

## Mainstreaming National Water Mission by Promoting Community Action for Village Water Security in the Shared Gandak Basin:



**Background:** Water allocation in the smaller rivers shared between India and Nepal remains unaddressed by any kind of formal framework or understanding between the two countries that also share world's most unique international border. Many of these smaller rivers serve as natural boundaries as they flow along the border, rendering the boundaries fluid and fuzzy. The Pandai River is one such vital trans-boundary river that originates in the Nepal and flows into the Indian state of Bihar through the districts of West Champaran, Gopalganj, Saran and Muzaffarpur. During summer, when the river turns into very thin streams, it becomes a source of conflict for both the up and the downstream communities.

**Purpose:** This project will attempt to understand the water related issues and challenges, and the possibility for resolving the conflict and using mediation as an instrument to help the riparian communities arrive at an equitable solution within communities using their own customary institutions. The project will enable the creation of a joint platform for deliberations and coming together of community leaders to discuss issues

**Participants:** Local Communities and NGOs in Gandak Basin.

**Expected Outcomes:** The Local NGO will be capacitated to use a platform to bring communities to terms and enhance its own capacity on understanding and appreciating the complex issues involved in a trans-boundary water cooperation initiative. Community relationship and confidence building measures will be enhanced. Gram shivirs organized as a part of this project will promote knowledge based dialogue among community leaders and various key stakeholders on finding an amicable solution to the water sharing dispute. A policy brief that will document the process, perspectives and lessons from the dialogue and its potential to bring communities to terms with each other will be developed. The Policy Brief will discuss the issues in the Pandai River Basin in the overall context of India-Nepal water relations and various water agreements and treaties. Nearly 900 people are likely to benefit from the Project in the upstream and downstream target villages. Mostly women and young girls who have to go far away to fetch water from Indian villages will be benefitted.



Water Dialogue being organized which served an inception Gram Shivir.