



## Country Report

### STATUS OF THE 2030 AGENDA AND SDGs IMPLEMENTATION IN NEPAL

#### Women CSOs' Perspectives

Beyond Beijing Committee - Nepal

Women Major Group for Sustainable Development in Nepal

July 2020

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**Printing:** Kanchan Press

**Publication Date:** 2020

**ISBN:** .....

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## Acknowledgements

This country report on “Status of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs Implementation in Nepal” is prepared from women CSOs’ perspectives to complement with the GON as well as CSOs’ National Review reports being prepared and submitted in the fifth High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2020 which is scheduled to be organized from 7 to 16 July 2020 with the theme “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.” It is very important to prepare this report at this time for this Forum since the Government of Nepal is going to participate for the second time in the VNR process of the United Nations’ review process of the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development and SDGs. This review will be remarkably momentous as it will set transformative pathways for the decade of action to deliver sustainable development when five years have already been passed.

This report is an outcome of an intensive review process led by Beyond Beijing Committee Nepal (BBCN) on behalf of Women Major Group for Sustainable Development in Nepal (WMG-SDN) - A platform of Women CSOs. This report presents a glimpse on how far we have achieved from first Nepal’s VNR 2017 to the second VNR 2020 in SDG Goal 5 and other seventy-one Gender Equality, Empowerment of Women and Girls (GEEOWG) relevant indicators (Equality, WEE, Voice and Safety) of SDGs. Besides, it also shows the progress in mainstreaming gender equality, and setting up gender-responsive mechanisms to ensure ‘Leaving No Female Human Being Behind’.

For generating awareness on SDGs, VNR process, and collecting data, provincial reviews were organized, key informants from different major groups were interviewed and finally, the national virtual consultation was organized on 5th July by focusing on the overarching goal of ‘Leaving No One Behind’. The review process followed an assessment of the status of implementation of the HLPF 2017’s Ministerial Declaration in Nepal, and the validation and collection of additional data.

Over 500 participants from across the country contributed to this review process. BBCN would like to thank all the participants of the

Provincial and National Reviews for providing us valuable feedback and information, which have been a part of this report.

We are grateful to all the representatives of various government agencies, UN and other international agencies/organizations, Civil Society Organizations, women, men, youths and adolescent girls, persons with disabilities, people of different sexual orientations and gender identities, and representatives from different social groups for making the National and Provincial Review process inclusive and successful.

We are thankful to the Hon. Minister for Women, Children and Senior Citizens, Member of National Planning Commission, and NSDGF.

Our sincere thanks go to the ARROW, Girls' Advocacy Alliance /Plan International, and Right Here Right Now.

We would like to acknowledge the overall guidance and facilitation of Ms Shanta Laxmi Shrestha, Chairperson of the Beyond Beijing Committee Nepal, for the review process, and writing this report.

Furthermore, we thank the entire NPC, NSDGF/NFN, WMG-SDN and BBCN Board members, staff members particularly Ms Sanila Gurung and Ms Aliza Singh for contributing to the topic 'Youth and SRHR', and Ms Kalpana Rai for compiling the field data. Last but not the least, we thank Mr. Ratna Kaji Bajracharya who supported in editing this report.

**Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC) Nepal**

## Acronyms/ Abbreviation

ADB	Asian Development Bank
BBCN	Beyond Beijing Committee Nepal
BPfA	Beijing Platform for Action
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CGD	Citizens Generated Data
CRC	Convention on the Rights of Children
CSAG	Civil Society Advisory Group
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
FNCCI	Federation of Nepal Chambers of Commerce and Industry
FY	Financial Year
GRB	Gender Responsive Budget
GGGR	Global Gender Gap Report
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GEEOWG	Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls
GDI	Gender Development Index
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GGI	Gender Gap Index
GII	Gender Inequality Index
GoN	Government of Nepal
GPEDC	Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation
HDI	Human Development Index
HLPF	High-level Political Forum
HOR	House of Representatives
HRNMM	Human Rights National Magna Meet
ICT	Information Communication and Technology

ICPD POA	International Conference on Population and Development and Program of Action
IDI	Inclusive Development Index
INGOs	International Non-Government Organizations
LGBTIQ	Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Intersex and Queer
LNOB	Leaving No One Behind
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MGOS	Major Groups and Other Stakeholders
MOCIT	Ministry of Communication Information and Technology
MOUD	The Ministry of Urban Development
NCC	Nepal Chambers of Commerce
NCFN	National Cooperative Federation of Nepal
NFN	NGOs Federation of Nepal
NPC	National Planning Commission
NSDGF	Nepal SDGs Forum
NWC	National Women Commission
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PG	Provincial Government
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIGI	Social Institutions and Gender Index
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNHQ	United Nations Head Quarter
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WCSOs	Women Civil Society Organizations
WMG-SDN	Women Major Group for Sustainable Development in Nepal



# Table of Contents

Acknowledgements .....	iii
Acronyms/ Abbreviation.....	v
1. Introduction.....	1
1.1. Context - The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs .....	1
1.2. The Agenda 2030 and Gender Equality.....	2
1.3. Nepal SDGs Forum (NSDGF) and BBC Nepal's Initiative (2017-2020).....	3
1.4. Status of Gender Equality, Women's and Girls' Empowerment in Nepal .....	9
2. Objectives, Methodology and Framework for Review .....	12
2.1. Objectives.....	13
2.2. Methodology.....	13
2.3. Framework for the Review and Analysis .....	14
3. Overall Status of the Agenda 2030 and SDGs Implementation in Nepal .....	15
4. Status of the progress of SDG 5: Achieving Gender Equality and Empowerment of all Women and Girls .....	25
5. Status of Progress on GEEOWG Mainstreaming in other SDGs ....	45
6. Status of Progress in Setting -up a Gender-responsive Mechanism for SDGs –implementation .....	72
7. Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights during Covid-19 Pandemic.....	73
8. Key Issues, Challenges and Pathways of Transformative Actions for Realizing Substantive Gender Equality .....	82
8.1. Key Issues and Challenges.....	82
8.2. Way forward.....	85

8.3. Way forward recommended by different constituencies.....88

8.4. Actions and transformative pathways for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.....94

9. Conclusion ..... 95

Annexes: ..... 97

Annex 1 Gender-Related indicators .....97

Annex 2. GEEOWG related indicators of SDGs: Equality, WEE, Safety and Voice (Four Pillars) ..... 98

Annex 3. Key Informants of seven provinces..... 99

Annex 4. Glimpses of consultations.....101

Annex 5. List of resource persons.....108

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Context - The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs

The Seventieth session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the 2030 Agenda “Transforming our world” for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)<sup>1</sup> as an agreed framework for international development on 27 September 2015.<sup>2</sup> Each year, the UN holds the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) to review the progress achieved towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The first review was held from 11 to 20 July 2016 with the theme of ‘Ensuring that no one is left behind’, the second review from 10 to 19 July 2017 with the theme of ‘Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world’, the third review from 9-18 July 2018 with the theme ‘Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies’ and the fourth review from 9 to 18 July with the theme “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”. The fifth review was scheduled to take place from 7 to 16 July 2020 with the theme “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”.<sup>3</sup>

This year the forum will undertake a 5-year review on the progress towards all goals. Thus, it provides crucial space for the women human rights activists to ensure that gender equality is mainstreamed, and SDGs are implemented in a gender-responsive manner by identifying transformative action and pathways to achieve generation equality.

Nepal is going to participate in the upcoming HLPF 2020’s VNR. As in the past, the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) representing various constituencies and groups will be sharing their achievements and gaps as a learning experience to accelerate the context-appropriate

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1 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/summit>

2 [https://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E)

3 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>

transformative action. This report is prepared on behalf of Women Major Group for Sustainable Development in Nepal (WMG-SDN) - A platform of Women CSOs, initiated in 2017 by the Beyond Beijing Committee - Nepal with the task to prepare the VNR report as the convener of the Women and Girls' constituency and gender justice theme of the Nepal SDGs Forum. The process was facilitated by the NGOs Federation of Nepal. This report presents glimpses on achievements and gaps in gender mainstreaming, gender-responsive process and gender equality goal 5 "achieve gender equality and empower women and girls (GEEWG)" and other seventy-one gender-relevant indicators across other goals.

As in the VNR 2017<sup>4</sup>, this report is prepared from WCSOs' intersectionality feminist perspectives to complement the government and the Nepal SDGs Forum's report. Various tools such as literature review, survey, workshops, consultations and field observations were used to collect data for the study.

## 1.2 The Agenda 2030 and Gender Equality

Gender equality is essentially a human right agenda and a precondition for achieving sustainable development. All states have recognized that women are agents of development and that achieving sustainable development is impossible if over a half of humanity is denied their human rights and equal opportunities. Therefore, the agenda has a stand-alone Goal 5 'Achieve gender equality, and empower all women and girls' which cuts across all SDGs and



4 Shrestha, S.L. (2017). Country report- Status of implementation of the 2030 agenda and sustainable development goals in Nepal: women CSOs perspectives. Kathmandu: BBC-Nepal & WMG-SDN.

12 Critical Areas of Concern (12 CACs) of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) and various articles of Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).<sup>5</sup> The agenda 2030 has 85 global indicators<sup>6</sup> that make specific reference to women and girls, gender or sex across the 17 goals (except 12, 14 and 15) including 14 indicators in Goal 5 (Annex 1. Gender-related indicators). Thus, the agenda calls for considering the efforts to achieve gender equality as a means of implementation and a critical policy measure to achieve SDGs.<sup>7</sup> The agenda calls for disaggregation of data by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics across many indicators to ensure ‘Leaving No Woman and Girl Behind’ by shifting utmost resources to ‘reaching the farthest behind first’ and addressing their intersectional discrimination, violence, exclusion, exploitation and inequality of women of all ages particularly of women from different marginalized communities i.e. Dalit, Madhesi, Muslim, LGBTIQ, indigenous nationalities, women with disabilities, and others.

### **1.3 Nepal SDGs Forum (NSDGF) and BBC Nepal’s Initiative (2017-2020)**

As mentioned above, the Nepal SDG Forum is a civil society platform for engaging CSOs collectively in the implementation of SDGs. It is a bonding between the National Planning Commission (NPC) and CSOs. It has mobilized CSOs’, major groups and other stakeholders by organizing several joint meetings about VNR, and prepared and submitted the report to the NPC.

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5 NGO Committee on the Status of Women/New York NGO. (2019). Guidance for National Parallel Reports twenty-fifth anniversary of the fourth world conference on women and the Beijing declaration and Platform for Action (1995). New York: NGOCSW.

6 ADB and UN Women. (2018). Gender equality and the sustainable development goals in Asia and the Pacific Baseline and pathways for the transformative change by 2030.

7 Soroptimist International. (2020). The road to equality the sustainable development goals. Report for the High-Level Political Forum 2020.

BBCN, as a founder of NSDGF and the convener of its Women and Girls constituency and Gender Justice Theme, has been engaged fully in the forum's activities and submitted the report from women CSOs' perspectives on behalf of women Major group for sustainable development in Nepal.

BBCN has been continuously involved in Sustainable Development since the onset of post -2015 agenda-setting processes. It organised the first national workshop jointly with the National Women Commission (NWC) and VSO-Nepal on 22-23 February 2016 which was attended by the gender focal persons of the government ministries and commissions to mainstream gender equality in Nepal's national annual planning process.<sup>8</sup> It has been incessantly advocating and building capacity for mainstreaming gender equality, gender-responsive SDGs implementation and financing for gender equality -goal 5 locally, nationally, regionally and globally by organizing various programs. The country report entitled 'Status of Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals in Nepal: Women CSOs Perspectives' published in 2017 on HLPF includes the program activities it has undertaken. The initiatives taken between March 2017 to June 2020 are briefly presented below:

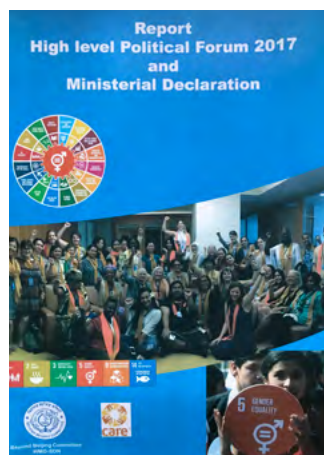
- Produced the 'Position Paper' and 'Call for Action' for the 2017 High-Level Political Forum which was a tool for lobbying the member states and Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGOS) during the HLPF held from 10 to 19 July as an outcome of active participation in the forum and MGOS activities on behalf of Women Major Group of Nepal.
- Published HLPF-2017 participation report along with the Ministerial Declaration



<sup>8</sup> Shrestha, S.L. (2017). Country report- Status of implementation of the 2030 agenda and sustainable development goals in Nepal: women CSOs perspectives. Kathmandu: BBC-Nepal & WMG-SDN.

by translating it into Nepali language for wide dissemination and action in September 2017.

- Delivered session on the 'Agenda 2030 and SDGs in Nepal' during the SDGs training organized by Jagaran Nepal in Kathmandu on 27 December 2017.
- Published a booklet on 'Sustainable Development Goals' (the fourth version) in November 2017 concerning SDG-5 national and global indicators both in Nepali and English language and re-published in March 2018.
- BBCN Chairperson participated in the '*Making Every Women and Girl Count*' program organized by UN Women Nepal Country Office at Hotel Himalaya on 29 March 2018.
- BBCN Chairperson delivered on Sustainable Development Goals in Nepal's Context in the training organized by the Department of Women and Children for the government officials on 27 March 2018.
- BBCN Chairperson delivered on 'Overview on the Agenda 2030 and SDGs Glocalization during the Care Nepal Strategic planning meeting on 13 July 2018.
- BBCN Chairperson, as the resource person, facilitated the interaction program on Effective Implementation of SDGs in preventing human trafficking in Nepal organized by ATTWIN Nepal at Hotel Himalaya on 19 July 2018.
- Prepared SDG 5 indicator's Policy Brief inclusive of global, national and local indicator and launched its dissemination on 2 September 2018 at the Alfa House, Kathmandu.
- Initiated a project entitled 'Strengthening SDG Localization in



Baglung, Parsa and Surkhet Districts' with the support of VSO-Nepal in September 2018 and formed Local Women's Major Group in three Municipalities of Baglung, Parsa and Surkhet to mainstream Gender Equality and conduct Citizen-led Monitoring in collaboration with BBCN's Network member organization.

- BBCN Chairperson delivered on the theme 'Gender Equality and SDGs in the training program organized by the Ban Landmines Campaign Nepal at Hotel Himalaya on 9 November 2018.
- Organized capacity building training on SDGs, mainstreaming Gender Equality, citizen-led monitoring, use of Community Score Card tool for Local Women's Major Group (WMG) in Birendranagar Municipality, Surkhet on 18-19 September 2018, in Baglung Municipality, Baglung on 13-15 November 2018, in Birgunj Metropolitan City, Birgunj, Parsa on 13-15 December 2018.
- Organized program on 25 September 2018 to mark the 3rd Anniversary of Sustainable Development Goals with the slogan "Act for SDGs" in collaboration with leading CSOs of Nepal.
- Produced the fifth version of the Sustainable Development Goals booklet with national and global targets in the English and in the Nepali language in March 2019.
- Organized Provincial level Workshop on the Status of the Implementation of SDGs and Gender Equality for the Local Government Bodies and Local CSOs Leaders in Pokhara of Gandaki Province on 25 December 2018, in Surkhet of Karnali Province on 12 February 2019 and Birjung of Province No. 2 on 25 February 2019.
- Launched SDGs App on 22 February 2019 at the Alfa House, New Baneshwor
- Organized workshop in all 7 Provinces on SDG 5 'achieve gender equality and empower women and girls'
- Submitted report on a study of indicator SDG 5.c.1/ GPEDC Indicator 8 'Countries have transparent systems to track public allocations



for gender equality and women's empowerment', which is also the GPEDC Indicator to the coordinator of CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness Feminist Group in March 2019 and submitted a statement at the HLPF and SLM 2019.

- BBCN Chairperson delivered on the theme 'Gender Equality and Inclusivity Mainstreaming in the SDGs: Status, challenges, opportunities and role of parliamentarian in enabling environment' at the workshop on the 'Role of parliamentarians in the implementation of SDGs and enhancing good governance' organized by the Sustainable Development and Good Governance Committee, National Assembly and UNDP in Dhulikhel on 16-18 August 2019.
- BBCN along with AYON Nepal, CEN, NACASUD and YFEED Foundation facilitated and organized the 1st Nepal People's Forum on Sustainable Development 2019 with the theme "Accelerating Civil Society Engagement: Realizing SDGs in Action" on 21-22 August 2019 in Kathmandu and published the Nepal People's Call for Action.
- BBCN Chairperson delivered on the 'Role of Nepali Women in Sustainable Development' at the conference 'Role of Women for the Inclusive Development of Nepal' and as the resource person facilitated the training on 'Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030' organized by Nepal Muslim Women Welfare Society (NMWWS) and the World Muslim Communities Council (WMCC) at the Yak and Yeti Hotel, Kathmandu on 17 and 18 December 2018 respectively.
- BBCN Chairperson delivered on SDGs and participatory appraisal organized by Biala on 30 December 2018.
- BBCN launched SDGs-Nepal App developed with the support of VSO-Nepal for mobile phone users on 22 February 2019 amidst a formal program in the esteem presence of Hon. Deputy-Prime Minister and Minister of Health and Population Mr Upendra Yadav

and the Hon. Minister of Women, Children and Senior Citizen Ms Them Maya Thapa.

- Organized consultation with Women Major Groups on Women's issues on Sustainable development goals and 2030 agenda on 19 August 2019.
- Organized Youth Forum and Peoples Forum on Sustainable Development on the theme "Accelerating Civil Society Engagement: Realizing SDGs in Action" on 21 and 22 August 2019 respectively in Kathmandu and published Nepal People's Call for Action on Climate Change, Desertification and Land Degradation, Universal Health Coverage, Financing for Development and the 2030 Agenda/SDGs.
- Organized an interaction program on Gender Responsive-SDG implementation amongst Women Major Groups on 22nd September 2019 at the NGO Federation Nepal, Buddha agar.
- BBCN Chairperson delivered on Sustainable Development Goals, Gender Mainstreaming and status of Women Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow organized by Department of Women and Children for the Women Development Officers on 4 November 2019.
- BBCN Chairperson delivered a keynote speech on Gender Mainstreaming in the Academic Institutions of Nepal for achieving Sustainable Development goals "Gender Equality and empowerment of women and girls" at the International Symposium on "Gender Mainstreaming and Sustainable Development" organized by MESSD Program, Department of Architecture, IOE and NTNU, Trondheim, Norway at the Hotel Radisson on 3rd Nov 2019.
- Organized Panel Discussion with local government representative and civil society on 16 Days Campaign & Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) in Parse, Sirkhot and Kathmandu on 6 and 9 December 2019 respectively.



- BBCN SDG Campaign Officer participated the South Asia People's Forum on Sustainable Development organized at CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka, Bangladesh on 7 December and Third South Asia Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals organized at the Hotel Pan Pacific, Sonargaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh by UN ESCAP and government of Bangladesh on 8 and 9 December 2019
- Organized Workshop on SDG 5 and Community-led monitoring in Sirkhot, the provincial capital of Karnal Province on 29-30 January 2020, and in Janakpur Dham of Province Number 2 on 6 and 7 February 2020.
- Organized the national-level consultation jointly with the National Women Commission for the gender focal persons of different ministries at the Alfa Beta House, Kathmandu on 25 February 2020.
- Organized workshop on SDG Accountability and VNR 2020 for the Youth, CSOs and Government representatives at the Indene Complex, Kathmandu on 22-24 January 2020.
- Organized consultation workshop with Women Major Group's leaders on the VNR 2020 process at the Alfa Beta House, Kathmandu on 3 March 2020.

## **1.4 Status of Gender Equality, Women's and Girls' Empowerment in Nepal**

This year on 23 September the UN General Assembly will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) – a roadmap for the achievement of gender equality. For the first time the review on the implementation of BPfA was carried out to shed light on the progress achieved in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>9</sup>. Both the Government of Nepal and BBCN<sup>10</sup> completed the review submitted their reports taking an integrated approach on six themes 1) Inclusive development, shared

9 <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/03/womens-rights-in-review>

10 <https://ngocsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Beijing-25-Review-National-Parallel-Report-submitted-by-Beyond-Beijing-Committee-Nepal-1.pdf>

prosperity, and decent work, 2) Poverty eradication, social protection, and social services, 3) Freedom from violence, stigma, and stereotypes, 4) Participation, accountability, and gender-responsive institutions, 5) Peaceful and inclusive societies, and 6) Environmental conservation, climate action, and resilience-building by establishing links between the CEDAW, BPfA's 12 critical areas of concern and the Sustainable Development Goals. The GoN and the CSOs have made substantial efforts towards achieving gender equality and empowerment of girls and women in Nepal since the adoption of BPfA and the ratification of international human rights instruments including CEDAW and CRC

Nepal has achieved a medium level of human development by acquiring the score of 0.579 in HDI (with HDI value 0.549 for female and 0.612 for males) and ranking in the 147th position out of 189 countries and territories resulting in a gender development index (GDI) value of 0.897. Despite the progress made from 0.55 (2016), the report shows that Nepal has a poor Gender Inequality (GII) Index with a value of 0.476, (0.497 in 2016) ranking in the 115th position out of 162 countries.<sup>11</sup>

The Global Gender Gap Report 2020<sup>12</sup> places Nepal at the 101<sup>st</sup> position with 0.680 scores among 153 countries. In 2016 the country ranked in the 110th with score 0.661 amongst 144 countries, which indicates some progress. The Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) developed by OECD Development Centre also indicates the progress. It has placed Nepal in the medium category in 2019 having 36.2 percent SIGI value. In 2014 Nepal was placed in the high category<sup>13</sup>. The SIGI measures four dimensions of discriminatory social institutions as shown in the table below. Lower values indicate lower levels of discrimination in social institutions: the SIGI ranges from 0% for no discrimination to 100% for very high discrimination.

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11 [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr\\_theme/country-notes/NPL.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/NPL.pdf)

12 [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GGGR\\_2020.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2020.pdf)

13 Shrestha, S.L. (2017). Country report- Status of implementation of the 2030 agenda and sustainable development goals in Nepal: women CSOs perspectives. Kathmandu: BBC-Nepal & WMG-SDN.

