

A photograph showing a large group of women from diverse backgrounds, all dressed in colorful traditional attire. They are seated in a dense crowd on what appears to be a dry, open field or dirt ground. Many of the women are looking directly at the camera with serious expressions. In the foreground, the back of a person's head is visible, wearing a dark blue shirt with a yellow flower logo and the word "CHANEL" printed on it.

Fostering citizen support and trust for  
democratic processes and institutions

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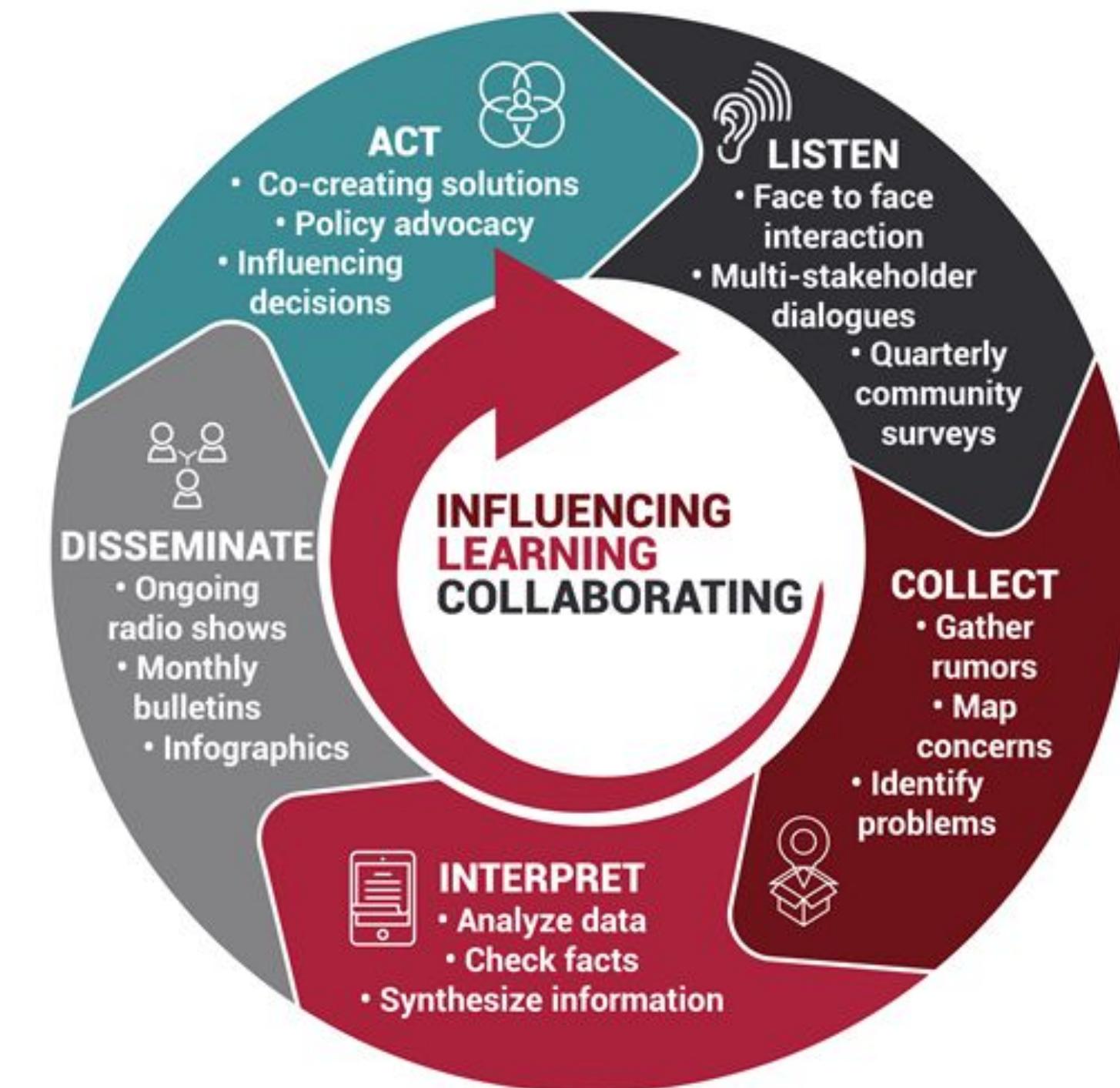


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# SUMMIT FOR DEMOCRACY

- As a process– extraordinary opportunity to galvanize attention and mobilize international action;
- Significant goodwill and engagement from civil society globally– demonstrating there is trust in the US and energy for democratic renewal;
- Our data from the S4D website and social media analysis also indicates real breadth of participation in these conversations– in non-democracies and much as more democratic countries;
- But at the same time the S4D process itself must build trust by ensuring transparency, inclusion and meaningful engagement with– and support for– civil society in invited countries.
- The Biden administration’s progress on anti-corruption is particularly heartening and encouraging for those of us pushing for accountability and trust elsewhere.

# CIVIC ACTION TEAMS AS A TRUST BUILDING TOOL



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- Opening up government– ensuring a shared basis of understanding between local decision-makers and citizens and providing support to those in power to act and communicate those actions effectively (in relation to COVID-19 efforts, emergency response and service delivery);
- Labor migration– ensuring democratic inclusion through working with marginalized populations to solve local challenges and make their voices heard as part of community decision-making;
- Gov-HER-nance– co-creating gender inclusive policies and practices at the local government level through mobilizing young people to create feedback loops;
- Key elements: deep relationships built over years, solutions-orientation, building on local assets (asset mapping, not needs assessment), and co-creation and localization to ensure sustainability over time.

# COUNTERING CORRUPTION

- Corruption as THE central challenge that undermines democracy. Years of trust building can be undone through one corrupt act– either at the individual level or the system level;
- The challenge is that internationally driven anti-corruption reforms generate pushback that can actually harm democracy. The politicization of corruption can undermine liberal goals;
- We have reached the limits of anti-corruption messaging in countries like Nepal– we need to reframe the process and the narrative. Integrity Icon as an example of an effort to create the right conversations but in a different way;
- Just as criminal networks protect each other, we need to create and protect networks of reformers who can push collectively for greater accountability. Work with young, incoming change-makers in particular.

# BUILDING TRUST REQUIRES...

- Creating “unlikely networks” – we can’t trust each other when we work in stovepipes. Democratic renewal means bringing together governments, activists, artists, media-makers, academics, entrepreneurs and others;
- Inter-generational approaches – the age gap between the PM and the average citizen in Nepal is 50+ years. We need to put young people front and center of efforts to renew our systems;
- A fundamental re-think of which elites we support and why – the upper-caste, male decision-makers in Nepal speak English but simply cannot democratize systems in which they are entrenched;
- Harnessing multilateral processes that work – OGP for example. Evidence shows overall that OGP commitments have led to better progress against key democratic goals in participating countries.