

Summary report on a public speech competition on "Role of Youths to Ban Cluster Bomb" on the occasion of Treaty into Force Day of Convention on Cluster Munition (CCM)

1 August 2017

Background

The Ban Landmines Campaign Nepal (NCBL) is fighting against the use, production, transfer and store of mines and cluster munitions. NCBL is working on advocacy for mine action, Mine Risk Education (MRE) and victim support. After these efforts Nepal is recognized mine free country from 14 June 2011. The Nepal government must join the treaties on MBT and CCM and upgrade the quality of assistance for victims. After the long years of conflict Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDS) have been used during election in 2016 and 2017 to create terror to the people and to disturb election. From this we learn that MRE is still needed to safe lives of people and for sustainable peace. NCBL is following the aims of ICBL to Finish the Job by 2025.

In 2006, August 1st, cluster bombs were dropped by US and many civilians became victim. The people in the world commemorate that day, as the day of sad memory. On the same day 40 states ratified the Convention on Cluster Muntion. The people in the world celebrate that day as Treaty into Force Day. The NCBL celebrated this day organizing intra school public speech competition on "The Role of Youths to Ban Cluster Bomb".

Objectives

- To educate youths about the effect of cluster bomb
- To build capacity of youth to speak openly on about cluster munition and its convention
- To build collaboration with other institutions and sustain advocacy activities.

To fulfill the above activities NCBL organized various activities as follows:

a. Organized one day orientation program:

The NCBL collaborated with a school in Kathmandu named, Kuleshwor Awas Secondary English School. It organized an orientation program aiming to build youth's capacity to understand the issue about cluster munition and build their confident to speak in front of the audience. The topics of the orientation were the definition of cluster bomb, why they are problem, user and producer countries, why these weapons should be banned, what is similarity between landmines and cluster munition, what is Oslo Process, how many countries have been ratified, what is Cluster Muntion Coalition, how the campaign against cluster munition in Nepal is

going on, what was the role of Nepal adopting the convention and what is the ratification status of Nepal government etc.

b. Organized Public Speech completion

On the occasion of Treaty into Force Day of Convention on Cluster Munition (CCM) the NCBL organized an intra school public speech competition at Kuleshwor Awas Secondary English School on 1 August 2017. The following 9 students were participated in the competition.

1. Shahil Teli	Grade 8
2. Bidhya Laxmi	Grade 8
3. Roshan	Grade 8
4. Deepjal Neupane	Grade 8
5. Shiva Karki	Grade 8
6. Prashant Rai	Grade 9
7. Rushmita Rai	Grade 9
8. Maunata Shrestha	Grade 9
9. Nirach	Grade 9

More than 200 students from grade 8 and 9 (four sections) participated as audience in the program. The chief guest Megh Raj Dulal, principal of the school inaugurated the program. Purna Shova Chitrakar coordinator of Ban Landmines Campaign Nepal chaired the session. A team of judge committee Dinesh Subedi from NCBL, the school teachers Sandhya Bhandari and Prakash Bhandari scored the competition. The criteria were set on five basic points, such as addressing, entry into theme, knowledge of theme, presentation, and conclusion.

According to their performance Maunata Shrestha, Deepjal Neupane, Rushmita Rai and Prashant Rai received prizes as 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th respectively.

Concluding the competition the chief guest delivered a speech with willingness and commitments to work together with the NCBL to raise awareness of youths on banning landmines and cluster munitions.

Outcomes

- More than 200 students gained knowledge on cluster munition, its impacts on civilian and need to ban such weapons.
- Students showed their confidence level to speak on cluster munition, they can replicate other places

- The NCBL found a school and students as new campaigner to ban landmines and cluster munitions.
- It opened the gate of collaboration to work on various issues with youths.
- Through email, NCBL website and CMC network international community were aware about 1 August event.

Lesson Learned

- Youths have great enthusiasm to learn new thing and schools are big platform for them.
- We should never keep silent to ask for collaboration and help
- Actions on global days are much easier ways to make aware the people in national and international level.
- Continuity or sustainability of actions can play great role sustaining organizations
- Small events can give leaders for future activities; we need to put our efforts continuously on youths.
- We need the loud voice of youths to be heard by Nepal government to ban cluster munition.

Recommendations:

- Expand contact with more schools for collaboration.
- Organize follow up events among the youths including building their capacity.
- Build network with other youth groups and organizations
- Organize youth delegation to the government to join cluster munition convention.
- Create pressure group of youths and create youth movement for banning cluster munitions.