Collectively, above indices indicate that though improvements have been made, GEEOWG work must be accelerated by the government and other stakeholders, including the private sector, UN agencies, I/NGOs, and other civil society organizations (CSOs) to realize substantive equality and women's rights. Women CSOs along with other CSOs have been drawing the attention of the government as well as international bodies towards the needs of substantive equality and the women's fundamental rights as enshrined in the constitution of Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal which is promulgated on September 16, 2015, before the onset of the SDGs implementation.

The Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) 2019 <sup>14</sup>					
SIGI Category	SIGI Value	Discrimination in the family	Restricted physical integrity	Restricted access to productive and financial resources	Restricted civil liberties
Medium	36.2%	52.3%	13.7%	34.7%	40.2%

As a result of a mandatory provision in the constitution, the current federal parliament comprises 112 (33.53 %) women out of a total of 334 members. In the House of Representatives (HOR) there are 275 members of which 90 (32.73 %) are women. Similarly, the National Assembly (NA) comprises 59 members of which 22 (37.29 %) are women. Of the ten Thematic committees of HOR, six committees are chaired by women parliamentarians - International Relations Committee, Agriculture, Cooperatives and Natural Resources Committee, Women and Social Committee, State Affairs and Good Governance Committee, Development and Technology Committee and Education and Health Committee.<sup>15</sup> Similarly, of the four thematic committees of NA, two are chaired by women parliamentarians (Sustainable Development and Good Governance Committee and National Concerns and Co-ordination Committee).<sup>16</sup> Besides these committees, there are two joint committees of which the Committee for Monitoring and Evaluation

14 <https://www.genderindex.org/ranking/>

15 <https://hr.parliament.gov.np/np/committees/>

16 <https://na.parliament.gov.np/np/committees>

of the Implementation of the Directive Principles, and Policies and Obligations of the State are chaired by female parliamentarians.<sup>17</sup>

Within the federal structure of the country, there are 7 Provincial Assembly which comprises 194 women parliamentarians and 753 local government units (6 metropolises, 11 sub-metropolises, 276 municipalities, and 460 rural municipalities) comprising 14,352 or 40.96% women.<sup>18</sup> This is the highest number of women ever elected in the political history of the country. On top of that Nepal has got the first female head of the state as a role model for the future generation.

Despite these achievements, women's representation in key political and bureaucratic decision-making positions remains exceptionally low. The provision of 33% women's representation is limited only in those areas where legal and constitutional arrangements are mandatory. Otherwise, women's meaningful participation is not seriously worked out. The inclusion of women in the cabinet and other political appointments is the sheer example. Even the political parties that brought the inclusion agenda to the political forefront now seem indifferent to the issue of women's representation and inclusion. Leaders have not walked the talk. It will be the mere dream of the government to achieve "Prosperous Nepal: Happy Nepali" and SDGs Goal by leaving no women and other marginalized communities behind.

## **2. Objectives, Methodology and Framework for Review**

The overall objective of the review is to gather and document women and youth CSOs' views on the status of the progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs and to glean key issues, the challenges and pathways for transformative actions for realizing substantive gender equality. This is the second Voluntary National Review (VNR) report written from women CSOs perspectives. The first VNR report was published in 2017 to participate in Nepal's first VNR at the HLPF by the GoN, CSOs and women CSOs. The first report served as a base-line document, and as an effective tool to enhance awareness and action on the 2030 Agenda for SD and SDGs throughout the country.

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17 <https://hr.parliament.gov.np/uploads/attachments/alu93649cilevnye.pdf>

18 <https://election.gov.np/election/np/local-level-elections-2074-a-glance.html>

This second VNR report is prepared as a preparation for the 2nd VNR of Nepal in the HLPF 2020. It provides an overview of the progress made since the first Voluntary National Review. This report will also serve as a tool to enhance awareness and action to mainstream Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls (GEEOWG) and to implement SDGs gender - responsively at all levels of government – Federal, Provincial and Local.

## **2.1. Objectives**

The specific objectives of the review are:

- To assess the status of progress of SDGs implementation from women CSOs' perspectives
- To complement the GoN and CSOs' reports
- To identify key issues, challenges, actions and transformative pathways for achieving gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

## **2.2 Methodology**

This national report is prepared from women CSO perspectives by using intersectionality feminist lenses to complement the GON and CSOs' reports. Data were gathered through:

- Review of the related national and global literature
- A questionnaire survey in all provinces
- Provincial consultations
- National consultation with the Women Major Groups for Sustainable Development in Nepal's platform members
- Open virtual consultations with women, youth and girls from marginalized communities of all seven provinces

In the process, the participation of different major groups, youth and girls from marginalized communities were ensured. National level consultations were organized for three times - inviting government

officials, WMG-SDN members, youths from various groups and stakeholders including NSDGF/ NFN.

A specific virtual consultation was organized on 5th July by focusing on 'Leaving No One Behind' and assessing the status of implementation of the HLPF 2017's Ministerial Declaration in Nepal.

## 2.3 Framework for the Review and Analysis

- The first VNR 2017 report's framework: SDG 5 and its 9 targets
- Four pillars of GEEOW and 85 indicators
- The UN DESA's Handbook for Voluntary National Review - 2020 edition as applicable to complement the government's and Nepal SDGs' Forum's report.



- The Ministerial Declaration of HLPF 2017

Besides, the UN DESA's Handbook for Voluntary National Review - 2020 edition was also used as applicable to complement the government's report.

The findings drawn from the review are presented under the following headings:

- Overall status of progress in SDGs implementation,
- Status of progress in achieving gender equality and empowerment of women and girls - SDG 5,
- Status of progress in mainstreaming GEEOWG across the SDGs,
- Status of progress in setting-up a gender-responsive mechanism for SDGs – implementation
- Youths and SRHR in Covid-19 Pandemic, and



- Key issues, challenges and pathways for transformative actions for realizing substantive gender equality.

A special chapter ‘Youths and SRHR in Covid-19 pandemic context’ is dedicated in this report.

### 3. Overall Status of the Agenda 2030 and SDGs Implementation in Nepal

#### The Government of Nepal has mainstreamed SDGs and envisioned ‘Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali’

It is a matter of satisfaction Nepal is one of the first countries to submit the preliminary report entitled ‘Sustainable Development Goals 2016-2030 (National Preliminary Report)’ in 2015<sup>19</sup> even before the commencement of the SDGs. Both the government and CSOs of the country have been engaging actively in SDGs glocalization process since its commencement. They participated in the Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2017 and thereafter developed the SDGs Status and Roadmap 2016-2030<sup>20</sup> for guiding the country towards realization of the goals. The 15th Plan (2019/20-2023/24) document which has been recently

**Diagram 1.**  
**Bagmati Province**



19 file:///C:/Users/Windows%20User/Downloads/Sustainable%20Development%20Goals%202016-2030%20National%20(Preliminary)%20Report%20(1).pdf

20 NPC, (2018). Sustainable Development Goals Status and Road Maps, 2016-2030. Kathmandu: National Planning Commission.

disseminated has mainstreamed SDGs and has envisioned 'Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali'.

The GoN is going to participate in the VNR in the HLPF 2020 and preparing the report in consultation with various sectors across the country including the CSOs.

## **The government of Nepal has set up high-level institutional mechanisms for SDGs implementation**

The government of Nepal has set up high-level institutional mechanisms - Steering Committee headed by the Prime Minister, Coordination and Implementation Committee headed by the Vice-chair of the NPC, and Implementation and Monitoring Thematic Committees coordinated by the members. The GoN has adopted 3As strategy (alignment, adaptation, and adoption of the goals in the existing development plan, and monitoring and evaluation) through 4Is (Identification, Instruments, Investment, and Institutions) for shared aspirations: generating, sharing and sustaining the prosperity.<sup>21</sup> Guided by the overarching national aspiration of 'Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali' the SDGs have been integrated into the national development framework and evidenced by the 15th Plan (2019/20-2023/24).<sup>22</sup> It is also worth to note that the Sustainable Development and Governance Committee of the nodal agency has also developed the SDGs checklist for the parliamentarians to guide them to act in line with the Agenda 2030.<sup>23</sup>

## **The NPC (Nodal Agency) issued Planning/Monitoring and Evaluation Guidelines for Provincial/ Local level in 2018 for localization of SDGs in provincial planning**

The National Planning Commission is the dedicated agency for the Agenda 2030 and SDGs monitoring in Nepal. It has set up a National SDG platform and National Sustainable Development Goals Framework

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21 <http://unohrlls.org/custom-content/uploads/2018/07/Monitoring-the-Implementation-of-the-IPOA-and-SDGs-Khomraj-Koirala-Nepal>.

22 [https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/15th\\_Plan\\_Final1.pdf](https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/15th_Plan_Final1.pdf)

23 In personal communication with Hon'ble Member Dr. Bimala Rai Poudyal, Parliamentarian, National Assembly.

to ensure the tracking of Nepal's progress towards achieving the SDGs by 2030 and other national development plans.<sup>24</sup>

It has issued the guidelines to set up similar mechanisms at the Province Policy Planning Commission. But such mechanisms have yet to be established at both levels of the government - provincial and local. It has also developed the Planning/Monitoring and Evaluation Guidelines for Provincial/Local levels in 2018 for the localization of SDGs in provincial planning.<sup>25</sup>

## **The need for Establishing Institutional mechanisms at the provincial and local level**

The guideline focuses on internalization and mainstreaming of SDGs in the provincial and local level planning and also guides to set up institutional mechanisms: 1) Province SDG Steering Committee under the chairpersonship of the Chief Minister, 2) SDG Implementation and Coordination Committee under the coordinator-ship of the Vice-chairperson of the Policy and Planning Commission, and 3) SDG thematic committees under the coordinator-ship of the members of Provincial Policy and Planning Commission in line with the mechanisms - established at the central level in 2017. The progress in forming these mechanisms at the provincial level has not completed yet. However, among the seven Provinces except the Sudur-Paschim (Far-west) Provincial Government, all other Provincial Governments (PG), have established the Policy and Planning Commission in their respective provinces. They have also developed 1st five-year plan 2019/2020 – 023/024 (076/077-080/081) or approach paper by integrating SDGs in their context.<sup>26</sup> SDGs baseline indicators for the provincial level have also been prepared.

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25 <https://npc.gov.np/images/category/pradesh1.pdf>

26 <http://ppc.p1.gov.np/periodic-plan/>, <http://pc.p2.gov.np/>, <http://pppc.p3.gov.np/publications/an-introduction-to-province-3/>, <http://ppc.gandaki.gov.np/noticedetail/101/2019/82120188> [http://ocmcm.p5.gov.np/uploads/files/Setting%20of%20Adhar%20Patra%2015%20Ashad%20%20KBKC%20RD\(1\).pdf](http://ocmcm.p5.gov.np/uploads/files/Setting%20of%20Adhar%20Patra%2015%20Ashad%20%20KBKC%20RD(1).pdf), <http://kppc.karnali.gov.np/ne/noticedetail/98/2020/57854950>, <http://p7.gov.np/>

The PG 2 has published Sustainable Development Goals, Baseline and Roadmap 2019-2030.<sup>27</sup> The Bagmati PG has committed to aligning its priorities, policies, programs, and funding the activities related to the SDGs as shown in the diagram.<sup>28</sup> The Gandaki PG has even organized a workshop on the 'Role of journalists in SDGs implementation'.<sup>29</sup> Despite their formation in 2018, the PGs, within a short period, have integrated SDGs into their first five-year plan (2019/2020–023/024). However, the SDGs focal unit is yet to be established at the provincial ministries as suggested in the NPC guideline. Similarly, the institutional mechanisms for SDGs have yet to be established in all provinces.

Coming to the local level, all 753 local government units (LGUs) have yet to establish institutional mechanisms for SDGs and internalize in the municipalities' planning, though the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration provided orientation training in 2018 to the elected members and officers of the LGUs and developed a Training Manual on Social Inclusion and Other Subjects in 2018 (2075 A.D). Hence, the localization, internalization and mainstreaming of SDGs are yet to be realized at the local level, where the actual action has to be taken for the grassroots people.

## **Private Sector, Cooperative and Civil Society Organizations supplementing in varying degree**

**Private Sectors:** In recognition of the importance of private sector engagement in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the GoN has included FNCCI, CNI, and NCC, the three umbrella organizations of private sectors, as members in the National SDG Implementation and Coordination Committee, thereby several Nepali businesses have

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27 Provincial Government, Policy & Planning Commission Province-2. (2019). Sustainable Development Goals Baseline and Roadmap 2019-2030 Province - 2 A. Janakpur Dham: Author

28 Provincial Government, Province Policy and Planning Commission. (2019). A province with many prospects - an introduction to province No. 3. Hetauda: Author. – (p.4)

29 Provincial Government, Policy and Planning Commission, Gandaki province (2020): Role of Journalists on implementation of SDG (Nepali Version presentation). Pokhara: Author.

begun stepping up to the platform with many innovative partnerships and initiatives.<sup>30</sup>

Yeti Airlines unveiled its aircraft freshly branded with the SDGs icons in September 2017 and later initiated the process to transform the company into a carbon-neutral airline. Similarly, Nabil Bank also signed a memorandum of understanding to align the bank's activities with the SDGs, is planning to go through the Nabil Foundation, in which one per cent of the bank's annual profit is deposited every year.

The Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FNCCI) partnered with UNDP for Goals 8 and 9 and launched youth training programs to mitigate the problem of getting skilled youth employees in the industries while thousands of youths are leaving the country every day seeking employment opportunities abroad. The Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) acknowledged the role of the private sector in attaining a majority of the goals and emphasized that the government should also encourage the private sector to invest in areas of comparative advantage for increasing employment opportunities.

The government has expected 36 per cent of the overall financing requirement to achieve SDGs in the areas related to the industry, energy, physical infrastructure, housing and urban infrastructure and tourism etc. However, the contribution of the private sector in these priority areas and the contribution is yet to be known to CSOs.

**Cooperative Sector:** Recognizing the role of the cooperative sector in the economy and in achieving the SDGs either through their investments or awareness programs, the high-level SDGs steering committee at the National Planning Commission (NPC) has included representatives of the cooperative sector.<sup>31</sup> The government has expected 4 per cent of the overall financing requirement to achieve SDGs from this sector. However, the volume of the contribution that

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30 <https://www.np.undp.org/content/nepal/en/home/presscenter/articles/2019/Development-Advocate-strength-in-numbers11.html>

31 <https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/cooperatives-contribution-in-achieving-sdgs-underlined/>

the cooperatives of Nepal are making in achieving SDGs is yet to be disclosed by the National Cooperative Federation of Nepal (NCFN).

**Civil Society Organizations:** The GoN has acknowledged the CSOs' contribution to Nepal's socio-political and economic development. CSOs in Nepal have expressed their commitment to implement the SDGs successfully by adopting the five principles of development justice: redistributive justice, economic justice, social justice, environmental justice and accountability to the people (Joint Declaration of Nepali CSOs, 2015)<sup>32</sup> and initiated the Nepal SDGs Forum (NSDGF) – a common platform. It was founded collectively on 25 February 2016 under the leadership of the NGOs Federation of Nepal (NFN). It is functioning as a bridge between the NPC and CSOs. The NFN hosts the secretariat of the NSDGF, which is continuously coordinating and organizing various formal and informal meetings with the CSOs, government agencies and UN bodies. The NSDGF has established provincial chapters in all seven provinces in 2019. The NFN is also taking a lead role in achieving the targets of SDG 16 by collaborating with other stakeholders that are dedicated towards peace, human rights and justice; and lobbying the government for its rightful space in the SDGs implementation mechanisms (NFN, 2017) at all levels of all major groups and other stakeholders by acknowledging the voices of the marginalized groups “Nothing for Us, Without Us”. NFN has taken a lead in VNR process amongst CSOs and preparing a report for the HLPF 2020.

**Women Civil Society Organizations (WCSOs):** The Women Major Group for Sustainable Development in Nepal” (WMG-SDN), a platform of all women, was founded collectively under the initiation of the BBCN on 11 May 2017. It is continuously making a voice for its rightful space and position in SDGs implementation mechanism at national and sub-national levels. Since BBCN is the founder of the NSDGF and convener of the women and girl's constituency and gender justice theme and hosts the secretariat of the WMG-SDN, it is actively involved in

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32 NGO Federation of Nepal, (2019). State of National Implementation of SDGs in Nepal: Accelerating Localization of SDG 16 Human Rights Perspective on SDGs. Kathmandu: Author.

coordinating with marginalized communities' women groups and the women CSOs' members scattered around the provinces and districts. It has been continuously striving for capacity enhancement of the CSOs in mainstreaming gender equality and advocating for their rightful places in implementation, monitoring and review process (for more see 1.4). It has been engaging actively in the NSDGF and sharing the outcome with women CSOs throughout the country by organizing meetings and reviews. However, it has yet to reach to the women at the grassroots and strengthen the capacity of CSOs and supplement with resources, where the real transformative work is to take place.

## **Creating ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals and VNRs**

The government of Nepal has set up high-level institutional mechanisms at the central level to realize the SDGs. However, as per the NPC guidelines, the task of establishing similar mechanisms at the provincial and local level has not been completed, which is necessary to nurture the feelings of ownership and responsibility in the implementation of SDGs among all stakeholders at the local levels. Besides, the governments have yet to develop the guidelines and systems for the full and meaningful engagement of different major groups and stakeholders including women and girls at all levels in the implementation of SDGs in line with the principle of 'Leaving No One Behind' by reaching the furthest behind first.

To prepare VNR for HLPF 2020, the NPC has garnered the participation of different groups at the federal level through the Nepal SDGs Forum secretariat hosted by the NGOs Federation of Nepal (NFN). In this process, several virtual meetings/consultations were held with different major groups including women and children in the esteem presence of Hon NPC's Vice-chair and Member by seeking inputs and suggestions. On these events, BBCN prepared a report on behalf of Women and Girls constituency on gender justice theme and submitted to the both NPC and Nepal SDGs Forum.

## Application of Leave No One Behind principle

The Constitution of Nepal incorporates the principle of inclusive and proportional participation of the people in all walks of life which corresponds to the Agenda 2030's overarching principle of 'Leave No One Behind' (LNOB). Several acts have been promulgated, of which 16 are directly related to refurbish the fundamental rights enshrined in the constitution. But the government has not acted swiftly to develop necessary regulations and procedural manuals, including policies and programs which are essential to realizing the implementation of these acts.

The constitution has provisioned formation of various commissions to safeguard the human rights of the marginalized people, i.e., the National Women Commission, the Dalit Commission, the Madhesi Commission, the Muslim Commission, the Indigenous Nationalities Commission, the Tharu Commission and the National Inclusion Commission. However, these commissions are not effectively functioning due to delay of the government in appointing their office bearers.

The National Women Commission (NWC) has been functioning without a chairperson and members since the enactment of the Constitution despite the formulation of National Women's Commission Act, 2074 (2017)<sup>33</sup> which has been mandated by the constitution to protect, promote and fulfil the human rights of women and promote gender equality in the country.

The Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen (MOWCSC) of the federal government is the line ministry with the responsibility to deal with the issues of marginalized people, such as women, children, senior citizen, people with disabilities (PWDs), Dalit, gender and sexual minorities, survivors of trafficking and other sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The MOWCSC has limited resources and institutional capacity to empower those disadvantaged communities. Structurally the ministry is in a very weak position to support the provincial governments and local governments in implementing targeted programs for the marginalized communities.

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33 [https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex4.detail?p\\_lang=en&p\\_isn=106080](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex4.detail?p_lang=en&p_isn=106080)



There are no formal mechanisms in place for different stakeholders to participate in the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to ensure women and girls from marginalized groups and other genders to participate and voice their concerns in these processes. The constitutional provision of 33% inclusion of women can be seen only in those areas where the law has made it mandatory. The inclusion of women in other key areas of decision making is negligible such as in the cabinet, other political appointments, the SDGs institutional mechanisms, the High-Level Coronavirus Prevention and Control Coordination Committee, etc. No particular attention has been paid and strategies have been developed to address the intersecting discrimination and inequalities among women and girls from the marginalized communities while developing programs and policies to reach the furthest behind first.

The Government of Nepal launched the contribution-based 'Social Security Scheme' on 27 November 2018 and expressed its commitment to expand Social Protection Floors in line with the SDG target 1.3 'implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable'. The scheme is funded through the contributions made by the workers and employers. It includes medical, health and maternity benefit; accidental and disability benefit; and benefits for dependent family members, and old-age benefit. This is a historical step towards achieving decent work for all. However, the scheme does not cover workers in the informal sector. Since most of the women and other workers from marginalized communities are engaged in the informal sector, and social protection is particularly meant for groups and individuals at a higher risk of poverty and facing other forms of marginalization, the government has to devise schemes not to leave such worker behind from such benefit from the outset of the system.

## **Left behind groups in the provinces**

As there is a need of precise understanding of target populations and intersectionality feminist approach to ensure the application of "Leave No One Behind" principle into practice, an interview with key

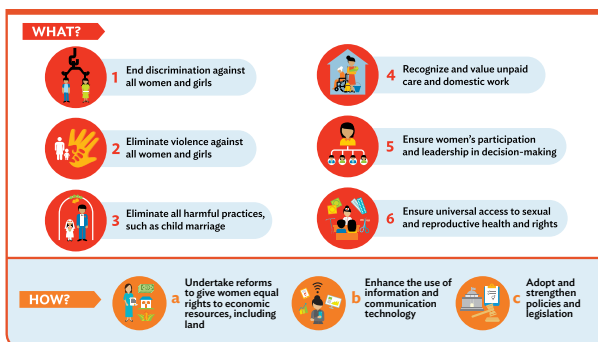
informants was conducted to identify the left behind/excluded groups (Left Behind Groups in Provinces). The informants were asked whether those groups were properly targeted and benefitted by the provincial and local government programs. The responses received are not encouraging. Apart from specific programs such as scholarships, and allowances other programs did not reach to them.

