

Brief Information on  
**Institutionalizing Social Accountability of Community Radio in Nepal Project 2012-14**  
Funded by: United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)  
Implemented by: ACORAB Nepal

## 1. Introduction

Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (ACORAB) Nepal is implementing **Institutionalizing Social Accountability of Community Radio in Nepal** since June 2012 funded by United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF). The duration of is 24 months and coverage across 74 district of Nepal.

The aim of this project is to strengthen the institutional capacity of community radios to effectively serve as legitimate watchdogs for social accountability issues, ensuring that they work as agents of social transformation at the community level while themselves operating within the parameters of accountability principles.

The project strategy focuses on capacity building for community radios, to improve their journalistic capacities and advocacy skills, promote the effective use of media, strengthen the legitimacy and quality of their news coverage, as well as their business and internal accountability practices, and enhance the breadth and scope of community participation.

**Beneficiaries:** The project intends to strengthen the professional capacity of 220 radios to deliver media services, with increased institutional capacity of 100 member community radios and accountability capacity of 30 radios from across the country, so as to institutionalize their social accountability mechanism. Each community radio station has an estimated listenership of 3000 dedicated people in average, so the improvement in services will directly benefit these people as well.

## 2. Highlighted Actions

**Outcome 1: Improved internal governance, oversight, financial and operational management of 100 community radios** (Target: More than 60% of member stations (at least 132) are run with defined organizational and financial systems, standards, norms procedures, including good governance policy, GESI policy, long-term strategy and social auditing).

### Activities:

#### Accountability Status Review of CRs

- Design format and content of Accountability Status Review
- Conduct the accountability status review of community radios
- Publish and disseminate accountability status review report

#### Enforcing internal governance oversight and accountability measures in 100 community radios

- Prepare need based policies of 100 CRs

- Follow up action for refining and adopting the plans, policies and strategies by the radios
- Monitor adoption and enforcement status of the policies and strategies

**Outcome 2: Transparency, equity and social accountability actively promoted across Nepal by community radios** (Target: 220 CR journalists are trained on accountability issues; trained journalists use skills in organizing public hearings and social audits; Trained journalists regularly contribute to programming on accountability)

**Activities:**

Journalism Capacity of CR journalists enhanced for enhancing advancing watchdog role of CRs for in promoting accountability

- Design training
- Organize training
- Mentoring to training participants

Media advocacy on locally identified issues on related to transparency, integrity and accountability related issues

- Prepare and broadcast radio programs and news on accountability related issues by community radios of public concern
- Sharing of ready-to-broadcast news and information on issues related to transparency, integrity and accountability among related issues among 200 CRs by via CIN

Capacity of CRs developed in social accountability tools and their active engagement in governance across CR sector

- Prepare guideline and procedure for organizing public hearing and social audit
- Organize public hearings by CRs
- Organize social audits of CRs
- Follow up on the effectiveness of public hearings and social audits