



- 3. The need to target missing groups, such as internal migrants and people living in geographic areas of low turnout to date.** In nearly all the information sessions, participants raised questions about voters who were still missing from the voter registration list.

Carter Center Recommendations: The ECN should target future registration efforts towards areas of low turnout. The ECN should increase its efforts to raise awareness regarding options for internal migrants to register and the Government of Nepal should also



registration process including the Feb. 2011 decision to require citizenship certificates and the Feb. 2012 decision to stay the Ministry of Home Affairs' proposed distribution of citizenship certificates to children of individuals who received certificates in 2007. These sentiments

with the long lines and technical delays experienced in registration. Finally, one participant raised the issue of booth capture in the Constituent Assembly elections and asked whether the new voter list would help solve this problem.

#### 5. Identity Issues

In several sessions, issues related to identity were raised. One person in Janakpur asked why the ECN was asking questions about language and education and how this was relevant to the voter registration process. The same individual noted that he was disappointed that his language was not recognized by the ECN's system. This concern was repeated by another person who said that his language was Magahi, not Maithali, and that the concerns of indigenous groups and "backward" communities were not given enough attention in the process. A third individual said that the voter registration process seemed unable to recognize various identities in the Tarai beyond the Madhesi identity.



voter registration process who would benefit from increased ECN efforts to raise awareness. Through direct communication and via the media, the ECN can share information about its achievements, challenges, and upcoming phases of the process.

- **The ECN should target future registration efforts towards areas of low turnout.** By analyzing the existing turnout data, the ECN can target its future efforts to people who may have been missed to date. This includes people living in remote areas, people without documents, and poor or marginalized groups who may be less aware of the process.
- **The ECN should continue to be sensitive to identity issues raised by citizens while implementing the voter registration process.** Given the sensitivity of identity issues in Nepal currently, the ECN should continue to seek ways to accommodate citizen concerns and to be inclusive as the process moves forward.
- **Political parties should increase their activities and engagement in the voter registration process.** Participants noted that party activities to encourage their supporters to register have been limited. Increased political party participation can help ensure a successful voter registration process.