Left Behind Groups in Provinces	
Provinces	Left Behind Groups
Province 1	1) Badi, 2) Kamaiya/Kamalari, 3) Dalit/Marginalized women, 4) Women, children and youths with disability, 5) Muslim women, 6) Children and adolescent girls, 7) Madhesi women, youths and children
Province 2	1) Women with disability, 2) Youth and children, 3) Madhesi Dalit (women, children and youth), 4) Muslim women, 5) Economically deprived women, 6) Marginalized women, youths and adolescent girls.7) Single women
Province 3 Bagmati	1) Women with disability. 2) Youths and children 3) Dalit, 4) Janajati, 5) Marginalized community, 6) Single women, 7) Economically deprived women, 8) LGBTIQ
Province 4 Gandaki	1) Dalit, 2) People with disability (physical & mental),3) Gender and Sexual Minorities,4) Female senior citizens,5) Youth migrant workers, 6) Economically deprived people, 7) Adolescent girls, 8) Economically deprived and geographically backward section of society.
Province 5 Lumbini	1) Women with disability, 2) Youths and children, 3) Madhesi Dalit (women, children and youths), 4) Muslim women, 5) Economically deprived women 6) Socially marginalized women, youths and adolescent girls,7) Single women.
Province 6 Karnali	1) Women and children with disability, 2) Dalit, 3) Janajati, 4) Socially marginalized community, 5) Single women, 6) Economically deprived women, 7) LGBTIQ.
Province 7 Sudur Pachim	1) Raute 2) People with disability,3) Kamaiya, 4) LGBTIQ, 5) Minorities, 6) Janajati.
Note: Derived from the provincial Key Informant Interview	

## 4. Status of the progress of SDG 5: Achieving Gender Equality and Empowerment of all Women and Girls

For assessing the status of progress towards achieving Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls (GEEOWG), the SDG 5's nine targets and its indicators are used as the framework for this report as in the first VNR report 2017 (Framework 1).

### 1. Framework for Assessing SDG 5 Progress



*BBCN has conducted the SDG-5 progress mapping exercise in all the seven provinces through the telephonic interview with the women, indigenous peoples Group, Madhesi, Tharu, PWDs, LGBTI and provincial focal person of BBCN (List Annexed). Participants were asked to mention the five major SDG 5 related activities that took place in their provinces in the last four years. The responses derived from the respondents are presented in a compiled form in the boxes below.*

The MOWCSC is the focal ministry for this goal at the federal level. The Department of Women and Children (DWC) has organized training on SDGs for Women Development Officers, Supervisors and Women Development Workers. As mentioned earlier, the NPC is the nodal agency for SDGs and its Hon. member Mr Min Bahadur Shahi, the NPC member is coordinating the Goal 5 thematically.

The NPC has developed 22 additional national indicators (3 in 5.1.1, 2 in 5.2.1, 2 in 5.2.2, 1 in 5.3.1, 2 in 5.4.1, 3 in 5.5.1, 4 in 5.5.2, 2 in 5.6.1, 2 in 5.a.1) for the Goal 5 and its 9 targets except for 5c. The NPC has planned to monitor the progress of 36 indicators (22 national and 14 global) for

ensuring the achievement of SDG 5 in Nepal. However, the government has yet to collect the required data. Currently, data are available only for 6 indicators out of 14 global indicators of SDG 5<sup>34</sup>. The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) is going to collect some required data while conducting the Population and Housing Census in 2020-2021.<sup>35</sup> Besides, Tribhuvan University's Central Department of Anthropology has also collected gender and social group data under the project SOSIN supported by USAID/Nepal).<sup>36</sup>

In the last three years, after the formation of the new government, numerous acts related with women, girls and (sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) have been enacted in line with the fundamental rights of the citizens as enshrined in the constitution. Many strategies and plans of action have been developed to end discrimination, violence, and mal-practices in line with the CEDAW and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA). Some programs by targeting the socio-economic empowerment of disadvantaged communities have been implemented. National Gender Equality Policy has been drafted, but the government has not finalized it. However, these efforts have helped the country to rank in 103rd position out of 162 countries, with 63.9 index score in the Sustainable Development Report 2019.<sup>37</sup> Table 1 below shows the value, rating and trend of four SDG -Gender Equality Indicators which are used in the SDGs report. The report was produced by the Bertelsmann Stiftung and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).

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34 as cited in the <https://data.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Nepal-brief.pdf>

35 <https://cbs.gov.np/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Statistical-Bulletin-Vol.-121-122.pdf>

36 A Study on the State of Social Inclusion in Nepal (SOSIN)

37 [https://s3.amazonaws.com/sustainabledevelopment.report/2019/2019\\_sustainable\\_development\\_report.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/sustainabledevelopment.report/2019/2019_sustainable_development_report.pdf)

**Table 1: Status of Nepal's SDG 5 -gender equality in terms of value, rating and trend**

Indicators	SDGs- Gender Equality Indicators used in the report	Value	Rating	Trend
1	Demand for family planning satisfied by modern method (% women married or in unions aged 15-49)	56.1	Major challenges	Stagnating
2	Female to male mean years of schooling, the population age 25 + (%)	56.3	Major challenges	Moderately improving
3	Female to male labour force participation rate (%)	96.4	SDG achieved	On track
4	Seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	32.7	Challenges remain	Moderately improving

Note on Rating: A) Major challenges, B) Significant challenges, C) Challenges remain, D) SDG achieved, E) Information unavailable

Trend: a) Decreasing, b) Stagnating, c) Moderately improving, d) On the track or maintaining SDG achievement and e) Information unavailable

Out of four indicators, indicator 3 is rated as achieved and its trend is on track and the rest of the indicators have major challenges, while the trend of indicator 1 is stagnating, 2 and 4 are improving moderately.

The Global Gender Gap Report 2020 published by the World Economic Forum (WEF)<sup>38</sup> has also ranked Nepal in 101st positions with a score of 0.680.<sup>39</sup> Let's see the target-wise progress made in the last four years in Nepal.



### **Goal 5.1: Achievements made towards ending all kinds of discrimination against women and girls.**

Target 5.1 consists of a global indicator (5.1.1) and three National indicators (Table 2). All the three indicators indicate progress made

38 [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GGGR\\_2020.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2020.pdf)

39 [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GGGR\\_2020.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2020.pdf)

from 2015. However, the disparity is meeting the target set for 2019 as progress in wage equality is 0.62 against the target 0.72. Similar is the case for GII and GEM.

**Table 2: Target 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere**

	Indicators	Baseline 2015	Target 2019	Progress 2019	Target 2030
5.1.1	Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to apromote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination based on gender				
1	Wage equality for similar work (ration of women’s wage to that of men)	0.62	0.72	0.62	0.92
2	Gender Inequality Index (GII)	0.49	0.38	0.476	0.05
3	Gender Empowerment Measurement GEM (Index)	0.57	0.6	0.62	0.69

In the last four years, numerous acts have been enacted but not the Gender Equality or women’s act to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls despite the ratification of CEDAW and the recommendation made by CEDAW Committee during the review of the sixth periodic report of the country. Discriminatory provisions are retained even in the constitution which has disenfranchised women by preventing them from passing on citizenship to their children. Many countries like Switzerland, Canada, Thailand, Australia, and Malawi have enacted the Gender Equality Act long ago, by which they have been able to reduce discrimination and inequality. In place of a Gender Equality Law, the MOWCSC has drafted an overarching National Gender Equality Policy, which has yet to be finalized and bring into force.

### **Box 1. Activities conducted in the last four years to eliminate discrimination against women and girls in Provinces**

*Conducted, awareness-raising, capacity building training, workshop and seminar, Formed Justice Committee in the LGU, which is chaired by Deputy Mayor, Formed Child clubs, Established Help desk for children and women, Celebrated Jestha 16 as a Women's Right Day, Shared Information about the Provision of National Women Commission's helpline number 1145 and Child helpline number 1098 (P7), Organized trainings on child rights and responsibilities (P1), Lobbying with the Federal government to eliminate GBV, Youth consultations on sexual and reproductive health services (P2), Established and mobilized GBV Fund and Child Rescue Fund, Campaigning for Compulsory participation of women in all programs, Organized income-generating and skill development trainings (P4), Organized the summit of "Rashtriya Badi Mahaila Adhikar Samiti" (P 5), Signature campaign on ending gender discrimination, Demolition of Chaupadi goth, Radio programs through FM station called Naya Karnali, Street dramas (P6), Provision of safe home and zero-tolerance campaign against GBV. (P7).*

*Note: P= Province. There are seven provinces (1,2,3,4,5,6, and 7) in the country.*



## **5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres**

The Target 2 consist of two global indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.2. There are two national indicators for each of them. Table 3 below indicates the progress achieved in reducing violence against women and girls. The credit goes to the NWC's 24-hour helpline (1145) to deal with the complaints against domestic violence; the expansion of Women, Children and Senior Citizen Service Centres (WCSC) (formerly known as Women Cell) in all 77 District Police Offices and Area Police Offices; the establishment of safe houses and rehabilitation centres for the victims of domestic violence and human trafficking by the MOWCSC and its Department of Women and Children, and the CSOs; and the operation of One-Stop-Crisis Management Centres (OSCMC) in the district level hospitals by the Ministry of Health and Population.

**Table 3: Target 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres**

	Indicators	Baseline 2015	Target 2019	Progress 2019	Target 2030
5.2.1	Violence against women and girls aged 15 years and older by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months				
1	Lifetime physical and/or sexual violence (%)	28.4	22.2	24.3	5
2	Children aged 1-14 years who experienced psychological aggression physical punishment during the last one month (%)	81.7	59.9		
	77.6	13.6			
5.2.2	Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence				
1	Women aged 15-49 years who experience physical /sexual violence (%)	26	19.1	11.2	6.5
2	Women and girls trafficking (in number)	697	725	946	325

The Legislature-Parliament enacted various laws to end violence against women and girls and protect the survivors affected by SGBV. The National Civil Code and the National Penal Code criminalize all forms of discrimination and violence based on caste, gender, religion, disability, ideology, among others. Under the initiation of the MOWCSC, the GoN has declared 2017 as the “Year against Gender-Based Violence” and also declared 30th May (16<sup>th</sup> Jestha) to mark as the day of “National Women’s



Human Rights Day” every year. Also, the government agencies, as well as the non-government organizations (NGOs), launch several campaigns against GBV, Human Trafficking, child marriage every year including ‘16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence’ from 25 November to 10 December. Despite these efforts, the violence against girls and women is rampant throughout the country. A recent study has found out that 73% of women suffer from different types of domestic violence and GBV.<sup>40</sup> The Nepal Police data also proves that domestic violence has alarmingly increased in the country during the five years from the fiscal year 2013/14 to 2017/18.

The main challenge in eliminating violence is the prevalence of patriarchal mindset and behaviours of the people, which are inculcated through informal, non-formal and formal education. Unless there is a transformation in bringing-up human being from the birth, discrimination and violence may not end. Legislative measures are essential but changing the mindset is pre-requisite.

### **Box 2: Activities conducted in the provinces to Eliminate all Form of Violence, Human Trafficking and Sexual exploitation**

*Appeal for the gender equality environment in every mechanism, radio and television program targeting human trafficking, and sexual harassment (P1), Hearing at the local level through Judicial Committee under Deputy Mayor, Maiti Nepal and Police squads at major customs and borders to reduce the trafficking in girls and women (P2), Child Rescue Fund allocation by the government (P3), Actions on Human trafficking are being taken as per the law, Sensitize people and empower youth on their roles and responsibilities towards government and governance system (P4), Awareness programs for anti-child marriage, Dowry, Tilak, Deuki, Witchcraft, Chaupaddi, and all such superstitious beliefs, harmful practices and traditions, and violence against women, Parenting education- their rights and responsibilities towards children (P5), Free Legal Aid to violence-affected women, Women Cell run by women police, Prahari a Janata Karayakam, in schools about trafficking. (P6), Campaign to eliminate chaupadi pratha and School Feeding and incentive programs to girls (P7)*

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40 <https://www.worecnepal.org/content/186/2020-11-25>



## Goal 5.3 Achievements made towards eliminating harmful practices against women and girls:

There are two global indicators for this target, 5.3.1 and 5.3.2 (Table 4). Proportion/ percentage of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age group. There is a national indicator only for 5.3.1. Nepal is successful in reducing child marriage from 24.5% (2015) to 19.3 % against the target set 18% by the year 2019. As the prevalence of female genital mutilation is not found in the country, this indicator is irrelevant. But harmful practices such as Chhaupadi and discrimination during menstruation are rampant. Thus, Chhaupadi is criminalized by the Country Criminal Code punishing those who force women and girls to take refuge in a shed during the period with three month's jail term along with fine. To reduce the taboos towards natural menstruation process of women on the call of civil society organizations, the MOWCSC has declared December 8 as the dignified menstruation day in 2019, which intended to end any forms of abuse, discrimination, violence associated with menstruation' Principally, Practically and Psychologically and marked the day 'Dignified Menstruation for ending GBV and ensuring inalienable Human Right' (Radha Paudel Foundation and Global South Coalition).<sup>41</sup>

**Table 4: Target 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage**

	Indicators	Baseline 2015	Target 2019	Progress 2019	Target 2030
5.3.1	Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18.				
1	Women aged 15-19 years who are married or in union (%)	24.5	18	19.3	4.1
5.3.2	Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age				

<sup>41</sup> <https://dignifiedmenstruation.org/founder-message/>

The GoN has promulgated law banning child marriage. The Criminal Code (2017) has formally adopted 20 years as the minimum age for marriage in line with the ‘National Strategy to End Child Marriages 2016’ by 2030. Despite all these legal provisions and programs these harmful practices persist and continue to prevent girls and women from developing their agency. Without political will, skills and strong feminist organizations and their united movement the root causes cannot be rooted out.

### **Box 3: Activities conducted to eliminate harmful practices against women and girls**

*Released appeal for the gender equality environment in every mechanism (P1), Help desk for children and women for self and social security (P1), Mass awareness to sensitize the minimum age criteria of marriage, Inclusion of Child marriage as a punishable act in the curriculum, Beti Bachau Beti Padhau program, Life insurance program of a baby girl, initiation of collective marriages to demotivate dowry system (P2), Free our province from child marriage campaign, Child-friendly local governance by 2021/, Group Discussion, seminars and workshops conducted by youth to increase awareness among citizens and local people. (P3), Establishment of Reconciliation centres at the ward level (P4), Ending child marriage campaign through profile making and street dramas, Parenting education on the negative consequence of child marriages, Awareness on providing education to girls, equality on son and daughters, Launched Adolescent Education (Kishori Sikhya.) (P5), Formed District Child Rights Network (Bal Adhikar Jilla Snajal) for keeping vigilance on child marriage cases and arresting all the people involved in, (Prahari ra Janata Karayakram in schools) (P6) and Awareness program in partnership with Local NGOs, Civil Societies and local Government (P7).*



### **Goal 5.4 Achievements made towards recognizing the value of unpaid, care and domestic work**

The global indicator for this target is 5.4.1 (Table 5). It has two national indicators. The participation of women in the labour force has increased to 26.3 as opposed to 53.8 per cent of men. The female employment to population ratio (EPR) is 22.9.<sup>42</sup> The Nepal Labor Force Survey (2017/18)

42 [https://npc.gov.np/images/category/15th\\_Plan\\_Final1.pdf](https://npc.gov.np/images/category/15th_Plan_Final1.pdf)

found that while the male to female working-age population ratio in Nepal is 100:125, the male to female employment ratio stands at 100:59. Only 1 out of 7 managers in the country are female according to the survey. Women are still absent in managerial positions. Besides, these data no quantitative progress could be denoted for indicator '2' due to the lack of data (Table 5).

Disaggregate data is one of the pre-requisites for gender-responsive SDGs implementation and for ensuring the principle of "Leaving No Woman and Girl Behind". The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) is going to collect data required for some SDGs including data for 5.4.1 (time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location and average hours spent in domestic work by women) while conducting Population and Housing Census in 2020-2021.<sup>43</sup>

**Table 5: 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work**

	Indicators	Baseline 2015	Target 2019	Progress 2019	Target 2030
5.4.1	Percentage of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location				
1	Ratio of women to men participation in labor force	0.93	0.95	-	1
2	Average hours spent in domestic work by women	14a	11.87	-	6

The government has yet to develop policies and programs to recognize, reduce and redistribute (3 Rs) domestic work burden of women. The "care" is the basic requirement of human being and essential for the development of a country thus the responsibility of providing quality care for the child, elderly, chronically sick and the disabled people should be undertaken by the government, private organization/ markets and voluntary organizations as a game-changing program by establishing adequate numbers of quality care centres throughout the country.

43 <https://cbs.gov.np/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Statistical-Bulletin-Vol.-121-122.pdf>

#### **Box. 4: Activities conducted to recognize the value of unpaid, care and domestic work done by women and girls in provinces**

*Compulsory involvement of women in infrastructure development, Social Security allowance for women, Income-generating activities (P1), Maternity and Paternity leaves for the family members, various provision to enroll son and daughter in school, Endorsement of strategy plans to promote equal participation of girls and women (P2), The 5 years planning to empower and to educate adolescent girls and boys, Sensitization programs using mass media, Men Participation Strategy 2075, Gender friendly parks, toilets and public (spaces, separate seats for women in public vehicle (P3), Awareness generation and sensitization, Allocation of budget by targeting empowerment of women, children, Dalit, Janajati and other disadvantaged group of the society, Provision of Technical and skill development training to empower women economically and to live a dignified life, Provision of Provident fund for daily wage workers and temporary workers in hospitals (P4), Conducted a JODI SAMUHA sensitization program, Inclusive training for both men and women portraying work done by women in household chores, and Women empowerment campaigns (P5) , Provision of social security allowances, Organizing various awareness related activities and programs. Advocacy on equal pay principle as per the workload and performance (P6).*



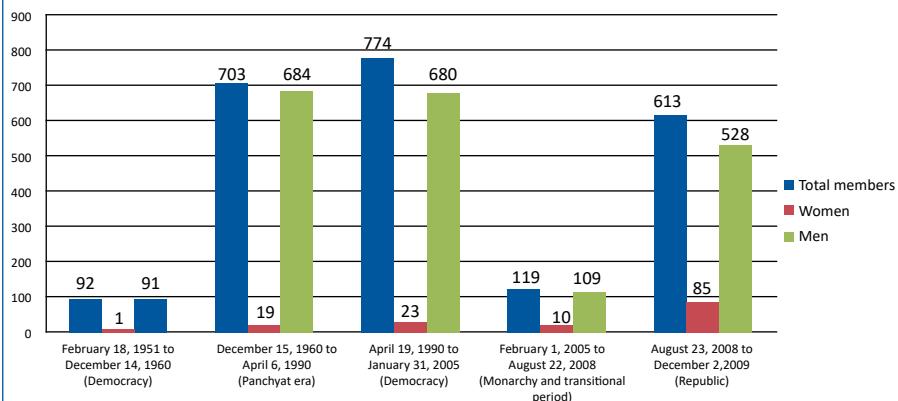
#### **Goal 5.5 Achievements made towards ensuring women's participation in decision making**

There are two global indicators for this target 5.5.1 and 5.5.2 (Table 6). The NPC has developed three national indicators for 5.5.1 and four for 5.5.2. As a result of the constitutionally mandatory provision, Nepal is successful in achieving critical number (over 33 per cent) of women's participation in the parliaments and local government bodies but failed to achieve the same in public services and other state mechanisms.

**Table 6 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision- making in political, economic and public life**

	Indicators	Baseline 2015	Target 2019	Progress 2019	Target 2030
5.5.1	Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments				
	(a) National parliaments %	29.5	33	33.5	40
	(b) Provincial parliaments%		33	34.4	40
	C) Local governments bodies %		40.5	40.8	42
5.5.2	Proportion of women in managerial positions				
1	Women's participation in decision-making level in the private sector (%)	25	30.3	29.61	45
2	Women's participation in the cooperative sector (%)	50	50	51	50
3	Women in public service decision-making positions (% of total employees)	11	17	13.6	33
4	Ratio of women to men in professional and technical workers (%)	24	28	25	40

**Women in council of ministers  
(1951 AD-2019 AD)**



Though there are a critical number of women in parliaments, participation of women in the council of ministers is very low (see the graph).<sup>44</sup> The government has to strictly implement the policy of inclusion by adhering to the constitutional provision of 33% women participation in all mechanisms and sectors. There is the domination of males from elite classes in almost all of the political appointments, which is against the spirit of the constitution. There is a very low representation of women from Dalit, Muslim, Madhesi and indigenous communities in the administrative posts. The government and the political parties, private organizations and CSOs are not fully gender-responsive to achieve 50:50 inclusively across the country by 2030.



The BBCN had launched the campaign of the #50:50 by 2030 on 9th December 2015 in the auspicious participation of the first female President Rt. Hon'ble Bidya Devi Bhandari, who inaugurated the 7th Human Rights National Magna Meet (HRNMM). Since then, BBCN is tirelessly advocating for gender-responsive and inclusive governance (GRIG).

### **Box 5: Activities Conducted in ensuring women's participation in decision making in provinces**

*Compulsory participation of women in Local Consumer's committees (P2), Women with Deputy mayor program (Upamayor Sanga Mahaila karyakram) (P4), Leadership training, Personality development training, Conflict management training, Women empowerment campaigns, Formation of GESI policy, Advocacy on women's right (P5), Mahila Swarajgar Karayakram (P6) and Provision of President Women Development Programs (P7)*

44 <http://southasiacheck.org/in-public-interest/women-ministers-in-nepal/>



## Goal 5.6 Achievements made towards ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Under this target, there are two global indicators, 5.6.1 and 5.6.2 (Table 7). The NPC has added two national indicators for 5.6.1. The target to create awareness on reproductive rights to reach to 69 per cent women and girls was not met. Similarly, no progress is noted with regards to sexual health care, support and service to marginalized groups. The Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act 2018 has been passed on August 15, 2018. Due to the delay in promulgating the regulation, the act has not been fully implemented.

**Table 7 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights**

	Indicators	Baseline 2015	Target 2019	Progress 2019	Target 2030
5.6.1	Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care				
1	Awareness about reproductive rights among girls and women (%)	59.5	68	-	90
2	Receiving specific support and service provisions related to sexual health care to the poor, discriminated and marginalized groups (%)	-	-	-	-
5.6.2	Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education				

Though Nepal has been recognized as one of the most progressive countries in addressing the reproductive health and rights issues in South Asia and the Asian region<sup>45</sup>, women and girls in the country are

45 Yegon, Erick Kiprotich, Peter Mwaniki Kabanya, Elizabeth Echoka, and Joachim Osur. 2016. "Understanding abortion-related stigma and incidence of unsafe abortion: experiences from community members in Machakos and Trans Nzoia counties Kenya." Pan African Medical Journal 24 (1).



still struggling to fully realize their reproductive health and rights. The Constitution of Nepal (GoN) has enshrined reproductive rights as a fundamental right of women. It states that “every woman shall have the right to safe motherhood and reproductive health” {Article 38 (b)}.<sup>46</sup> It also recognizes the rights of different gender orientation and sexual minorities (LGBTI).<sup>47</sup>

To increase awareness, the government has scaled up and strengthened the expansion of adolescent-friendly services all over the country. The Family Planning Program 2020 is in execution to provide family planning services<sup>48</sup>. Despite these services and programs, the majority of women and girls lack age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education and Continuum of Quality Care (CQC) throughout their life cycle.

