production of innovative radio programs (such as radio dramas, radio talk shows, radio magazines, public service announcement (PSAs); production and broadcast of television series and use of social media networks.

#### The Radio Programs Include:

**Farakilo Dharti:** The program aims to foster solution-oriented dialogue at the local level on issues related to conflict and the peace process.

**Sangor:** It is a radio serial drama targeting youth from eastern and central Terai region (southern flat lands) with the overarching objective of promoting constructive youth involvement in the peace process at the local level. Recently SFCG has also published Sangor novel based on the radio drama.

**Activities Include:** capacity building training for youth; youth-to-youth and youth and community dialogues; intergenerational dialogues and collaboration; seed grants for youth initiatives; and innovative media programs targeting youth.

From 2006 till 2012, SFCG has directly trained **1290** (15-29 years) youth in 16 districts in leadership and peacebuilding.

In my opinion, the biggest achievement of P2P is that we have endorsed some issues from the Youth Charter. That is most important because it's very representative. Second, we have formed the National Youth Alliance. Youth organizations understand that to raise their voice strongly this is very important. Third, we have done youth activities and youth got a change to participate in forums. This is a rare opportunity for youth in Nepal. Somehow this enhances leadership, which is strength for the youth movement.

~ Kabindra Burlakoti, President of AYON

## TOTAL NO. OF EPISODES BROADCASTED

Naya Bato Naya Paila: 615  
Farakilo Dharti: 1543  
Sangor: 142  
Parilakshit: 13

About 70% of the youth in our program areas listen to radio drama produced by SFCG-Nepal

SFCG's radio programs are on air for 132 hours per month (2011)

More than a half of the youth population (58%) adopt the learning from radio drama to solve conflict or misunderstanding in their community.



New World and Search for Common Ground brings you True stories from our own homes and communities, highlighting different colours of our lives, love and conflict.

### WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

The overall goal of the SFCG's work with women is to contribute towards strengthening the role of women in the peacebuilding and democratization processes. The project, funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), had the overall objective to strengthen the role of women and girls in the Eastern Terai to be a positive force for peacebuilding at the local level.

Activities include: capacity building training for women on leadership and conflict prevention and entrepreneurialism; seed grants for women's community level initiatives including dialogues ; improving relations between local leaders, government, and emerging women leaders; and supporting and widening already existing women led initiatives such as cooperatives, women's groups, and livelihood initiatives, such as traditional arts and crafts, among others.

### EDUCATION FOR PEACEBUILDING

The overall objective of this stream is to strengthen peacebuilding initiatives by incorporating conflict transformation and peacebuilding in the teacher education program. Educating teachers with these knowledge and skills will essentially make an impact on how children are prepared to deal with conflict in their communities.

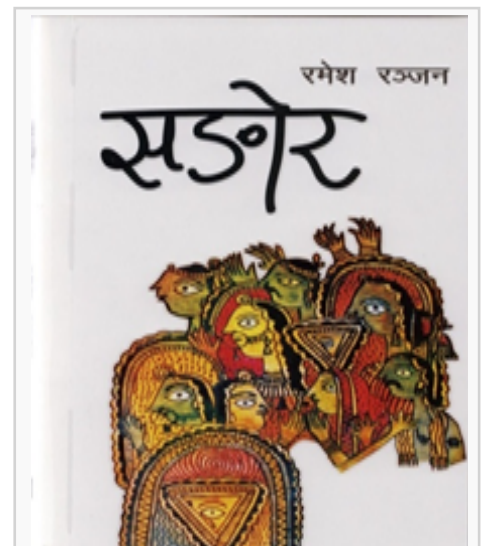
Activities include: research on peacebuilding education; curriculum development for teachers training on peacebuilding education; teachers and educators training; and continuous professional development of teachers.

*"I had no idea about how to submit proposals to the VDC and in fact had no idea about the functioning of VDC office and the VDC Council. The training helped me to understand VDC's roles and responsibilities in developing our village and its people"*

*Woman in Bandipur VDC, Siraha (NED Evaluation Report)*



*Local women participating in orientation with local decision makers. (NED, Women Building Peace in Eastern Terai Project)*



Mathili Novel **Sangor** Cover Page

### OUR WORK IN NEPAL



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