#### **Box 6: Activities conducted in ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights in provinces**

*Encourage small and nuclear family with a limit of 2 children, Benefit of family planning policies; its uses and sensitization on its methods through public health, Child clubs established in schools as well as in hospitals to provide information and knowledge about menstruation, pregnancy, changes during adolescence, Counseling and psychosocial counseling (P1), Free maternity services and maternity travel allowances at government hospitals for safe delivery, Free and safe abortion service on women's own decision, Women's own right on her own body, Free of cost family planning services at local level, Legal education on marital rape (P2), Inclusion of LGBTQ in the syllabus and curriculum, Distribution of sanitary pads in government schools, Life skill trainings to adolescent, Rupantaran and micro –saving training (P3), Mahinawari Swachhata Program, Girl-friendly environment, Free sanitary pads distributions, Set-up of adolescent education booth in hospitals and ‘Mahanagar ko koseli’ to postpartum women*

46 Government of Nepal, Secretariat, and Constituent Assembly. 2015. The Constitution of Nepal, 2015.

47 Government of Nepal, Nepal Planning Commission, Sustainable Development Goals 2016-2030 National (Preliminary) Report. 2015, Government of Nepal, Nepal Planning Commission, Kathmandu, Nepal.

48 Department of Health Services. 2018. Annual Report: Department of Health Services 2016/2017. Kathmandu, Nepal

## Box 6: Contd...

during COVID-19 (P4), HIV/AIDS awareness campaign, Safe abortion awareness to the individuals, Sexual and reproductive health training , Safe motherhood training and women empowerment campaigns (P5), Emergency helicopter services for pregnancy complications, Demolition of Chau Goth by Nepal Police and different organization, training on making homemade sanitary pads, Free transportation services to the Pregnant women to visit health centers, Free of cost x-ray services, FP devices in government hospitals and health posts and adolescent friendly services, Information by health workers in schools. (P6), Radio program on abortion and abortion rights, FCHV providing information related to menstrual health hygiene, abortion rights, and Free primary health services to economically deprived section (P7)



### Goal 5. a. Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources including land.

This goal is a means of implementation (MOI) of goal 5. It has two global indicators 5.a.1 and 5.a.2 (Table 8). The NPC has added two indicators: for 5.a.1 - Number of enterprises owned by women and for 5.a.2 - Women's ownership of property (land and house).

**Table 8: Target 5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws**

	Indicators	Baseline 2015	Target 2019	Progress 2019	Target 2030
5.a.1	(a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure				
1	Number of enterprises owned by women				
2	Women's ownership of property (land and house)	26a	29	-	40
5.a.2	Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control				

Women's ownership in enterprises and property has been increased in the last four years. Nepal government has reformed its various acts including the Financial Act, 2015. It has a provision of tax exemption to help increase land ownership of women. According to this law, the tax is exempted:

- For land registration, 25%-50% tax exemptions (depending on geographical area) available to women provided that they do not sell the land within three years,
- 35% tax exemption for widows during land registration.
- 50% tax exemption when land is transferred within three generations of daughter or granddaughter.



- Joint Land Ownership in the name of wife and husband which is charged only Rs.100.

Despite these provisions, the situation of women's entitlement, access to and decision-making rights of land property is still far from achieving.

### Box 5a: Activities conducted to ensure women's equal rights to economic resources, including land in provinces

*The budget allocated for the women-centric program, Gender Responsive Budgeting (P1), Exemption of taxes and VAT on buying property, land or any other wealth registered in the name of women, the high-interest rate in women's bank account to encourage saving and investment and low-interest rate for small and cottage industry entrepreneur women (P2), Formation of Women Saving and Credit Cooperative Limited, Formation of Kosheli Ghar, and Advocacy about women's right to property (P5).*



## Goal 5.b. Enhances the use of ICT of women and girls

The second MOI for achieving Goal 5 is to enhance the use of ICT to promote the empowerment of women and girls. It has a global indicator 5b.1 (Table 9). The national indicator for this goal 1) Use of Internet by women aged 15-49 years (%). There must be tremendous progress made in this field with mobile penetration exceeding 100% and Internet penetration reaching 60% as mentioned in the MOCIT's 2018 Digital Nepal Framework<sup>50</sup>. The NDHS 2016 also found that in Nepal, the majority of women and men own a mobile phone (73% and 89%, respectively).<sup>51</sup> However, NPC has yet to get disaggregate data to indicate the progress under this indicator (Table 9).

**Table 9 Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women**

	Indicators	Baseline 2015	Target 2019	Progress 2019	Target 2030
5.b.1	Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex				
1	Use of Internet by women aged 15-24 years (%)	19.6	40.5	-	98

A study conducted on 'Women in ICT in Search of Identity' in 2006<sup>52</sup> had recommended for the formation of forums and platforms of women in ICT and support them by promoting positive discriminatory policies and regulations, and inclusion of compulsory ICT curriculum particularly in government schools. In line with these several individuals and women-led organizations like Maker KT, Girls in Technology, Women Leaders in Technology (WLIT), Women Techmakers have come up in the front. They guide and help others by establishing support organizations, and conducting workshops and events to empower young women in this field.<sup>53</sup> Realizing the importance of ICT in the modern era, the government has incorporated ICT and mass communication component

50 <https://mocit.gov.np/application/resources/admin/uploads/source/EConsultation/Final%20Book.pdf>

51 <https://www.dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/fr336/fr336.pdf>

52 <http://archana.com.np/witc.pdf>

53 <https://kathmandupost.com/science-technology/2019/05/13/technopolis-why-arent-there-more-women-in-it>

in the Education Master Plan 2013-2017. Similarly, the government is targeting to turn into a digital economy by 2020. But, the government, as well as the private sector and non-government organizations have to come up with a concrete gender-responsive strategy and action to promote women and girls in this arena so that the digital divide between women, men and LGBTQIA and between people living in the rural and urban areas will not be further perpetuated.

### **Box 5b: Activities conducted to enhance the use of ICT of women and girls in provinces**

*Coverage of women issues by media, Training on ICT, Priority of media on women, children, /senior citizen and education etc., Put 1st priority in advisement world (P1), Awareness programs on TV, Radio and media against sex determination, Family planning and feminine health-related programs on TV, Radio and media (P2). No work has been done so far in this sector as rural women and girls still do not have access to information and technology. It is not addressed by the governments- Manisha Hada, Youth Constituency (P3)*



### **Goal 5.c Adopt and strengthen policies and legislation for women and girls' equality**

The third MOI for Goal 5 is to adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels. The global indicator for this 5.c is 'proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment (5.c.1)'. There is no additional national indicator set for it (Table 10).

**Table 10 Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels**

	Indicators	Baseline 2015	Target 2019	Progress 2019	Target 2030
5c.1	Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment	-	-	-	-

Global Partnership monitoring also provides data to measure progress on SDG Target 5.c on adopting and strengthening policies and legislation for the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment.

**TARGET 5.C**

**SDG Indicator 5c.1**



Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment

**Global Partnership results** show that 19% of partner countries have comprehensive trading systems in place and make gender budgets allocations available publicly. An additional 59% have taken steps to establish such systems and have some basic elements of these systems in place.

Nepal has introduced the Gender Responsive Budget (GRB) System since 2008 and the percentage of directly responsive Gender Responsive Budget (GRB) has now reached 38.17 in FY 2019/2020.<sup>54</sup>

The Fifteenth Five Year Development Plan (15th Plan) 2019/20-2023/24 has a target to achieve Gender Development Index (GDI) 0.897 to 0.963<sup>55</sup> and to introduce GRB system at the local and provincial levels. However, due to the lack of a tracking system, insufficient knowledge and weak commitment, the GRB system has not been effectively implemented at all levels of governance.

The MOF is responsible for sourcing data concerning the indicator annually from the MIS (as stated in the SDGs roadmap)<sup>56</sup> for monitoring and tracking the progress. However, the MOF has not disclosed the information although it may have collected the data (Table 10). Because, this is one of the indicators of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC), the government is accountable to furnish required data for monitoring purposes. The finding of the GPEDC's 2018 Monitoring Round<sup>57</sup> is shown above, which indicates

54 Beyond Beijing Committee Nepal, (2019). Beijing +25 National Review National Parallel Report 2019. Kathmandu: BBCN.

55 [https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/15th\\_Plan\\_Final1.pdf](https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/15th_Plan_Final1.pdf)

56 NPC, (2018). Sustainable Development Goals Status and Road Maps, 2016-2030. Kathmandu: National Planning Commission.

57 [https://www.effectivecooperation.org/system/files/2020-01/GPEDC\\_2019-Report\\_Glossy\\_EN.pdf](https://www.effectivecooperation.org/system/files/2020-01/GPEDC_2019-Report_Glossy_EN.pdf)

the deficiency of countries in furnishing data for monitoring the achievement in SDG 5c.

The monitoring of this indicator is essential for effective, efficient and equitable financing on Gender Equality and in attracting development partners for development cooperation as it is one of the indicators of GPEDC. Thus, there is an urgent need to set a comprehensive system of conducting Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys to track the proportion of the national budget that is invested in gender equality and to implement the GRB effectively at all levels of government, as well as in non-government and private sector.

To summarize, the country has made some significant progresses towards achieving gender equality and empowerment of women and girls particularly in reducing de jure discrimination in line with the CEDAW, Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and ICPD POA with the promulgation of the new constitution in 2015 and enactment of 16 Acts related to 'Fundamental Rights' of Citizen as enshrined in the constitution. However, the realization of substantive equality and rights by ending de facto discriminations against women and girls is very far. The key barrier to this is the patriarchal and feudal mindset limiting women's potentials to develop and exercise voice, agency and leadership.



## **5. Status of Progress on GEEOWG Mainstreaming in other SDGs**

### **The progress in Gender Equality across the goals**

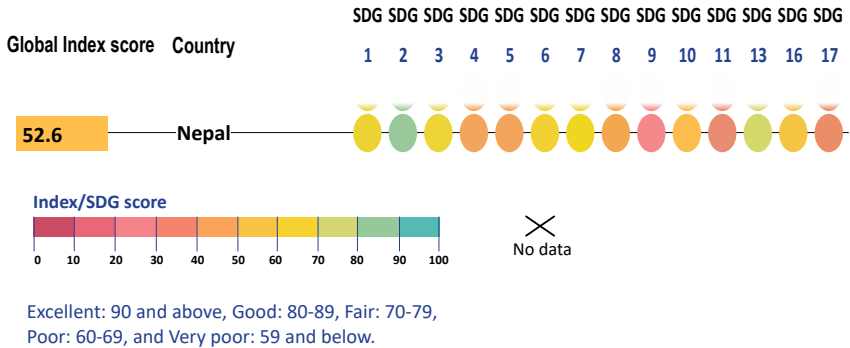
In the country, only 37 per cent of data of all Gender-relevant global SDG indicators<sup>58</sup> are available to measure the progress towards gender equality across the goals. Therefore, it is necessary to include the Equal Measures (EM) 2030's<sup>59</sup> data to provide a glimpse of the progress made in gender equality. The 2019 EM2030 SDG Gender Index has ranked Nepal in 102nd position out of 129 countries with 52.6 scores. (SDG

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58 as cited in the <https://data.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Nepal-brief.pdf>

59 <https://www.equalmeasures2030.org/>

## SDG Gender Index score

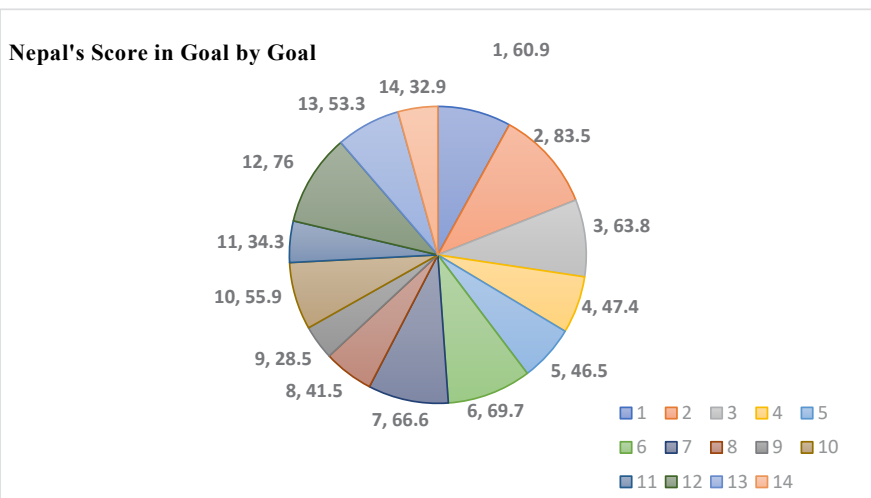


Source: Equal Measure 2020

Gender Index score) The Index includes 51 Gender-relevant and non-gender specific indicators across 14 of the 17 SDGs. Each goal in the index is covered by three to five indicators.

Nepal has scored 60.9, 83.5, 63.8, 47.4, 46.5, 69.6, 66.6, 41.5, 28.5, 55.9, 34.3, 76.0, 53.3, and 32.9 out of 100 in goal 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16 and 17 respectively (Graph 1)

**Graph 1. Nepal's Score Goal by Goal**





As in 2017 VNR process,<sup>60</sup> the BBCN has used the four pillars - (i) Equality in human capabilities (Equality), ii) Women Economic Empowerment (WEE), iii) Voice, participation and leadership (voice) and iv) Safety of GEEOWG<sup>61</sup> framework (Annex 2 GEEOWG related indicators of SDGs).

The review process assessed whether the plan, policies, programs and activities are planned and implemented in such a way that they contribute in making progress in seventy-one of directly GEEOWG related targets and indicators of all goals except 12, 14 and 15 which do not have Gender-relevant targets and indicators (Table 11).

**Table 11: GEEOWG -Specific Goals and Indicators**

Sustainable Development Goals	Gender-Relevant Indicators in SDGs
<b>Goal 1:</b> No poverty	1.1.1, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.3.1, 1.4.1, 1.4.2, 1.5.1, 1.a.1, 1.b.1 Total: 9
<b>Goal 2:</b> Zero Hunger	2.1.1., 2.1.2, 2.2.2, and 2.3.2 Total: 4
<b>Goal 3:</b> Good health and wellbeing	3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.3.1, 3.4.1, 3.4.2, 3.7.1, 3.7.2, 3.8.1, 3.9.2 Total: 11
<b>Goal 4:</b> Quality Education	4.1.1, 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.3.1, 4.5.1, 4.6.1, 4.7.1, 4.a.1, 4.c.1 Total: 9
<b>Goal 6:</b> Clean Water and Sanitation	6.1.1, 6.2.1 Total: 2
<b>Goal 7:</b> Affordable and Clean Energy	7.1.1, 7.1.2 Total: 2
<b>Goal 8:</b> Decent Work and Economic Growth	8.3.1, 8.5.1, 8.5.2, 8.7.1, 8.8.1, 8.8.2, 8.9.2, 8.10.2 8 Total: 8
<b>Goal 9:</b> Industry, Innovation and Infrastructures	9.1.1, 9.c.1, Total: 2

60 Beyond Beijing Committee -Nepal women Major Group for Sustainable Development in Nepal (2017) Country Report Status of Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and sustainable Development Goals in Nepal: Women CSOs perspectives. Beyond Beijing Committee -Nepal women Major Group for Sustainable Development in Nepal.

61 16 The conceptual framework presented at the Regional consultation on SDGs baseline publication evidence-based policy advocacy for gender equality and localization of SDGs in Asia and the Pacific 15-17 November, 2016 Bangkok, Thailand

**Table 11: Contd...**

Sustainable Development Goals	Gender-Relevant Indicators in SDGs
<b>Goal 10:</b> Reduced Inequalities	10.1.1, 10.2.1, 10.3.1 Total: 3
<b>Goal 11:</b> Sustainable Cities and Communities	11.1.1, 11.2.1, 11.5.7, 11.7.1, 11.7.2 Total: 5
<b>Goal 13:</b> Climate Action	13.1.1, 13.b.1 Total: 2
<b>Goal 16:</b> Peace, Justice and Strong Institution	16.1.1, 16.1.2, 16.1.3, 16.1.4, 16.2.2, 16.2.3, 16.3.1, 16.7.1, 16.7.2, 16.9.1, 16.10.1, 16.b.1 Total: 12
<b>Goal 17:</b> Partnership for the Goals	17.18.1, 17.19.2 Total: 2
<b>Total</b>	<b>71 Indicators</b>



**SDG 1:** The first goal of SDGs proposes ending poverty and bringing it down to a level where the country can ensure high human development and per capita income.

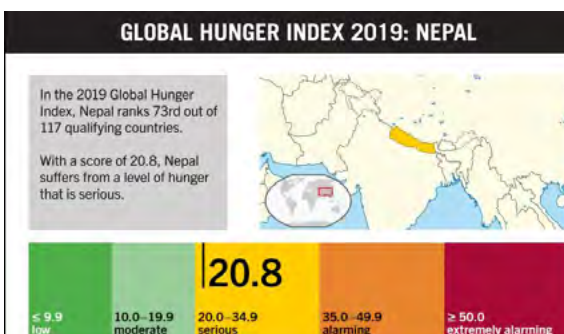
The NPC's presentation shows the significant progress of SDG 1 in reducing poverty by 2019. Due to the lack of sex-disaggregated data the progress made in reducing women's poverty (1.1.1 and 1.2.1), increasing their social protection (1.3.1), access to basic services, and rights to land tenure (1.4.1 and 1.4.2) can only be surmised but not authentically stated here.



**SDG 2:** The second goal proposes

ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture. The progress made in the SDG 2's GEEOWG's indicators such as

reducing women and girls' undernourishment, (2.1.1.), severe food insecurity (2.1.2), stunting (2.2.2), and malnutrition (2.3.2) can only be surmised as Nepal is ranked at 79th position and has scored 56.4 in the Global Food Security Index (GFSI). The index considers the four



core issues -affordability, availability, quality and safety which are the drivers of food security.<sup>62</sup> Due to feminization of poverty, restriction in mobility, feudal and patriarchal socio-culture norms and values females are feed last. Without addressing such systemic barriers, the state of hunger among women and girls will hardly over even if food production is high enough. The Global Hunger Index of 2019 indicates serious status.<sup>63</sup> Though poverty has fallen over time but remains a challenge, together with gender, social and income inequalities.

**Table 12 Target 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage**

	Indicators	Baseline 2015	Target 2019	Progress 2019	Target 2030
3.8.1	Coverage of essential health services				
a	Per cent of women having four antenatal care visits as per protocol (among live births)	60	71	56.2	90
b	Per cent of institutional delivery	55.2	70	77.5	90
c	Per cent of women attending three PNC as per protocol	20	50	16.4	90
d	Per cent of infants receiving three doses of Hepatitis B vaccine	88	90	86.4	95
e	Per cent of people living with HIV receiving Antiretroviral combination therapy	39.9	90	75	95
f	Per cent of the population aged 15 years and above with raised blood pressure who are currently taking medication	11.7	31	19.8	60
g	Per cent of households within 30 minutes travel time to health facilities	61.8	69.3	49.3	90

62 <https://foodsecurityindex.eiu.com/index>

63 <https://www.globalhungerindex.org/pdf/en/2019/Nepal.pdf>



**SDG 3:** The third goal aspires for healthy lives and promotes well-being for all people of all ages everywhere. Though the progress in the health sector

has been encouraging, Nepal is still behind in achieving many of its set targets for 2019. There are 27 indicators for Goal 3. As mentioned in (Table 11 there are 11 Gender-relevant indicators. Achievements towards these indicators: Maternal mortality ratio (3.1.1), Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (3.1.2 ), Under-five mortality rate (3.2.1), Neonatal mortality rate (3.2.2), Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations (V3.3.1), Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods (3.7.1), Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group (3.7.2), Coverage of essential health services (3.8.1), Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, sanitation and handwashing (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) services) per 100000 population (3.9.1) are not satisfactory. The target set even for essential health service (3.8.1), were not met except for institutional delivery (Table 12)



**SDG 4:** The fourth goal aspires to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. There are 9 GEEOWG

specific indicators for the goal 4. The country has made good progress in reducing gender disparities although target set for 2019 was not fully met. Increase in Net Enrolment Rate (NER) in primary education (97.2 per cent), and the gross enrolment in secondary education (60.6 per cent) contributed to 4.1.1 (Proportion of children and young people in primary and lower secondary) and in parity indices 4.5.1 and literacy and numeracy (Table 13). However, another Gender-relevant indicators including mainstreaming sustainable development, gender equality and human rights in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment etc. are yet to achieve adequately at all levels of education (4.7.1).<sup>64</sup> The

64 [https://moe.gov.np/assets/uploads/files/SDG\\_4\\_Nepal\\_National\\_Framework\\_\(Final\\_Print\\_Ready\\_Copy\)\\_July\\_2020.pdf](https://moe.gov.np/assets/uploads/files/SDG_4_Nepal_National_Framework_(Final_Print_Ready_Copy)_July_2020.pdf)

Sustainable Development Goal 4: Education 2030 Nepal National Framework developed by the government with the technical support (comprised of over 99.6 per cent) from the Nepal National Commission for UNESCO (NATCOM) seems failed to mainstream equality (Goal 10), gender equality (Goal 5) and human rights rather focus on only parity. Without transforming the education system, the thrust of the Agenda 2020 “Transforming our world” for five Ps (Planet, peace, prosperity, poverty eradication, and partnership) will not be achieved. Till today, the Curriculum Development Centre (CDC) has not been successful in introducing a new curriculum.

**Table 13 SDG 4 - Inclusive and quality education**

	Indicators	Baseline 2015	Target 2019	Progress 2019	Target 2030
4.1.1	Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict-affected, as data becomes available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated				
1	Gender Parity index (GPI) (primary school)	1.02	1.01	1.06	1.01
2	Gender Parity Index (GPI) (secondary school)	1	1	0.95	1
3	Gender Parity Index (GPI) based on literacy (above 15 years)	0.62	0.72	0.65	0.8
Target 4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and at least 95 per cent of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy					
4.6.1	Proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by gender				
1	Literacy rate of 15-24 years old (%)	91.4	91.4	92	95

Source: \*SDGs Status and Roadmap: 2016-2030; \*\*SDGs Progress Report (2016-2019).



**SDG 6:** Sustainable Development Goal Six (SDG6) — Clean Water and Sanitation — has six linked targets that aim to “ensure availability and sustainable management of water

and sanitation for all”. It comprised of two GEEOWG indicators (Table 14.) To achieve these targets governments and other actors are required to provide the sanitation services in resilient and culturally appropriate ways. Table 14 below indicates remarkable progress in sanitation and use of latrine (6.2.1) while failed in ensuring access to drinking water supply (6.1.1). Nepal is rich in water resources. However, it fails to appropriate due to lack of infrastructure and political will and skills in building water supply system in such a way that benefits to women and all, including marginalized populations and people living with disabilities. The research revealed a gender disparity in access to water, and that access to water sources are inclined to benefit men and economically better households.<sup>65</sup> Although women bear the major social burden of inadequate water and sanitation services, they are under-represented in policies and programs. Major cultural barriers embedded in Nepali society in social norms around menstruation, impurity and pollution limit women’s access, agency and participation.<sup>66</sup> Dalit women suffer

**Table 14 SDG 6 - Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**

Target 6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all					
	Indicators	Baseline 2015	Target 2019	Progress 2019	Target 2030
6.1.1	Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services				
1	Population using safe drinking water (%)	15	35	35	90
2	Households with access to piped water supply (%)	49.5	60.3	49.6	90
3	Basic water supply coverage (%)	87	90.2	88	99

65 [westernsydney.edu.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/1465455/WSUNepalReportFINAL30thOctFINAL\\_Digital.pdf](http://westernsydney.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1465455/WSUNepalReportFINAL30thOctFINAL_Digital.pdf)

66 <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/02508060.2020.1754564?scroll=top&needAccess=true&journalCode=rwin20>

	Indicators	Baseline 2015	Target 2019	Progress 2019	Target 2030
Target 6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all					
6.2.1	Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water				
1	Households using improved sanitation facilities which are not shared (%)	60	69.3	62	95
2	Proportion of population using latrines (%)	67.6	75.7	85	98
3	Sanitation coverage (%)	82	86.5	99	99

Source: \*SDGs Status and Roadmap: 2016-2030; \*\*SDGs Progress Report (2016-2019).

triply and Dalit women with a disability suffer quadropoly. The agencies working in the sector of water and sanitation infrastructure are not sensitive enough to address it and ensure water and sanitation services.



**SDG 7:** The seventh goal - Affordable and Clean Energy- aspires to access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all and has five linked targets with six indicators of which two indicators and (7.1.1) and (7.1.2) are GEEOWG -specific. The country has achieved more than the set targets for 2019 in accessing electricity and its consumptions (Table 15 SDG 7). Appreciation goes to Mr Kul Man Ghising, the former Managing Director of Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA). He is known as a god of electricity who has solved the load-shedding problem.

Women play a significant role in energy systems. However, the government failed to ensure their participation in policy and program. Despite the review made recommendation for engendering national energy sector policies and program long ago,<sup>67</sup> this sector is still gender-neutral.

67 <https://www.energia.org/cm2/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Gender-Review-NEPAL.pdf>

**Table 15 SDG 7– Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**

	Target and indicators	Baseline 2015	Target 2019	Progress 2019	Target 2030
Target 7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy servicesv					
7.1.1	Proportion of population with access to electricity	74	80.7	88	99
	Per capita energy (final) consumption (in gigajoules)	16	18.1	20	24
7.1.2	Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology				
1	Households using solid fuel as primary source of energy for cooking (%)	74.7	65	68.6	30
2	People using liquid petroleum gas (LPG) for cooking and heating (%)	18	23.6	26.6	39
3	Electricity consumption (KWh per capita)	80	230	260	15000

Source: \*SDGs Status and Roadmap: 2016-2030; \*\*SDGs Progress Report (2016-2019).



**SDG 8:** This goal aspires for sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. It has eight GEEOWG- specific indicators. Of the eight indicators, the status of progress towards the target is available only for four indicators (Table 16 SDG 8). Access to financial resources to women through cooperatives has been increased.

In Nepal, there are more than 6.3 million populations affiliated in 34,516 cooperatives of different varieties. They have 6,30,550 memberships. Of the total memberships, 3,21,352 (51%) are women. There are 60,517 employees, out of them 31,475 (52%) are women. Members of cooperatives have invested Rs. 7,31,78,715 as share capital. Members have deposited



Rs. 30,21,64,513. The cooperatives have invested Rs. 27,41,54,363 as a loan to their members.<sup>68</sup> The Guidelines on Sustainable Development Goals for the Cooperative Movement in Nepal was developed.<sup>69</sup> Though the participation of women in cooperatives is remarkable, gender inequality in decision making persists. The role of women in a leadership position(s) has never been given adequate attention.

**Table 16 SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**

	Target and indicators	Baseline 2015	Target 2019	Progress 2019	Target 2030
Target 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies through access to financial services					
8.3.1	Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex				
1	Access to financial services			60.9	
2	Access to cooperatives (% of households within 30 min walk)	54	60.9	60	80
8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities					
1	Underemployment rate (15-59 y) (%)	27.8	23.1	19.6	10
8.6.1	Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training			53.	
1	Youth under employment rate (%)	35.8	28.9	21.4	10
8.9.2 Proportion of jobs in sustainable tourism industries out of total tourism jobs.					
1	The annual number of jobs in tourism industries ('000)	90	332.7	200	1000

68 <http://ncfnepal.com.np/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/report-2nd-coop-congress.pdf> (p.80)

69 <https://ncfnepal.com.np/publication/guidelines-on-sustainable-development-goals-for-cooperative-movement-in-nepal/>

The unemployment rate is high among women. According to the Nepal Labour Force Survey 2017-18, although the population of working-age females (11.53 million) in the country is higher than that of males (9.2 million) females still lag far behind when it comes to employment—and the pay gap between the genders is also huge.<sup>70</sup> Of the total working-age women, only 8.5 million are in the labour force who are either employed or are in search of employment. Due to the lack of women-friendly environment at the workplace, and owing to excessive social responsibilities at home women have not been able to enter into the formal sector. Most of the women (over 66 per cent) are employed in the informal sector.

Tourism is one of the sectors of employment, where women's engagement is necessary for every part. According to the World Tourism Organization, since the mid-70s women role in the tourism business have been tremendously increased.<sup>71</sup> Despite the increased number of jobs in tourism, it is dominated by male. Male domination, sexual harassment, gender discrimination, social and family helplessness are the major problems female face in this sector. Similarly, traditional social values, caste and religious system and foreign language practices are also the problems women face for getting a job in this sector.



**SDG 9:** The ninth goal is for resilient infrastructure, inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and innovation. It has two GEEOWG relevant indicators 9.1.1 and 9.c.1. Table 17 below shows the status of progress achieved in SDG 9.

Although the construction of roads as a part of rural infrastructure is a priority of the country and construction works are going on across the country to increase the local roads network and the country's strategic roads, the target set for 2018 has not met yet. It affects a lot in the mobility of women and children for accessing required services for them.

70 [https://nepalindata.com/media/resources/items/20/bNLFS-III\\_Final-Report.pdf](https://nepalindata.com/media/resources/items/20/bNLFS-III_Final-Report.pdf)

71 [file:///C:/Users/Windows%20User/Downloads/24199-Article%20Text-74115-1-10-20190524%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Windows%20User/Downloads/24199-Article%20Text-74115-1-10-20190524%20(1).pdf)

72 <https://www.dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/fr336/fr336.pdf>

**Table 17 SDG 9- Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation**

Target 9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure					
	Indicators	Baseline 2015	Target 2019	Progress 2019	Target 2030
9.1.1	Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road				
	Road density (km/sq. km)	0.55	1.3	0.63	1.5
9.c.1	Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology	94.5e	96		100

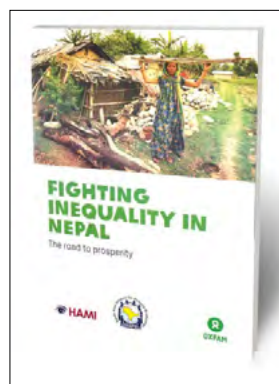
So far, the mobile network reach is concerned, the majority of women and men own mobile phones (73% and 89%, respectively). However, the NPC has yet to collect disaggregate data to indicate the progress under this indicator.



**SDG 10:** Reducing inequality is the tenth equally most important goal for “transforming the world”.

The status of progress of three GEEOWG-specific indicators (Table 18) shows that the country has reduced inequality, increased empowerment, and reduced discrimination against people as per SDG 10, but failed to achieve the set target for 2019.

*Fighting Inequality in Nepal: The Road to Prosperity* report revealed that the gap between the richest and poorest people in the country have widened considerably though the poverty has dropped from 42 to 21 per cent. In 2010/11, Nepal had one of the highest Gini coefficients in the world, at 49.42. This had increased considerably since 1996.<sup>73</sup> Corruption, impunity, political instability has added fuel to the fire.



Gender inequality interacts with other inequalities to leave women and girls in the poorest and most marginalized groups furthest behind.

73 <https://oxfamlibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/620607/bp-fighting-inequality-nepal-110119-en.pdf>

“Prosperity does not mean a few people get rich; it means lifting those who are left behind. Social development and stability are at risk if we continue to ignore economic inequality while talking about prosperity” says Sociologist Pitambar Sharma.<sup>74</sup> The state’s emphasis on overall economic growth must go hand-in-hand with the distribution. Besides, corruption is rampant and many harmful practices against women and girls widely persist from which Dalit, Muslim, Madhesi and other marginalized communities suffered the most. Reducing inequalities across the households, communities and the country has been a great challenge which must be addressed systematically and strategically.

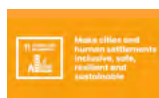
**Table 18: SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries**

Target 10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average					
	Indicators	Baseline 2015	Target 2019	Progress 2019	Target 2030
10.1.1	Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population				
1	Consumption inequality (measured by the Gini coefficient)	0.33	0.28	0.30	0.16
2	Income inequality (measured by the Gini coefficient)	0.46	0.4	0.32	0.23
3	Share of bottom 40 per cent of population in total consumption (%)	18.7	17.4	25.7	23.4
4	Share of bottom 40 per cent of population in total income (%)	11.9	13.1	20.4	18
5	PALMA Index	1.3	1.22	1.34	1
Target 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all					
10.2.1	Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities				
1	Social Empowerment Index	0.41	0.48	0.50	0.7

74 <https://www.nepalitimes.com/banner/nepals-great-income-divide/>

**Table 18: Contd...**

2	Economic Empowerment Index	0.34	0.43	0.45	0.7
3	Political Empowerment Index	0.65	0.7	0.71	0.85
	Indicators	Baseline 2015	Target 2019	Progress 2019	Target 2030
Target 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities					
10.3.1	Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months				
1	Finished primary school on time (ratio of richest vs. poorest quintile)	2.20	1.88	1.21	1



**SDG 11:** The eleventh goal aspires to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. The Ministry of Urban Development (MOUD) has developed a new urban agenda “Inclusive Cities: Resilient Communities” in 2016 incommensurate with the Sustainable Development goals to participate in the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). The Goal of the new urban agenda was to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, sustainable and smart to enhance their ability to provide decent jobs and adequate housing facilities. Table 19 shows the progress achieved in this goal.

**Table 19: SDG 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

Target 11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums					
	Indicators	Baseline 2015	Target 2019	Progress 2019	Target 2030
11.1.1	Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing				
1	Population living in slums and squatters ('000)	500	400	200	125
2	Household units roofed with thatched/straw roof	19	15.3	9.1	5

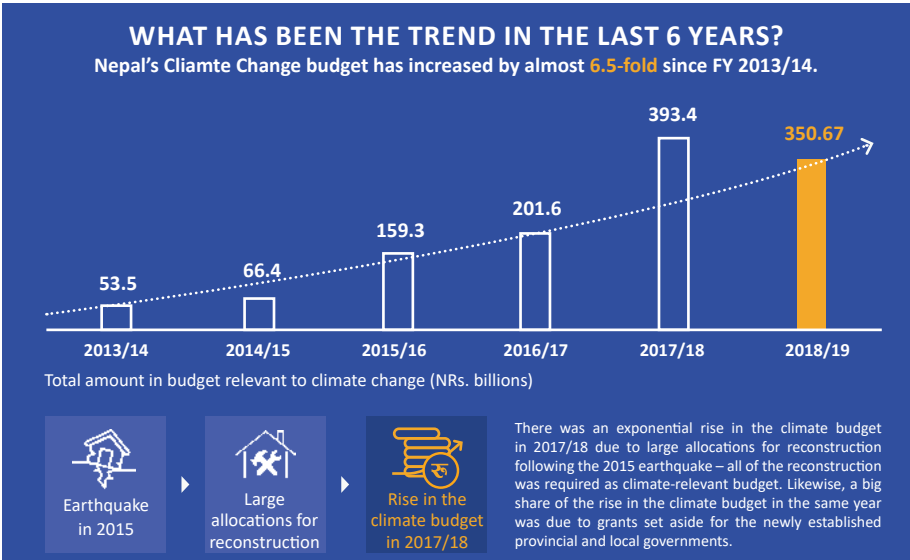
**Table 19: Contd...**

	Indicators	Baseline 2015	Target 2019	Progress 2019	Target 2030
3	Households living in safe houses (%)	29.8	37.8	40	60
Target 11. 2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons					
11.2.1	Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities				
1	Availability of safe public transport (%)	0.1d	13.4 2		50
2	Access to the paved road within 30 minutes of walking (%)	51.4	59		80
Target 11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.					
11.7.1	Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities Survey, MIS Subnational Annual, 5years MOUD	-	-	-	-
11.7.2	Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months	-	-	-	-
1	Proportion of women victim of physical or sexual harassment in previous 12 months (%)	14	10.27		0

The country has made remarkable progress in terms of policy formulation and strategies in these areas. However, the implementation was not swift and sufficient. The progress achieved in the below-given indicators is an index in itself. Population living in the slums are decreased only by half as per the set target. Similar is the status of a roofed house. With regards to the safety and security of women, the scenario is very alarming. Women and girls are not safe at home and community. Cases of sexual assault, harassment are rampant.



**SDG 13:** The thirteen goals are concerned with action to climate change and its impacts on the life of the people. Nepal is a least-developed country that is highly vulnerable to climate change though it is responsible for a negligible share in global warming. The GoN has taken several actions to meet climate change challenges. Managing climate-related public funds and integrating climate change in planning and budgeting across the different sectors is one of the actions taken for making development programs climate responsive.

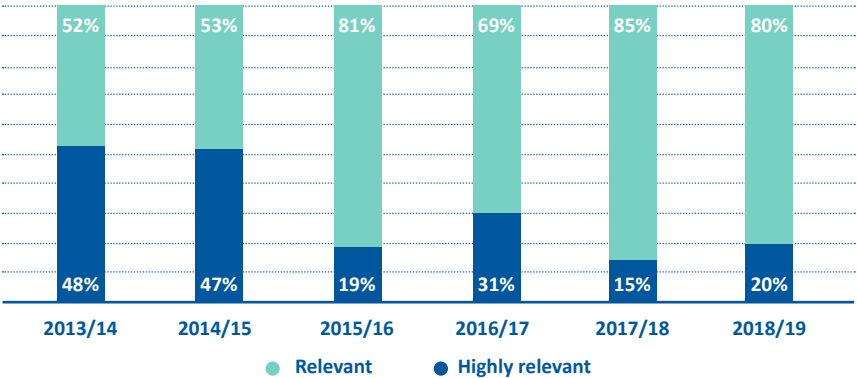


As shown above, the Nepal Climate Change Budget has increased by almost 6.5-fold since FY2013/2014. Similarly, spending on the highly relevant budget has increased from 15 to 20 per cent from FY 2017/18 as shown below.<sup>75</sup> However, the vulnerability of the country due to climate change has not reduced. Marginalized people and women suffered the most every year from the impacts of climate change, through floods, forest fires, drought and other climate-induced disasters.

The government has enacted the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, 2074 (2017) and also adopted the Disaster Risk Reduction National Policy 2018 and Disaster Risk Reduction National Strategic Action Plan (2018-2030). Despite these policy efforts, there is a need for making DRR and Climate Action GESI responsive to be able to achieve progress in GEEOWG indicators (Table 20). Due to lack of GESI responsiveness data, progress is not seen in these indicators.

### HOW MUCH OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE BUDGET IS GOING TO “HIGHLY RELEVANT” ACTIVITIES?

For FY 2018/19, even though the total Climate Change budget has decrease, the propotion of the Highly Relevant budget has increased from 15% to 20% from FY 2017/18 to 2018/19



According to the Climate Budget Code developed by the National Planning Commission:  
Programmes are considered ‘relevant’ if 20-60% of the allocation released to climate change  
Programmes are considered ‘highly relevant’ if 60% or more of the allocation is related to the climate change.

75 <https://reliefweb.int/report/nepal/nepals-citizen-climate-budget-where-nepal-s-money-being-spent-2018-2019-enne>



**Table 20: SDG 13 – Take urgent action to combat Climate change and its impacts**

13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries					
	Indicators	Baseline 2015	Target 2019	Progress 2019	Target 2030
13.1.1	Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	-	-	-	-
Target 13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities					
3b.1	Number of least developed countries and small island developing States that are receiving specialized support, and amount of support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, for mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change related planning and management, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities	-	-	-	-



**The SDG 16** calls for promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development among others.

The Global Peace Index 2019 has ranked Bhutan (the neighbor) as the most peaceful in the 15th position and Nepal in the 76th position of a peaceful country.<sup>76</sup> Similarly, Nepal has got 30.7 score in the Global Inclusiveness Index (GSI) 2019. The GSI measures inclusivity of gender, LGBTIQ status, disability, race, ethnicity, and

76 <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/global-peace-index-2019>

religion in the domains of out-group violence, political representation, income inequality, anti-discrimination laws, rates of incarceration, and immigration or asylum policies.<sup>77</sup> For ending discrimination against Dalit, women and gender and sexual minorities, PWDs, senior citizen, and children, sixteen different laws directly related to fundamental rights have been enacted by the federal parliament. The new civil and criminal codes have been enacted criminalizing chhaupadi, and child marriage. Affirmative action policies are in place to ensure the inclusion of women, Adivasi/Janajati, Madhesi, Dalit, PWDs and people from marginalized communities in the political parties and civil services. However, due to the lack of political will and irresponsible characteristics of the bureaucracy, progress for peace, prosperity and inclusiveness is minimal.

This goal consists of 12 targets and 23 global indicators (NPC, Roadmap p73-75). Table 21shows the status of the progress made in this goal's 12 GEEOWG – specific indicators.

**Table 21: SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**

Target 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere					
	Indicators	Baseline 2015	Target 2019	Progress 2019	Target 2030
16.1.1	Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age				
1	Direct deaths from armed and violent conflict (number)	1628		659	
16.1.2	Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause				
16.1.3	Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months	23.6		13.5	

77 file:///C:/Users/Windows%20User/Downloads/2019\_inclusiveness\_index.pdf

	Indicators	Baseline 2015	Target 2019	Progress 2019	Target 2030
16.1.4	Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live in			59.7	
Target 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children					
16.2.2	Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation	4.2		7.5	
1	Children trafficking to abroad (including India) per annum (reported number)	64	47		0
16.2.3	Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18	-			
Target 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all					
16.3.1	Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms MIS, Survey Subnational, Gender, Social Group Annual, 5 years MOHA, MOGA	4.2		7.5	
1	Transparency, accountability, and corruption in public (score out of 6)	3	4	3	5
Target 16.7 Ensure responsive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels					
16.7.1	Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions				

	Indicators	Baseline 2015	Target 2019	Progress 2019	Target 2030
16.7.2	Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group				
1	Proportions of decision-making positions held by women in public institutions	13.5	20.3		35
Target 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration					
16.9.1	Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age	58.1	66		100
Target 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements					
16.10.1	Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months				
Target 16. b	Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development	-	-	-	-
16b1	Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law				



**Goal 17:** The last goal 17 is the Means of Implementation (MOI) and about strengthening the means of implementation in revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development. This goal consists of 19 targets and 25 indicators related to Finance, Technology, Capacity development, System issues -Policy and Institutional Coherence, Multi-stakeholder Partnerships, Data, Monitoring and Accountability.

Financing is a vital MOI without which development is not possible. Only by effective, efficient and GESI -responsive development financing discrimination and inequalities can be reduced. Reaching the furthest

behind first to ensuring 'Leaving No One Behind' demands GESI-responsive financing. In this period, the government came up with a few important policy documents such as SDGs Needs Assessment, Costing and Financing Strategy 2018 which has tried to analyze financial situations and estimated financial needs in every sector, in which Gender is recognized as a sector and identified seven significant areas for SDG 5 interventions. The estimated budget for this is 15.6 billion rupees for the period of 2016-2020.<sup>78</sup>

**Table 22: Major interventions and annual average investment requirement for gender\***

	Interventions	2016-19	2020-22	2023-25	2026-30	Average over 2016-30
1	Awareness of Sexual and Reproductive Health Issues	0.9	1.5	2	2.7	1.8
2	Helping Transition of Girls to Work	2.7	4.2	5.5	7.4	5.2
3	Encouraging Political Participation	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
4	The President's Women Empowerment Program	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.8	0.5
5	Ending Violence against Women	0.9	2.2	3.4	5.4	3.1
6	Systematic Issues	1.5	2.1	2.7	3.8	2.6
7	General Administrative Costs	0.9	1.6	2.1	2.9	1.9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>15.6</b>

\* Estimates of the study team

Source: NPC 2018 SDGs Costing

78 [https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/SDGs\\_Costing\\_Final\\_Version.pdf](https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/SDGs_Costing_Final_Version.pdf) (p31)

Gender equality as a cross-cutting theme and a pre-requisite for all other goals are not explicitly visible in term of budgeting. Hence, it is obvious that only implementing 7 identified intervention areas will not even fulfil the target set by the 15th Plan in achieving 0.897 to 0.963 Gender Development Index (GDI)<sup>79</sup> despite the percentage of directly responsive GRB has reached 38.17% in FY 2019/2020.<sup>80</sup>

The 15<sup>th</sup> Plan envisaged implementing GRB system in local and provincial level. However, due to the lack of effective tracking system, it is very hard to trace whether the budget has benefitted the women and girls in reality although most of the sectoral ministries responsible for SDGs implementation have established GESI unit with Gender Focal Person and GESI policies and/or strategies to address the shortcomings in their sectoral policies. While developing national indicator the government should have developed indicators for 5.c 1 “system to track and make a public allocation for gender equality” which is one of the indicators of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC), for which government is accountable.

Nepal introduced International Development Cooperation Policy 2019 outlining the areas of national needs and priorities and guidance to mobilize international development cooperation through NGOs in the sector of national need and priority.<sup>81</sup> Similarly, the government has enacted the Public-Private Partnership and Investment Act (PPPIA) 2019<sup>82</sup> with national treatment and non-discrimination of foreign investors, One-Stop-Shop (OSS) and PPP units. In all these policies the thrust of CSOs partnership for developing effective Development Cooperation and Feminist Perspectives (CPDE- FG) adhering to the principles of development effectiveness (Istanbul Principles) are missing in a great deal.

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79 [https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/15th\\_Plan\\_Final1.pdf](https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/15th_Plan_Final1.pdf)

80 Beyond Beijing Committee Nepal, (2019). Beijing +25 National Review National Parallel Report 2019. Kathmandu: BBCN.

81 [https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/print\\_copy\\_IDCMP-2019\\_Eng-fullpage\\_20191107071739.pdf](https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/print_copy_IDCMP-2019_Eng-fullpage_20191107071739.pdf) (p.15)

82 [https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/print\\_copy\\_IDCMP-2019\\_Eng-fullpage\\_20191107071739.pdf](https://mof.gov.np/uploads/document/file/print_copy_IDCMP-2019_Eng-fullpage_20191107071739.pdf) (p.15)

## Technology

In Nepal, the history of institutional development of science and technology starts from the establishment of the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) in 2053 BS (1996 AD). The MOST is now merged in the Ministry of Education to name as the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, and is the focal ministry for this sector. The ministry has developed the new Science, Technology and Innovation Policy in 2019,<sup>83</sup> which has made provision of forming the National Science and Technology Development and Coordination Council comprising 25 members including the ministers and secretaries of sectoral ministries, vice-chancellors of universities and other concern stakeholders, including four renowned scientists (among them two are women).

One of the indicators under technology is the proportion of individuals using the Internet (17.8.1). Nepal has made advancement in the field of internet. According to the Nepal Telecommunication Authority (NTA), around 22.8 million population across the country now have internet access. Among the total users, 56 per cent of internet users are using mobile data.

## Capacity Development

Competent and committed staffs full of integrity are essential for the inclusive and equitable development of the country. The Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC) provides necessary training to gazetted officials and Personnel Training Academy provides training to the non-gazetted officials of the Government of Nepal and the public enterprises. Besides, the training wings of sectoral ministries are providing capacity development training. But, the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen is the only ministry that does not have its training wing. The NASC started organizing training of Gender Responsive Budget (GRB) by developing a training manual.

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83 [https://moe.gov.np/assets/uploads/files/NSTI\\_Policy\\_2019\\_English.pdf](https://moe.gov.np/assets/uploads/files/NSTI_Policy_2019_English.pdf)

## Data, Monitoring and Accountability

Data, Monitoring and Accountability are one of the vital areas for achieving the SDGs which has two Gender-relevant (Table 23) indicators. The NPC has set 151 additional national indicators for SDGs while finalizing the SDGs implementation status and roadmap (2016-2030) in 2018.<sup>84</sup> A national indicator 'Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered' has been set under the indicator 17.19.2 and has set a target to achieve 100 per cent birth registration by 2030. However, the government is yet to success in enforcing parents to register the birth of their offspring within 35 days, despite the country has enacted Personal Events (registration) Act, 1976. Due to the lack of birth registration, many children in Nepal are facing problem to having their 'own identity', get admission to the schools and obtain citizenship certificate after completing 16 years of age. Data (DHS, 2016) showed that only 56.2 per cent (Female 55.2 and Male:57.1) birth has been registered.

**Table 23: SDG 17 – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development**

	Indicators	Baseline 2015	Target 2019	Progress 2019	Target 2030
Target 17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support and increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated					
17.18.1	Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics				
Target 17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries					
17.19.2	Proportion of countries that (a) have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years, and (b) have achieved 100 per cent birth registration and 80 per cent death registration				
1	Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered	58.1	66	56.2*	100

\*Demographic Health Survey, 2016



In summary, the lack of sex-disaggregated data and absence of the system of gender-responsive policy and programming, monitoring and evaluation, the progress made in above stated 71 Gender-relevant indicators can only be surmised that the progress made is partly inclusive of all genders to be benefitted by all of them. Although most of the sectoral ministries at the federal level have GESI unit, Gender Focal Person, and GESI policies and/or strategies to address lacunas in their sectoral policies, they have yet to set the management information system (MIS) for monitoring Gender Equality in all sectors and to bind all sectoral ministries, the 7 provincial governments and 753 local government units in their annual planning and programming for substantive Equality, Empowerment, Voice and Safety - four pillars of GEEOWG to contribute to achieving substantive gender equality and SDGs by 2030.

**Gender Equality is more than a goal itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance.**

A Quote from Kofi Atta Annan

In Nepal, all stakeholders of development have to internalize the Goal 5 as a standalone and a mainstreaming goal as this is both an end and a means of achieving SDGs. The progress on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment depends MORE on how much we mainstream (in plans, resources, results) and LESS on how much we achieve on Goal 5 as a standalone goal. Mainstreaming Gender Equality is essential in Policies, Plans, Programs, Strategies, Institutions, Resources, Results-minds, acts and behaviours (EVERYWHERE). However, the government has yet to mainstream GEEOWG in all SDGs' programs sufficiently by realizing its imperativeness for achieving other goals as said by Kofi Atta Annan, the former Secretary-General, United Nations (A Quote)

## **6. Status of Progress in Setting -up a Gender-responsive Mechanism for SDGs –implementation**

To achieve Gender Equality through SDGs implementation, the mechanisms set for it have to be inclusive and gender-responsive. As an attempt of being gender-responsive, the NPC has developed 50 additional national indicators for 85 Gender-relevant global indicators with regard to SDGs totaling over 135, albeit the data is lacking. The CBS will be collecting some required data for SDGs monitoring. Similarly, the MOWCSC is entrusted with the responsibility of SDG-5 at the central level, and the Ministry of Social Development at the Provincial level.

The GoN has set up high-level institutional mechanisms - Steering Committee headed by the Prime Minister, Coordination and Implementation Committee headed by the NPC, and Implementation and Monitoring Thematic Committees coordinated by the NPC members at the central level inclusive of the representative (NFN) from Civil–society organization. The MOWCSC sits in the social development thematic committee which confines its function as the expert ministry for facilitating GESI mainstreaming in all other thematic committees and advocating for gender-responsive mechanisms at all levels.

In addition, neither there is provision for inclusive participation of women, Dalit, people living with a disability, indigenous people and other minority groups in any of these committees nor a platform for engaging them and making their voice heard. The government has not heeded the political slogan “Nothing for us, without us” of CSOs of marginalized communities including women.

Even after four years of SDGs commencement, there are no formal mechanisms in place at all the three spheres of Government of Nepal to ensure participation of women, girls from marginalized groups and all genders. The NPC guideline which was issued to the Policy and Planning commission of provinces does not guide to form inclusive institutional mechanisms rather guides to set-up similar mechanisms like at the central level. Therefore, there are fewer possibilities of having space for different Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGOS) to engage

fully in SDGs implementation and monitoring at the provincial and local levels. Hence, it can be said that the centrality of gender equality to progress across all the Goals and targets and imperativeness of the gender-responsive mechanisms for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs gender - responsively is yet to internalize sufficiently by most stakeholders. The stakeholders have yet to realize that achieving gender equality is everyone's rights as well as duty.

## **7. Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights during Covid-19 Pandemic**

Nepal is amongst one of the most progressive countries in addressing reproductive health and rights issues in South Asia and the Asian region.<sup>85</sup> The new constitution enshrines reproductive health rights as a fundamental right of women. Article 38(b) of the constitution states that “every woman shall have the right to safe motherhood and reproductive health”.<sup>86</sup> It also recognizes the rights of different gender orientation and sexual minorities (LGBTI).

Furthermore, the GoN has developed different laws, policies and strategies to address and enhance women's and girl's SRHR issues, including the formulation of National Reproductive Health Strategy 1998, Safe Motherhood Policy 1998, National Safe Abortion Policy 2003, National Safe Motherhood and Newborn Health Long Term Plan (2006-2017), Domestic Violence (Crime and Punishment) Act 2009, National HIV/AIDS Strategy (2011-2016), National Family Planning Cost Implementation Plan 2015-2020, 2015, National Strategy to End Child Marriage 2016, Free Safe Abortion Service (SAS) from the government health facility 2015, Criminalization of harmful practices of Chhaupadi

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85 Yegon, Erick Kiprotich, Peter Mwaniki Kabanya, Elizabeth Echoka, and Joachim Osur. 2016. “Understanding abortion-related stigma and incidence of unsafe abortion: experiences from community members in Machakos and Trans Nzoia counties Kenya.” *Pan African Medical Journal* 24 (1).

86 Government of Nepal, Secretariat, and Constituent Assembly. 2015. *The Constitution of Nepal* 2015.

2017, National Adolescent Health and Development Strategy 2019<sup>87,88</sup>. Additionally, Nepal has ratified many international conventions and treaties and has expressed commitment to many other platforms that address the SRHR,<sup>89</sup> Nepal is a signatory to SDGs that aims to ensure universal access to SRHR through SDG 3.7 and SDG 5.6. Nepal is scaling up and strengthening the expansion of adolescent-friendly services all over the country. Nepal family planning program through Family Planning 2020 and its implementation plan is in execution<sup>90</sup>. (Table 23)

**Table 23: Nepal's International Human Rights Commitments focusing on SRHR**

International Human Rights Treaties and Women and Girls' SRHR Commitments	International Adoption	Ratification by Nepal
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	1979	1991
Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	1966	1991
Convention on the Rights of the Child	1989	1990
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	1965	1971
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	1966	1991
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	2006	2010
Optional Protocol to CEDAW	1999	2007

87 Kumar, Ramya. 2013b. "Abortion in Sri Lanka: the double standard." *American journal of public health* 103 (3):400-404.

88 Kumar, Ramya. 2013b. "Abortion in Sri Lanka: the double standard." *American journal of public health* 103 (3):400-404.14 Samandari, Ghazaleh, Merrill Wolf, Indira Basnett, Alyson Hyman, and Kathryn Andersen. 2012."Implementation of legal abortion in Nepal: a model for rapid scale-up of high-quality care." *Reproductive health* 9 (1):7.

89 Conti, Jennifer A, and Erica Cahill. 2017. "Abortion in the media." *Current Opinion in Obstetrics and Gynecology* 29 (6):427-430.

90 Department of Health Services. 2018. Annual Report: Department of Health Services 2016/2017.Kathmandu, Nepal.

**Table 23: Contd...**

International Human Rights Treaties and Women and Girls' SRHR Commitments	International Adoption	Ratification by Nepal
Key International Development Commitments on Women and Girls' SRHR	Year of Adoption	
International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD PoA)	1994	
Beijing Declaration on Women Platform for Action	1995	
Paris Declaration	2005	
Global Strategy for Women & Children's Health	2010	
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	2015	

Despite those progressive laws and policies, women and girls in Nepal are still struggling to realize their reproductive health and rights. The knowledge about contraceptive was universal in 2016<sup>91</sup> yet the contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) has remained stagnant in the last five years; in 2011 (50.0%) and 2016 (53.0%). The CPR for the modern method has not changed since 2006 (44.0% in 2006, 43.0% in 2011 and 43.0% in 2016).<sup>92</sup> It is lowest among the younger aged group. It accounts for 4% among 15-19 aged group, 17% among 20-24 aged group and 35% among 25-29 age group.<sup>93</sup> This indicates that a large proportion of young people do not use contraceptives,<sup>94</sup> and are at higher risks of unintended pregnancies and exposure to STI and HIV/AIDS. This could be attributed to high unmet need for contraceptives (24% in 2006, 27% in 2011 and 24% in 2006),<sup>95</sup> resulting in high unintended pregnancies rate (19.0% in 2016 and 25.0% in 2011). The data also indicates that decision about family planning shows

91 Ministry of Health, Nepal; New ERA; and ICF. 2017. Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2016. Kathmandu, Nepal: Ministry of Health, Nepal.

92 Ibid.

93 Ministry of Health, Nepal; New ERA; and ICF. 2017. Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2016. Kathmandu, Nepal: Ministry of Health, Nepal.

94 Department of Health Services. 2016. Annual Report, Kathmandu, Nepal: Ministry of Health, Department of Health Services, Nepal.

95 Ministry of Health, Nepal; New ERA; and ICF. 2017. Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2016. Kathmandu, Nepal: Ministry of Health, Nepal.

only 19% of women make independent decisions about the use of contraceptive while 66% make a joint decision and 14.6% of the decision is made by the husband.<sup>96</sup> Although the joint decision making is higher, women making an independent decision is still low about the choices of contraceptives among women. This indicates that women are still unable to control and decide about their reproductive health. Additionally, the percentage of adolescents who starts childbearing has decreased by only 4.7% since 2001 (21.4% and 2016 (16.7%). This is worrying as Nepal has the third-highest rate of child marriage in Asia, though the minimum age of marriage for both women and men under the domestic law is 20 years.<sup>97</sup> The median age at the first marriage for women (age 25-49) has not changed since 1996 (1996-16.2, 2001-16.7 2006-17.0, 2011-17.5 and in 2016- 17.9),<sup>98</sup> with 37.0% of girls marrying before age 18, and 10.0% before 15.<sup>99</sup>

The total wanted fertility rate is 1.7 children per woman, while the actual total fertility rate is 2.3 children per woman indicating women are unable to plan births and practice birth spacing.<sup>100</sup> Likewise, there is limited knowledge about the fertile period, only 27% of women and men correctly reported that the most fertile time in a woman's ovulatory cycle is halfway between two menstrual periods<sup>101</sup> which shows that many lack the basic knowledge about their reproductive health.

With regard to services, there has been a large and steady increase in the proportion of women with four or more ANC visits, from 14%

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96 Ministry of Health, Nepal; New ERA; and ICF. 2017. Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2016. Kathmandu, Nepal: Ministry of Health, Nepal.

97 Central for Reproductive Rights, 2016: Policy Brief: Ending Impunity for Child Marriage in Nepal: A Review of Normative and implementation gaps.

98 Ministry of Health, Nepal; New ERA; and ICF. 2017. Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2016. Kathmandu, Nepal: Ministry of Health, Nepal.

99 Human Rights Watch, 2016. "Our Time to Sing and Play" Child marriage in Nepal.

100 Ministry of Health, Nepal; New ERA; and ICF. 2017. Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2016. Kathmandu, Nepal: Ministry of Health, Nepal.

101 Ministry of Health, Nepal; New ERA; and ICF. 2017. Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2016. Kathmandu, Nepal: Ministry of Health, Nepal.

in 2001 to 69% in 2016, though only half of women (49%) received counselling on all five components about ANC. There has been an increase in delivering in health institutions 9% in 2001 to 41% in 2016 and home deliver has decreased from 89% in 2001 to 41 % in 2016. However, the institutional deliver has not much changed between 2011 (35%) and 2016 (41%). Additionally, 83.2% women of age 15-49 reported common problem in accessing health care, while 23.5% women said getting permission to go for treatment was a problem, and 54.9% women reported getting money for treatment was a problem.<sup>102</sup>

More than half of the young women group under the age of 34 years knew that abortion has been legalized. This knowledge was poor among uneducated women in rural areas.<sup>103</sup> About 9% of the pregnancies among the 20-34 aged women and 4% among the women of below 20 ended as abortion whereas nearly 60% of the total induced abortions were clandestine, which were provided by untrained or unauthorized persons or induced by the pregnant women themselves.<sup>104</sup> Although Department of Health Services (DoHS) report indicated that there is an increase in the number of women receiving safe abortion services in 2017/18, it is still less than one-third of the total estimated abortion that occurred in Nepal in 2014. It indicates that most of the abortion is being conducted in an unsafe condition, as well as the women are continuing the unintended pregnancy.<sup>105</sup> Unsafe abortion practices are still highly prevalent, especially in remote and rural areas, contributing to high maternal mortality in Nepal.<sup>106</sup> Moreover, only 58% of deliveries

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102 Ministry of Health, Nepal; New ERA; and ICF. 2017. Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2016. Kathmandu, Nepal: Ministry of Health, Nepal.

103 Ministry of Health, New ERA, and ICF. 2017. Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2016. Kathmandu, Nepal.

104 Puri, Mahesh, Susheela Singh, Aparna Sundaram, Rubina Hussain, Anand Tamang, and Marjorie Crowell. 2016. "Abortion incidence and unintended pregnancy in Nepal." *International perspectives on sexual and reproductive health* 42 (4):197.

105 Department of Health Services. 2018. Annual Report: Department of Health Services 2016/2017. Kathmandu, Nepal.

106 Shrestha, Dirgha Raj, Shibesh Chandra Regmi, and Ganesh Dangal. 2018. "Abortion: Still Unfinished Agenda in Nepal." *Journal of Nepal Health Research Council* 16 (1):93-98.

are conducted by Skilled Birth Attendants (SBA).<sup>107</sup> Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of Nepal is 239 deaths per 100,000 live births as per the Nepal Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), 2016.

The Government of Nepal has repeatedly committed and reiterated the Global Commitments reinforcing it in national priorities and commitments which focus on achieving the three zeros on VAW, early/forced marriage, preventable maternal deaths and ending unmet need for family planning; investing in young people including their health and well-being, and financing policies and structures for implementation of ICPD and SDGs and ensuring humanitarian needs of the affected population including SRHR and GBV during a humanitarian crisis. To uphold these commitments, the GoN needs to focus on target 5.6 without any compromise with regards to adequate budget allocation and implementation of the programs.

**Table 24: Indicators**

SN	Indicators	2001	2006	2011	2016
1	Knowledge of contraceptive methods	99.5%	99.8%	99.9%	99.9%
<b>Family Planning (among married women age 15-49)</b>					
1	Current use of any method of family planning %	39%	48%	50%	53%
2	Current use of a modern method of family planning (%)	35%	44%	43%	43%
3	Unmet need for family planning (%)	28%	25%	28%	24%
4	Demand satisfied by modern methods (%)	53%	61%	56%	56%
<b>Fertility</b>					
1	Total fertility rate (number of children per woman)	4.1	3.1	2.6	2.3
2	Median age at first birth for women age 25-49 (years)	19.9	19.9	20.2	20.4

107 Ministry of Health, New ERA, and ICF. 2017. Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2016. Kathmandu, Nepal.



SN	Indicators	2001	2006	2011	2016
<b>Teenage Pregnancy and Motherhood</b>					
1	Percentage of women age (20-49) who first sexual intercourse by age 18		60%	41%	58%
2	Percentage who has begun childbearing age (15-19)	21.4%	18.5%	16.7%	16.7%
<b>Percentage of live births in the 5 years before the survey</b>					
1	Delivered at home	89%	81%	63%	41%
2	Delivered in health facility	9%	18%	35%	41%

## Impact of Covid-19 on SRHR of youth women from various marginalized communities

This information has been gathered during youth consultation organized by BBCN on 13th May 2020 and 24th June 2020 to have a brief discussion about the impact of COVID 19 on young people. In both the consultation, diverse young people were present. This information has been included as gathered through consultation and secondary data.

Many young people regarded the issue of Menstrual Hygiene Management as one of the pertaining issues during the COVID-19 since they lacked access to sanitary products and information on how to use reusable napkins. This was a challenge for adolescent girls who reside in Kathmandu for work as they were not able to afford the sanitary pads and lacked information about materials to use reusable napkins. Many of them expressed that they felt embarrassed and were in anxiety when they had menstruation in front of the family members and had to finish household chores. The lack of access to medication for menstrual cramps was one of the other challenges. They also mentioned that menstrual hygiene and management has not been addressed in quarantine areas, including the lack of disposable sanitary pads, or reusable napkins.

Many of them stated that they faced a problem of contraceptive use during the lockdown and risk of unintended pregnancy. Maternal

mortality has increased very sharply during the lockdown. At least 32 women have died due to related birth complications in the last two months of lockdown. This is an almost 200% increase in the maternal mortality ratio since the lockdown began, compared to 80 cases in the previous fiscal year. The antenatal and postnatal visits by pregnant women were halted due to no public transportation. The postnatal visit program in the new mother's home by a trained nurse was stopped. Many health facilities had also stopped providing maternity care services due to the ongoing fear of COVID-19 transmission. More women were compelled to give birth at home, risking their lives.<sup>108</sup> Women and girls were facing barriers to accessing safe abortion services and other reproductive health services due to lockdown. Women and girls were reluctant to attain health facilities due to the fear of transmission of COVID 19 and lack of information regarding the continuation of all safe motherhood and reproductive health services.

Likewise, health service providers are hesitant to provide the service due to the lack of proper PPE. Only recently, the government has endorsed guidelines regarding the service delivery for reproductive maternal and neonatal health service, which is yet to be implemented. Additionally, due to lack of effective coordination among different ministries such as the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen and Ministry of Health and Population, there is a delay in the development of the protocols or putting a mechanism in place that has resulted in increased maternal mortality, and delay in rehabilitating many genders based-violence survivors.

Moreover, obstetric violence is one of the concerning issues during the COVID-19 lockdown. Many women are denied maternity services both at the government and private health facilities and in cases where services are provided, it lacks respectful maternity care due to the fear and stigma of COVID- 19<sup>109</sup>.

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108 <https://tkpo.st/3eq7zuG>

109 <https://swasthyakhabar.com/story/32961>

Many key populations such as drug users, sex workers and LGBTIQ are facing discrimination, many are not able to access basic health care services due to the fear of transmission of COVID 19. Many are jobless and are unable to survive for their basic needs and many were forced to evacuate.

Young people with disabilities have also been affected, depending on their disability. Those who need caretaker and unable to access caretakers can have a huge impact on their lives. The information about COVID-19 is not disabled-friendly, thus, there was a delay in attaining information about COVID-19 among PWDs and precautionary and safety measures to be taken. For some PWDs, frequent visit to health care is required which has been a challenge during COVID-19. Also, some women and girls with disability are unaware of their regular menstruation and caretaker is needed to assist them.

The transgender women are also being affected by the lockdown. There is an acute shortage of hormone medications, and due to unavailability of the hormones, side effects like withdrawal symptoms are common among transgender women.

Young people also pointed out the issue of GBV and online harassment. According to the National Women Commission, they have received 1361 calls since the lockdown till May 23, 2020. Among the total calls, 77% are reported regarding domestic violence, and 33% reported regarding violence against women. Before the lockdown, the recorded case of violence against women was 12% which has been drastically increased to 23%, which means an increase of 11%. Before the lockdown, the recorded cases of sexual violence against women were 7% which has been increased to 9% since the lockdown. Women and girls of 26-40 years were affected the most with 44%, followed by young people age group 16-25 with 35% during this period.

Mental health was one of the main issues raised by young people. The fear of uncertainty about their prospects, education, employment have impacted their mental health resulting in a high increase of committing suicides, depression and anxiety.

## **8. Key Issues, Challenges and Pathways of Transformative Actions for Realizing Substantive Gender Equality**

### **8.1 Key Issues and Challenges**

1. Insufficient awareness, internalization and action on the centrality of gender equality to progress across all the Goals and imperativeness of the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels by all stakeholders

To fully implement the Agenda 2030 and SDGs gender-responsively, and ‘not to leave any woman and girl behind’ by “Reaching the Farthest Behind First” and by addressing intersecting issues of women and girls from intersectional feminist perspectives, the planners and policymakers need willpower, skill and authority. However, both the state and non-state actors lack adequate expertise in creating awareness in such a way that common people will internalize it and apply it in their personal and professional lives. In a patriarchal society, it is a herculean task to enable even CSOs to fully internalize it and act in reality.

2. Lack of formal mechanisms for different major groups and stakeholders to ensure women and girls from marginalized groups and all genders, to participate in the implementation and monitoring SDGs at all levels to reflect their concerns.

The government has formed an institutional mechanism for SDGs at the central level without ensuring any space for women’s inclusive participation. The NPC had issued guidelines for setting-up mechanisms at the provincial and local levels. But there is no space and scope for different major groups and stakeholders to voice their concerns and engage actively as a partner in the implementation and be a watchdog in monitoring government compliance with human rights treaties of SDGs and be part to help in building active citizenship at the local level.

3. Lack of gender and other essential categories -based disaggregate data and system of collecting citizen-generated data.

To translate the “Leave No One Behind” by reaching the furthest behind woman and girl first requires a precise understanding of target populations and intersectionality feminist approach. Disaggregation of data in every sector by age group, caste, ethnicity, disability, migration status, sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) and other status and conditions is the pre-requisite. It is a herculean task to collect such data for a country like Nepal. In this context, citizens generated data (CGD) from the unreached, marginalized groups and community could fulfil the lacunas by collecting qualitative data. CSOs working at the grass-root level could support the local government in ‘putting the last first’ in their planning by collecting and collating. The government has yet to recognize the value of citizen-generated data for reaching the unreached.

4. Lack of Gender equality ACT

The constitution 2015 is enshrined with the concept of equality and non-discrimination in line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)’ rule of thumb one and two, and CEDAW. The 15th Plan has envisaged achieving Gender Development Index (GDI) 0.897 to 0.963 by developing and implementing Gender Equality Act, policies and programs to end all kinds of discriminations and violence. Similarly, SDG 5 national indicator ‘Gender Inequality Index’ targets to achieve from 0.49 to 0.05 by 2030. The National Gender Equality Policy drafting process which was initiated in 2014 has not yet been finalized and adopted. In such context, it is urgent to enact Gender Equality Act to translate the constitution into practice and to bind the state actors, non-government sector and private sector to begin to redress the gender inequalities present in Nepalese families, societies and the state like Malawi and Sweden. In Malawi, Gender Equality Act (GEA) was enacted in 2013 and now it is in implementation in schools, homes and communities. Teacher’s manual ‘The Malawi Gender Equality Act – A Teaching Guide for Primary and Secondary Schools in Malawi’ is in use to

transform society. In Sweden Equality Act was enacted in 1991 to prevent discrimination against women and men and based on gender identity or the expression of gender, the act was replaced by the Discrimination Act 2009.

5. Absence of Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys to track the proportion of the national budget that is invested in GE related SDGs and lack of sufficient professionals for the implementation of GRB at all levels

According to the source, the percentage of directly responsive Gender Responsive Budget (GRB) has now reached 38.17 in FY 2019/2020. But, there is no mandatory system to make national resource allocations for gender budget and track or audit systematically the expenses on gender equality to redress inequalities and which can then inform policy review, better policy formulation and more effective and efficient public financial management. But due to the lack of Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys, it is hard to realize whether the allocated budget served the purpose. Though the 15th Plan has envisaged implementing GRB system at the local and provincial level. Lack of tracking system, sufficient knowledge and commitment, the GRB system at all levels has yet to be fully implemented.

6. Lack of adequate knowledge and skill on SRHR

Adolescents and youth account for one-third of Nepal's population. There is the lack of adequate age-appropriate gender-responsive sexual and reproductive health education both in schools and at home on time and in a friendly manner, Youth are at high risk of Gender-based violence, unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortion, stigma, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), unsafe birth, and harmful social practices. Unregulated pornography, sensualizing sexual behaviour, the commodification of human body etc. have increased risk-taking behaviour amongst the young people, on one hand, a conservative -sex-stereotyping attitude of adult have prevented adolescents and youth having sexual and reproductive health right education on the other. This situation has put

adolescence and youth's health, wellbeing and career in jeopardy endangering the generation. Though the SRHR is enshrined in the new constitution as a fundamental right of women and different sexual orientation and gender identities, the Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act has been enacted, the government had added two national indicators - awareness about reproductive rights among girls and women (%) and specific support and service to sexual health care to a marginalized group, the youth and adolescence of Nepal have not in a position to obtain adequate scientific knowledge and skills in exercising 'bodily autonomy' and 'My Body My Right' responsively.

## 8.2 Way forward

1. Enhance Knowledge Attitude and Practice (KAP) sufficiently on mainstreaming GEEOWG

Enhance Knowledge Attitude and Practice (KAP) sufficiently on the 2030 Agenda's principle of "Leaving no one behind" and reaching the "furthest behind first" along with mainstreaming GESI and GESI responsive SDGs implementation amongst all Major Groups and Stakeholders and actors/ agencies to achieve progress in SDGs effectively, efficiently and equitably by increasing public awareness and cultivating ownership amongst all major groups/constituencies and stakeholders vertically and horizontally across the country. The common understanding about mainstreaming Agenda 2030 and SDGs gender-responsively has to nurture further amongst all state and non-state actors at the local, provincial and federal levels and need to forge partnership amongst various stakeholders for synergistic efforts. Awareness about GEEOWG as a stand-alone goal as well as a mainstreaming goal and its imperativeness in achieving SDGs has to be nurtured further.

2. Enact Gender Equality Act to establish Gender Equality Authority and increase accountability

Enact Gender Equality Act to make all actors accountable to act towards achieving the substantive equality and to enable the

dedicated MOWCSC to function fully as a competent Gender Equality Authority with the responsibility to strategically guide and comply with gender mainstreaming at all levels of government, both provincially and nationally. This authority must support local government bodies (Rural municipalities and municipalities) provincial authorities, government agencies and other organizations in their gender mainstreaming work. The authority should work closely with the existing Think Tank and women's movement and non-governmental organizations with expertise in various areas of gender equality work and monitor the status of gender inequalities and Gender Empowerment indices. Enacting Gender Equality Act and educating about it from the primary level could be gender transformative program in the social sector.

3. Expedite in setting a Gender Equality Public Expenditure Tracking system and report on goal 5c1 Indicator

The Government must ensure that budgets at all levels – Federal, Provincial and local - are gender mainstreamed and track the expenditure accordingly. Budgets must include and be based on sex and gender-disaggregated data, measurable indicators to reduce inequalities and gender equality analyses as well as monitoring and reporting results based on sex, gender and age. The gender equality authority should act as a resourceful entity for providing support to the Government, other agencies, municipalities and provincial authorities in their work with gender-responsive budgeting. The GRB is also to be enforced in CSOs and private sector in line with the Agenda 2030's spirit of public-private partnership (PPP). The NPC is recommended to develop a national indicator for Goal 5c1 and correct the translation in the Nepali language in the booklet.

4. Excel in the allocation of funds for GEEOWG program mandatory at all spheres of government

The Government must ensure that all sectorial ministries plan specific programs for increasing Equality, WEE, Safety and Voice (four pillars of GEEOWG in SDGs) or tracking progress on gender equality by 2030. Consultation with informants and study of related



documents indicate that there are no Gender-relevant additional programs planned to achieve progress in 71 Gender-relevant indicators by relevant ministries and agencies in terms of the four pillars of GE other than the program of the MOWCSC. Every ministry and local government must implement a game-changing program to redress existing inequalities and discrimination. Cultivating such commitment to planning and budgeting, and developing competency in GEEOWG in every sector from intersectionality lens requires high-level political commitment from national as well as global level.

5. Encompass all by setting formal inclusive mechanisms /forums at all levels for SDGs

The government needs to adhere to the multi-stakeholder engagement approach of the Agenda 2030 by acknowledging and adopting Major Group and other Stakeholder System (MOGS) of the UN for Sustainable development in Nepal. Ensuring NFN's representation in the central mechanism is not sufficient to heed the voice of CSOs' of marginalized communities including women CSOs. Therefore, it is recommended that the NPC should adhere to setting up of inclusive mechanisms for GEEOWG responsive SDG implementation by ensuring institutional representations from all major groups and stakeholders inclusively and intergenerationally at all levels - federal, provincial and local.

6. Ensure a continuum of quality care (CQC) and SRHR education

Nepal is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of young human resources (of age 10-24) for the development of the country. Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are a crucial part in the lives of young people – whether or not they are sexually active. Hence, the Government should respect their SRHR by ensuring a continuum of quality care (CQC) as well as education on Sexual and Reproductive health universally by promulgating regulation, policies and guidelines immediately for the implementation of the Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act with effective monitoring and evaluation. The government should design the

program as stated in the 15th Plan and resource adequately to achieve the universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights (SDG 5.6) and 15th Plan's strategy for it.

### **8.3 Way forward recommended by different constituencies**

#### **Children Constituency**

In schools, primarily on community/Government Schools, there is a major challenge of sanitation and Gender Friendly Toilets which discourages girls to attend less in schools and ultimately this leads towards high drop-out ratio. For this we call for:

1. Proper Awareness programs should be launched in schools and the community on the importance of menstrual hygiene and sanitation.
2. Gender friendly toilets should be compulsorily constructed in all schools of the public and private spheres.
3. Free sanitary pads and menstrual hygiene kits should be distributed from the very beginning of Secondary level.
4. Provision of a scholarship scheme for girls should be made to encourage young girls and their parents to continue girls' school education.
5. Health Education should be prioritized and Health as a subject should be made compulsory at the secondary level (6-10).
6. Child Helpline number 1098 should be facilitated in each school and community so that they can refer to emergency cases related to children.
7. Life skills training should be provided to both school-going and out-of-school adolescent girls and boys.
8. LGBTIQ should also be addressed in the schools' syllabus so that children are well aware of it and accept them as it is.
9. Dalits and other marginalized children should be encouraged to enroll in schools through the provision of the scholarship scheme.
10. Formation and reformation of child clubs/networks should be carried out in all communities in order to address the issues of children.

**(Child Workers in Nepal (CWIN) and Child Society Nepal)**

## Dalit Women Constituency

Dalit women, children and LGBTIQAs face triple to quadruple discrimination, thus for the upliftment of Dalit Community special activities should be conducted at all levels:

1. Sensitize on the existing laws and regulations which promote equal treatment and eliminated caste-based discrimination.
2. Empower Dalit through various formal and informal training, capacity building and skill development training.
3. Build awareness about the negative impacts of child marriage, existing laws against child marriage to stopping child marriage.
4. Give Sexual and Health Education to women to lead healthy lifestyles.
5. Encourage family planning and build awareness about menstrual hygiene among adolescent and young girls.
6. Encourage and promote technical and vocational training as they can get employment in the market after the completion of the course.
7. Ensure the compulsory representation of Dalits in decision making roles from private to government levels.

**(National Dalit Development Organization, Sama Bikash Nepal, Dalit Women Right Forum Nepal and FMDC)**

## Women with Disability Constituency

PWDs in Nepal is the most excluded and vulnerable group due to insensitivity towards them. After all, a human being will become disable sooner or later in the later stage of lives. The following measures to be taken by (private organization, civil societies, and Government) to ensure the rights and freedom of people with disabilities.

1. Public parks, offices and roads need to be Disable-Friendly.
2. Mass awareness should be disseminated taking consideration of Disabled audiences.
3. Ensure compulsory participation of PWDs in the decision-making process so that the voice of PWDs is incorporated at all levels.
4. Income-generating skills should be provided to PWDs so that they encouraged to be self-reliant/independent.
5. Promotion of Inclusive Education is necessary for PWDs by ensuring

both theoretical and practical aspects.

6. Disable friendly toilets should be compulsorily constructed in all schools of the public and private spheres.

***(Society Development Sensitive Awareness Centre and Nepal Disabled Women Committee)***

## **Madhesi and Muslim Women Constituency**

Muslim and Madhesi women are the excluded group within their communities and in other communities facing exclusion at all levels of decision making. Therefore, to redress we call for the following:

1. A program like 'Beti bachau beti padhau' should be launched in other provinces too.
2. Legal awareness campaigns against Child marriage should be launched to make community people understand it as a punishable act.
3. Awareness on the provisions of Country Civil Code and Criminal Code should be raised on prohibition of Polygamy and forced marriage.
4. Collective marriages should be promoted to demotivate dowry system.
5. Preference should be given to girls in technical and vocational education.
6. Quality education should be ensured to produce competent human resources.
7. Employment opportunities should be increased for Muslima and Madhesi women.
8. Use of modern tools, techniques and hybrid seeds should be promoted in agriculture.
9. Agricultural insurance must be assured.
10. Brokers and intermediaries between farmers and market enterprises should be discouraged.

***(Nepal Muslim Women Welfare Society, President Women's Association and Tharu Welfare Centre)***

## **LBTI Female and Trans Constituency**

Discriminations based on sexual orientation must be abolished for this:

1. Education and awareness program should be launched to incorporate the issues of LGBTI in the school curriculum and to ensure equal representation of the LGBTI community in decision-making at all levels
2. Laws protecting the identity of LGBTI should be endorsed and implemented in the practical ground.
3. The LGBTI deserve equal treatment in the society and they shouldn't be regarded as alien in the community.
4. Enabling environment should be created so that they can exercise rights and freedom, and their sexual orientation and gender identity must be respected.
5. They are particularly vulnerable to stigma, violence and discrimination, due to their real or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity and have also illustrated that it may have lasting consequences on their social and psychological health and have substantial adverse effects on society as a whole. Due attention must be paid for this.

***(Blue Diamond Society)***

## **Youth Women Constituency**

Youth's sentiments and ideology, including their dividend are not respected in any form though they are the population with huge potentiality. The key recommendations from them are:

1. Ensure youth mobilization in every sphere of public/private sectors.
2. Incorporate youths' views and opinions in making any kinds of plans, policies and activities to be launched by the government.
3. Provide a platform to showcase their skills by providing opportunities and employment schemes.
4. Encourage technical and vocational training and skill development programs.
5. Promote youth entrepreneurship
6. Prioritize youths' voice and allocate government's budget on youth development and employment generation.

7. Address voice of youths at all levels and ensure compulsory involvement of youths in panel discussion and advocacy.

***(Ms. Enika Rai, Ms. Roni Shakya and Ms. Manisha Hada, Youth representatives)***

## **Janajati Women Constituency**

1. All section representation of Janajati should be empowered by ensuring their access to opportunities. Janajati Women, Janajati adolescent girls, disabled Janajati women. should be treated equally.
2. From local to federal level all three tiers of government should ensure representation of Janajati women in social, economic, political and technological spheres.
3. There is a need for the overall development of indigenous nationalities by formulating and implementing programs, as well as preserving and promoting the indigenous languages, script, culture, literature, arts, and history.
4. Ensure special facilities and opportunities to 10 endangered Janajati community every year as categorized by the Government of Nepal.
5. Ensure the participation of indigenous nationalities in overall national development by maintaining good relations, goodwill, and harmony between different indigenous nationalities, castes, tribes and communities.
6. Encourage Janajati Saving and Co-operation groups in every district to promote saving habits and an emergency fund is needed
7. Launch various awareness campaigns against caste-based discriminations.

***(National Indigenous Women's Federation and National Indigenous Women Forum)***

## **Women Constituency**

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. To achieve SDG-5 following measures needs to be addressed such as:

1. End all kinds of discrimination and violence based on gender and sex.
2. Empower women by providing awareness and access to opportunities.
3. Ensure 50% participation of women at all levels in all sectors.
4. End all kinds of violence at the workplace and establish equal pay system as per workload rather than based on gender.
5. Educate girls and empower women to make them financially independent and self-reliant.
6. End acid attack and stop abusing women/girls in the cyber and digital platform.
7. Encourage women in power and authority so that they can encourage other women and address their voices in various platforms,
8. End objectifying and commodifying of women and girls as this affects body image, their self-esteem and ultimately the value they put on themselves.
9. Make aware and sensitize women at all levels on the uses and importance of hotline number 1145 endorsed by National Women Commission.
10. Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child-, early- and forced marriage
11. Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed per the Programs of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.
12. Construct Gender Friendly Toilets in all public and private spheres to eliminate all kinds of violence against women and girls.
13. Promote women in using technologies and address their voices as needed, but also make them aware of various cyber-crimes and violence.
14. Empower all women and girls at all levels, and adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

*(Kanchanjunga Women Development Centre, Chori, AATWIN, Mahila Jagaran Samuha, Women Empowerment Center, Srijanshil Samaj, Seto Gurash and Nari Sewa Kendra)*

## **8.4 Actions and transformative pathways for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.**

Enacting comprehensive, overarching National Gender Equality Act as a model to guide the provinces and local government bodies to promulgate local context-specific Gender Equality Act/policies as envisaged in the 15th Plan thereby educating children formally in schools as in Malawi will be a transformative pathway towards the creation of gender-equal country by forming mindset and behavior from the inception amongst the young people (as preparation for gender-equal society) and by changing the mindset and behaviors amongst the adult. By doing so will help to reduce rampant socio-cultural and religious mal-practices, harmful traditions, gender and caste-based discriminations, which will reduce abuse, exploitation and violence, and contribute to achieving the Nation's vision of 'Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali'. It is strategic to promulgate the 'Gender Equality Act'. It is timely and essential while the local and provincial governments are in the path of developing their laws and policies in line with the mandate provided by the constitution.

Enabling all sectors to develop Gender-relevant actions for contributing towards 71 Gender-relevant indicators related with four pillars of GEEOWG (Equality, WEE, Safety and Voice) across the SDGs, and towards the 15th Plan's Gender Development Index will be a transformative pathway. This requires the government to issue guidelines in making GEEOWG program development mandatory in all sectors and all municipalities by raising awareness on its imperativeness and developing competencies in planning and programming from intersectionality perspective and ensuring to reach the furthest behind women and girls first. The act of enabling them to develop Gender-relevant actions in every sector is a practical activity which will address in realizing practical needs for achieving equality in the outcome – the right to food, shelter, health etc.



## 9. Conclusion

Nepal is a multi-caste/ethnicity, multi-religious, multilingual, multi-racial and multi-cultural country. It is the hard fact that women and girls face not only gender discrimination but also multiple intersecting discriminations. Although Nepal has been leaping to parity in political participation mainly due to the mandatory constitutional provision, transformative pathways and action have not yet been fully translated in action to address all forms of intersecting discriminations and inequalities from intersectionality perspectives by ensuring the inclusive participation particularly of those historically left behind groups to apply “Leaving No One Behind”, the principal thrust of the Agenda 2030.

The fundamental law of the land, the constitution 2015 has acknowledged the need of the state redressal for achieving equality and inclusive development in its preamble “Ending all forms of discrimination and oppression ..... by eliminating discrimination based on class, caste, region, language, religion and gender and all forms of caste-based untouchability”. Over 200 Acts including 16 related with fundamental rights of citizen enshrined in the constitution have been promulgated. Besides that, many policies, strategies and plan of actions have been developed in the last four years.

The status of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in terms of number, access to opportunities and services has been improved. However, socio-cultural values and norms that inhibit women and girls have not changed, which are essential for achieving equality in dignity and rights.

Hitherto, the government is making delays in formulating an overarching Gender Equality Act and/or nationally binding policy document to bind the actors to work towards gender equality mandatorily. First, five-years is almost gone, a comprehensive program to build sufficient awareness and action in developing a gender-responsive SDGs oriented program is yet to take place. Concrete concerted efforts in transforming traditional patriarchal mind-set and behaviors yet to be made. Similarly, a formal mechanism to ensure inclusive participation of all-female groups, to

participate actively and meaningfully in the implementation of SDGs at the micro and meso levels as a system should be in place.



The universal transformative 2030 Agenda, its stand-alone goal 5 and mainstreaming spirit, along with the 15th Plan's objective of achieving Gender Development Index (GDI) 0.897 to 0.963 forges the forces, particularly of women CSOs in making the Gender Equality a reality by 2030 by advocating continuously to state and non-state actors including CSOs.

The political slogan - "Nothing for Us, Without Us" applies to all major groups/constituencies and stakeholders. Both state and non-state actors of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs implementation need to adhere to this to reach the furthest first and not to leave them behind again.

Let us make plans for accelerating the implementation of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls (GEEOWG) further by putting it at the centre of every SDG, and by addressing intersecting issues of women and girls and SOGI from intersectional feminist perspectives to "Leave No One Behind", to "Transform our Motherland" and make it a place for peace, prosperity and pleasure for everyone!

## Annexes:

### Annex 1. Gender-Related indicators

<div>  <div>Gender related indicators</div> </div>				
<p>53 of 230 indicators or 23% of the global framework make specific reference to women, girls, gender or sex, including 14 indicators in Goal 5, 85 are gender relevant</p> 	Goals	# of Targets	# of Indicators	# of Gender Related Indicators
	1 (Poverty)	7	9	6
	2 (Hunger)	8	14	1
	3 (Health)	13	26	6
	4 (Education)	10	11	8
	5 (Gender)	9	14	14
	6 (WaSH)	8	11	0
	7 (Energy)	5	6	0
	8 (Growth & Employment)	12	17	7
	9 (Infras/Indust/Innov)	8	12	0
	10 (Inequality)	10	11	1
	11(Cities)	10	15	3
	12 (Consumption)	11	13	0
	13 (Climate Change)	5	7	1
	14 (Oceans/ Marine)	10	10	0
	15 (Terrestrial ecosyst)	12	14	0
	16 (Peace / Justice / Instit)	12	23	6
	Goal 17 (Global Partnership)	19	25	1
	<b>Sum</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>54<sup>114</sup></b>

114 [https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20eseasia/docs/publications/2018/10/apsdg-report\\_web-28aug2018.pdf?la=en&vs=4304](https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20eseasia/docs/publications/2018/10/apsdg-report_web-28aug2018.pdf?la=en&vs=4304)

## Annex 2. GEEOWG related indicators of SDGs: Equality, WEE, Safety and Voice (Four Pillars)

EQUALITY 1.1 Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services	EQUALITY 4.1 Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower	EQUALITY 3.4.2 Suicide mortality rate	EQUALITY 11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by	EQUALITY 11.7.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use	EQUALITY 4.2.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age who are	EQUALITY 3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio	EQUALITY 3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation	SAFETY 11.7.2 Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the	SAFETY 10.3.1 Proportion of the population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed within the previous 12	SAFETY 13.1 Number of least developed countries and small island developing States that are receiving specialized support, and	SAFETY 16.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12	
EQUALITY 1.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)	EQUALITY 5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual	EQUALITY 4.3.1 Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal	EQUALITY 4.6.1 Percentage of population in a given age group achieving at least a					SAFETY 11.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by	SAFETY 16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to physical,	SAFETY 16.1.4 Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone	SAFETY 16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who	SAFETY 16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who
EQUALITY 9.1.1 Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road	EQUALITY 5.6.2 Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women aged 15-49 years access to	EQUALITY 3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular	EQUALITY 4.4.1 Proportion of schools with access to: (a) electricity; (b) the	EQUALITY 4.1 Proportion of schools with access to: (a) electricity; (b) the				SAFETY 13.1.2 Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by				
EQUALITY 4.7.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development, including	EQUALITY 5.5.1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's	EQUALITY 4.4.1 Proportion of youth and adults with information and	EQUALITY 2.1.1 Proportion of schools with access to: (a) electricity; (b) the	EQUALITY 6.1.1				SAFETY 16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100 000	SAFETY 16.1.2 Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster	SAFETY 5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and	SAFETY 5.3.1 Proportion of	
EQUALITY 3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on		EQUALITY 4.5.1 Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban,	EQUALITY 3.2.2	EQUALITY 6.2.1	EQUALITY 11.1.1	EQUALITY 7.1.1	EQUALITY 9.1.1	SAFETY 16.1.2 Conflict-related deaths per 100 000 population, by sex,				
WEE 1.1.1 Proportion of government recurrent and capital spending to sectors that	WEE 2.3.2 Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status	WEE 5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care	WEE 5.6.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone,	WEE 10.4.1 Labour share of GDP,	WEE 1.1.1	WEE 8.10.2		VOICE 16.10.1 Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary	VOICE 17.18.1 Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation	VOICE 5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination		
WEE 1.4.2 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally	WEE 5.1.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights	WEE 1.2.2 Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in	WEE 8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in	WEE 10.1.1 Growth rates	WEE 8.7.1	WEE 8.8.1		VOICE 16.7.1 Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public	VOICE 16.9.1 Proportion of	VOICE 5.5.1 Proportion of	VOICE 8.8.2	
WEE 10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by age, sex and	WEE 5.2.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees	WEE 8.9.2 Number of jobs in tourism industries as a proportion of	WEE 8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of female and male	WEE 8.5.2 Unemployment	WEE 1.3.1 Proportion of			VOICE 16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex,	VOICE 17.19.2 Proportion of	VOICE 5.5.2 Proportion of		

(Source: 15th November 2016, Regional Consultation, ADB/UN Women, Benchmark publication Gender and SDGs)

## Annex 3. Key Informants of seven provinces

Key Informants of Seven Provinces		
Province 1		
S.N	Name	Organization/District
1	Sita Paudyal	Child Society Nepal, Biratnagar
2	Enika Rai	Youth
3	Urmila Thebe	Kanchanjangha , Mahila Bikas Kendra Nepal, Taplejung
4	Renuka Bhattarai	Terathum
5	Mausam Rai	Sunsari
6	Bina Kumari Rai	Naari Swatantra Manch Nepal, Sunsari
Province 2		
7	Anju Kumari Purbey	Batawaran Tatha Krishi Samudayik Bikas Kendra, Janakpur
8	Kamala Tamang Ghimire	Local Women Major Group, Parsa
9	Taranum jiya	Nepal Muslim Women Welfare Society Rautahat
10	Junu Chaudhary	Blue Diamond Society
11	Ambika Chaudhary Tharu	Siraha
Bagmati Province (3)		
12	Tika Dahal	Nepal Disabled Women Association, Kathmandu
13	Apsara Maharjan	Khokana Mahila Jagaran Samaj, Lalitpur
14	Mina Kharel	Samudayik Sewa Kendra Chitwan
15	Nanu Thami	Nepal Thami Mahila Samaj, Dolakha
16	Sarita Lamsal	Larepauwa Mahila Sanjal, Rasuwa
17	Parwati Sunam	Jagaran Media
18	Benu Maya Gurung	AATWIN
19	Sunita Gurung	IM Swedish Development Partner
20	Nirijana Bhatta & Soni Piya	CWIN Nepal
21	Rita Sah	Thought Workshop Leaders (TWL)
22	Suni Lama	NIWF
23	Sarita Shrestha	Mitini Nepal
24	Ganga Dum	Pariwartanko lagi Karyarat Mahila Kendra, Kavre
25	Chhetra Kumari Gurung	National Federation of women living with HIV and AIDS

### Key Informants of Seven Provinces

26	Lirisha Tuladhar	Youth
<b>Gandaki Province (4)</b>		
27	Sarita Gautam	People Awareness and Development center (PADC), Baglung
28	Usha Baruwal	Nari Sewa Kendra, Pokhara, Kaski
29	Shanti Kumari Nepali	National Dalit Development Organization (NDDO), Gorakha
30	Laxmi Devi Adhikari	Besisahar Aama Samuha Samanaya Samiti (BASSS), Lamjung
31	Diwa Kumari Pun	Multidisciplinary Institute for lively hood Enhancement Natural Resource Management (MILAN MAGDI)
<b>Lumbini Province (5)</b>		
32	Prizma Shingh Tharu	Tharu Mahila Utthan Kendra, Bardiya
33	Nirmala Gupta	Dalit Mahila Ekata Kendra, Dang
34	Parwata Acharya	Mahila Shayog Manch, Pyuthan
35	Rima B.C	Srijanashil Samaj Nepal, Rupandehi , Butwal
36	Sumitra Sharma	Seto Gurans Butwal, Rupandehi
37	Maina Bhandari	Aamma Hit Samaj
<b>Karnali Province (6)</b>		
38	Charitra Kumari KC	Local Women Major Group, Surkhet
39	Madhurani Dhakal	WAM, Surkhet
40	Sharada Bohora	Mid-West Youth Union Center (MYUC), Salyan
41	Yasoda kumari Baral	Society Development Sensitive Awareness Center Nepal, Kalikot
42	Sarashwati KC(Thapa)	Giant Effort for Development Program, Pyuthan
<b>Sudurpaschim Province (7)</b>		
43	Bindu Sharma	Center for Human rights education and Justice Nepal (EDJUS Nepal), Kailali
44	Gauri Oli	Changeable Society of Nepal (CSN), Doti
45	Bimala Pant	Pairabi Manch
46	Sita BK	Dalit Mahila Sangh
47	Kashi Singh Bista	Mahila Utthan Samaj (MUS Nepal), Baitadi



## Annex 4. Glimpses of consultations



*Glimpse of the 3 days accountability workshop, youth focused Capacity building on SDGs and HLPF process.*

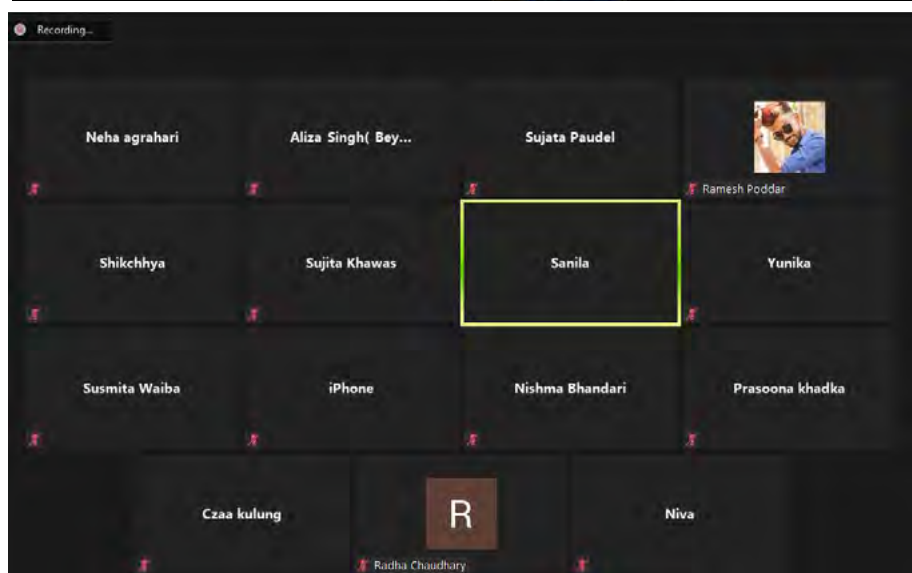
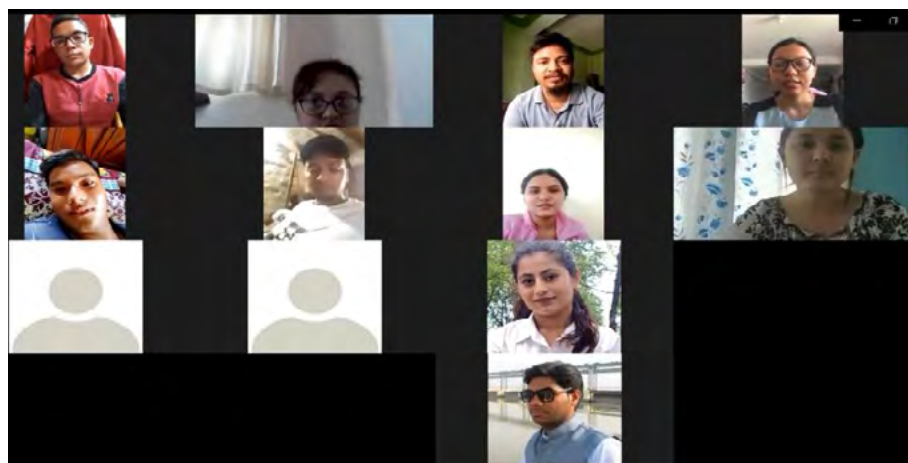


***Glimpse of the Consultation with Nepal SDGs Forum Constituencies and Women Major Group for Sustainable Development in Nepal (WMG-SDN)***

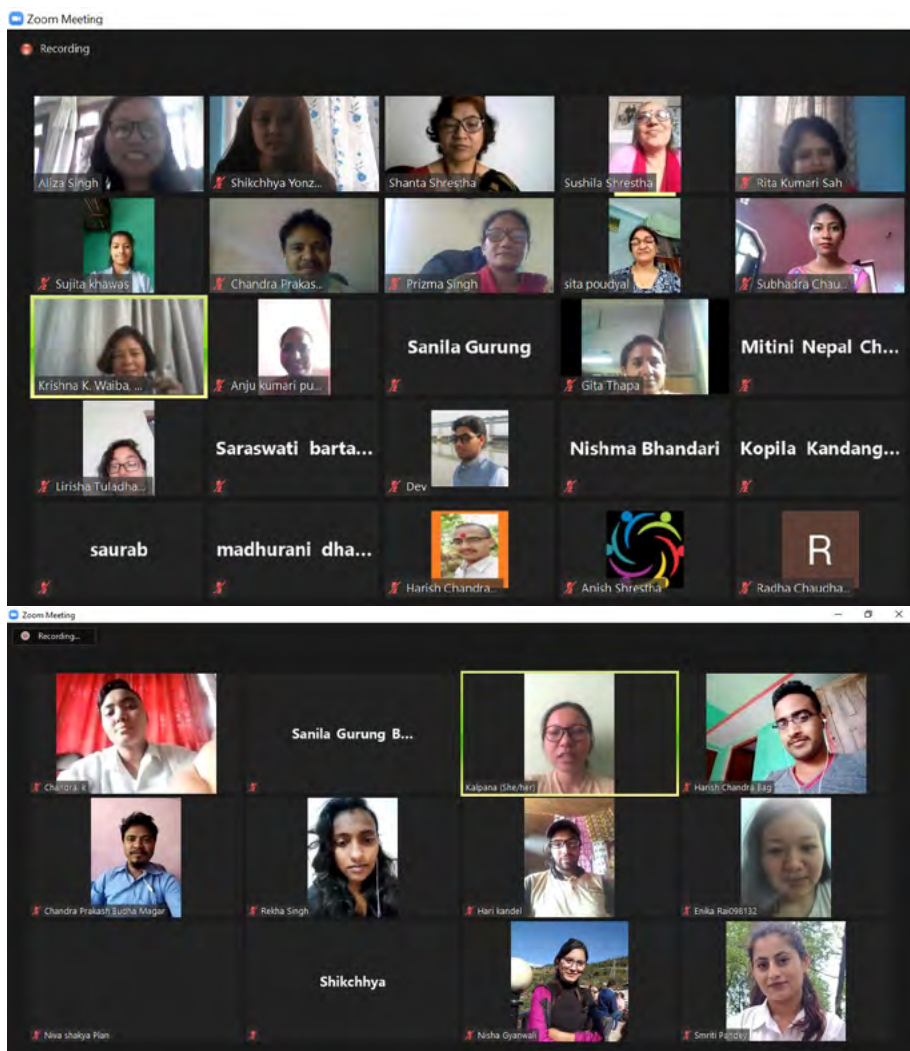




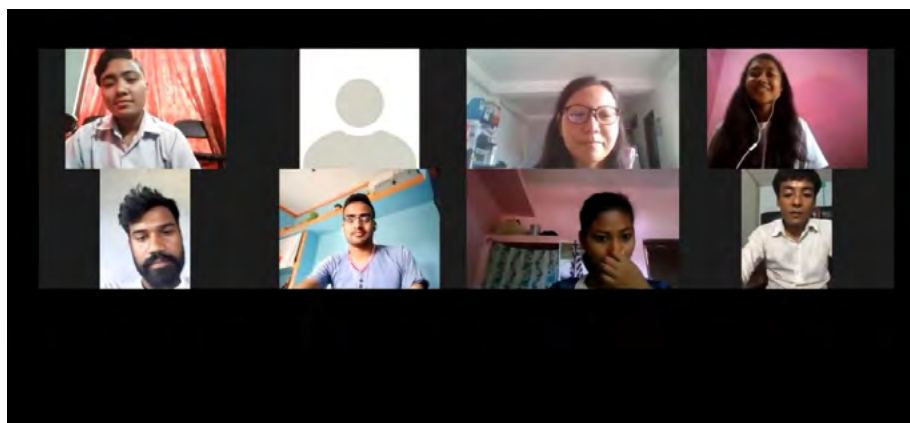
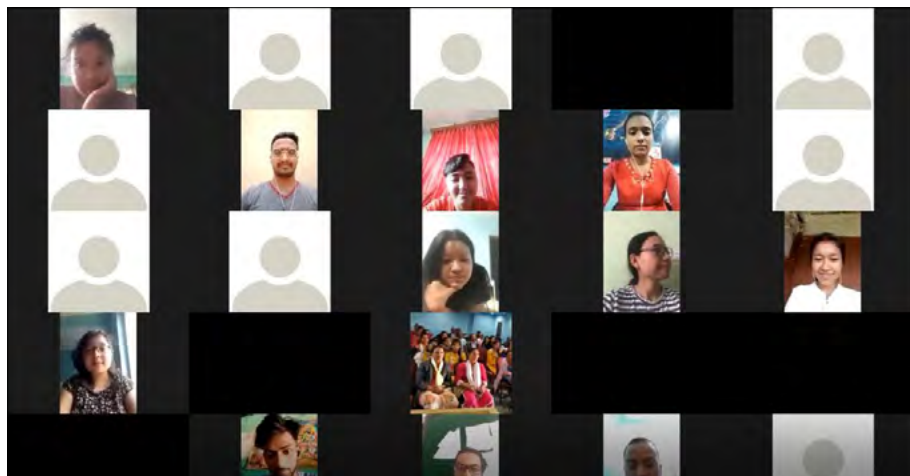
**Glimpses of Provincial Consultation on SDGs in Janakpurdham Province 2 and Surkhet, Karnali Province.**



**Virtual Consultation with young people organized via zoom for the Youth call for Action for VNR and HLPF-2020**



**Virtual Consultation with Provincial CSOs and young people organized via zoom for the sharing of Youth call for Action**



**Youth Core Group Meeting for drafting and finalizing the Youth Call for Action- VNR & HLPF 2020**

## List of Participants

S.no	Name of Participants	Districts	Contact Details
1.	Enika Rai	Bhojpur	9851222433
2.	Nisha Gyanwali	Makwanpur	9866369819
3.	Harish Chandra Bag	Kanchanpur	9848664554
4.	Hari Kandel	Myagdi	9863518480
5.	Radha Chaudhary	Sunsari	9862021955
6.	Subhadra Chaudhary	Kailali	9865741554
7.	Smriti Pandey	Province-5	9869638980
8.	Chandra Prakash Magar	Salyan	9741416419
9.	Chandra Karki	Kailali	9800613470
10.	Rekha Kumari Mahato	Parsa	982498168
11.	Shova Budha	Province-5	9868647938
12.	Amrit Chaudhary	Province-5	9810904494
13.	Birendra Regmi	Kapilvastu	9846886777
14.	Lirisha Tuladhar	Kathmandu	9813582769
15.	Sushmita Waiba	Makwanpur	9844293386
16.	Chhabi Acharya	Myagdi	9864275221
17.	Anish Shrestha	Baglung	
18.	Nishma Bhandrari	Jhapa	9804361104
19.	Roni Shakya	Bhaktapur	9843107330
20.	Ramesh Poddar	Morang	9814360200
21.	Sujita Khawas	Kathmandu	9861074852
22.	Karishma Chand	Kailali	9860496518
23.	Ranjana Shrestha	Myagdi	9867695355
24.	Neha Agrahari	Duhabi -1	9824375303
25.	Sujata Paudyel	Makwanpur	9845515002
26.	Sandesh Shrestha	Dhanusa	9841554156
27.	Srijana Luitel	Sunsari	9825391133
28.	Sandeep Sah	Itahari	9843527875
29.	Chabi Acharya	Myagdi	9864275221
30.	Osin Rai	Taplejung	9804030150
31.	Milan Rijal	Jhapa	9805998336
32.	Amrit BK	Kanchanpur	9809473335

## Annex 5. List of Resource Persons

Resource person/ Organization	Topics
Mr. Arjun Aryal, VSO Nepal	SDGs Implementation Gaps, Challenge and achievements in Provincial Consultation in Janakapurdham
Mr. Arjun Bhattarai, NGO federation / Nepal SDG Forum	Nepal SDG Forum's efforts in ensuring inclusivity in VNR process and their planning for the implementation of SDGs at local level
Mr. Arjun Bhattarai, NGO federation / Nepal SDG Forum	How the principles of leaving no one behind has been mainstreamed by the CSOs/ NSDGF in the implementation of the SDGs in Nepal?
Mr. Dhundi Raj Lamichhane, Central Bureau of Statistics, CBS	CBS Plan for Disaggregated Data
Ms. Erin Moesse, Plan International	HLPF and VNR process & CSOs Engagement
Mr. Jagadish Ayer, AYON	Sharing on Youth role on VNR and HLPF and the Theme
Ms. Kartika Yadav, National Planning Commission	"How the principle of leaving no one behind has been mainstreamed by the government in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Nepal?"
Ms. Kartika Yadav, National Planning Commission	VNR process of Nepal and status and Youth/CSOs Engagements
Ms. Krishna Kumari Waiba, BBC Nepal	Overview on the SDGs and Global, National indicators and targets and mainstreaming Goal 5 in SDGs Provincial Consultation in Surkhet and Janakapurdham
Ms. Kalpana Rai, BBC Nepal	SDGs Implementation Gaps, Challenge and achievements in Provincial Consultation in Surkhet
Ms. Rakshya Paudyal, Plan International	Presentation on VNR and HLPF process and CSOs and Youth Engagement
Ms. Shanta Laxmi Shrestha, BBC Nepal	Gender Responsive SDG Implementation to Leaving No Woman and Girl Behind in SDGs implementation and National Review process.
Ms. Shanta Laxmi Shrestha, BBC Nepal	Gender Responsive SDGs Implementation and Engagement of Women CSOs in SDGs and VNR process
Ms. Shanta Laxmi Shrestha, BBC Nepal	Review on state of the 2030 Agenda & SDGs Implementation from Gender Equality Perspectives
Ms. Shanta Laxmi Shrestha, BBC Nepal	Leaving No One Behind/ Leaving No Women and Girls behind in the Implementation of SDGs in Nepal: What, How and Why?
Ms. Shanta Laxmi Shrestha, BBC Nepal	Importance of linking BPfA and SDGs in achieving Gender and Generation equality in Nepal.





Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC) Nepal is a feminist human rights National Network organization established after the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. Currently, it has over 225 NGOs members from all seven provinces.

BBC Nepal is an organisation in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It works towards the civil, political, economic and social empowerment of women, girls, persons with different Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities and marginalized communities to achieve substantive gender equality and human rights of all. It advocates for SRHR and rightful space of women and youth and women CSOs in decision making. It enhances the capacity of girls, youth and women CSOs in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA), CEDAW, CRC, ICPD PoA, SDGs and other Human Rights Treaties and Instruments for achieving generation equality. It has been engaging continuously in the BPfA review, CEDAW and ICPD Monitoring, UPR reporting, and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs) Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).

BBC Nepal is a founder of Nepal SDGs Forum and the Convener of Women and Girls' constituency and gender justice theme. It also functions as the secretariat of the Women Major Group for Sustainable Development in Nepal (WMG-SDN).

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