

# Voluntary Peoples Review of SDGs in Nepal

Amplifying Voices of the People: Closing the Gaps of SDGs

## Civil Society Spotlight Report on SDGs 2020

(The report prepared by civil society Major Groups and Stakeholders collectively)



## SDGs National Network Nepal

(A common platform of independent Civil Society Major Groups and Stakeholders)

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**Draft**



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## CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Context

As the successor of MDGs, 2030 agenda of sustainable development was adopted by all member states of UN in September 2015, which is universal, integrated and transformative agenda for sustainable development. It has tried to remedy the shortcomings and gaps of the MDGs. Agenda 2030 is integrated, indivisible and balance of three dimensions of sustainable development: *economic, social and environmental*. Poverty eradication is stated as the overarching goal. UN 2030 agenda has proposed 17 goals and 169 targets and they are integrated and indivisible, global in nature and universally applicable.

Year 2015 was remained very important for Nepal because in that year world came up with three historical global instruments: first, the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development/SDGs; second, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; and third, Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development. In the same year, Nepal experienced devastating earthquake and the country promulgated the new constitution.

The High-level Political Forum (HLPF) is the United Nations' global platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that provides for the full and effective participation of all States Members of the United Nations and States members of specialized agencies. This year HLPF is taking place from 7 to 16 July 2020 in New York (in virtual mode due to COVID-19 pandemic). The theme of this year is '*Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*'.

As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages member states to “conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven” (paragraph 79). This process is called National Voluntary Review (VNR). Follow-up and review processes are guided by some principles such as: voluntary and country-led, take into account different national realities, tracks progress in universal Goals and targets, maintain a longer-term orientation, identify achievements, challenges, gaps and critical success factors and support countries in making informed policy choices. Further it is open, inclusive, participatory and transparent for all people. It is people-centred, gender-sensitive, respect human rights and have a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind. Moreover, it is rigorous and based on evidence, informed by high-quality, accessible, timely, reliable data disaggregated. Nepal had participated in VNR in 2017 and it is also taking part in this year 2020.

***SDGs National Network Nepal (SDGs Network)***, the common platform of civil society Major Groups and Stakeholders, has been coordinating the civil society process on sustainable development agenda since last year. SDGs Network has been promoting engagement of the civil society Major Groups including youth, women, children, Dalits, Indigenous Peoples, PWDs etc. on the 2030 Agenda. This network is directly engaging with government, parliament, local authorities, UN Agencies, INGOs and other international agencies. Actually, this network was originated at the First Nepal Peoples Forum on Sustainable Development, which was successfully hosted on 21-22 August 2019 in Kathmandu.

The consultation meeting of civil society Major Groups and stakeholders, held on 25 November 2019 in Kathmandu, decided to conduct the Voluntary Peoples Review of SDGs in Nepal (VPR 2020). The theme of the VPR 2020 is *Amplifying Voices of the People: Closing the Gaps of SDGs*. This report is collectively prepared by civil society Major Groups and Stakeholders of Nepal through the VPR process. This report represents the voices of peoples, especially those who are marginalized and vulnerable. Some of the marginalized communities are forcefully left behind historically.

### 1.2 Objective

The main objective of the Volunteer Peoples Review 2020 (VPR) was to review the progresses and achievements made by the country on UN 2030 Agenda (SDGs) through peoples' perspectives, and to critically review of its implementation process, institutional arrangements, and to produce a report. The

review process tried to assess the progress status of each goal, but gender equality was considered as main cross-cutting agenda of all goals. Moreover, VPR 2020 aimed to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

## **1.3 Methodology**

### **1.3.1 Key Activities of VPR**

**Broader Discussion Among Civil Society Major Groups and Stakeholders:** A Broad Discussion Programme on VPR was held on 31 January 2020 in Kathmandu. Main objective of the programme was to discuss on VPR 2020 roadmap and kicked-off review process of SDGs in Nepal on behalf of civil society major groups. The programme decided to review all the goals of the 2030 Agenda and to contribute by organizations working in particular goals or themes. This event identified the organizations who could coordinate the review of particular goals and cross-cutting agendas.

**Thematic Meeting among thematic focal organizations:** SDGs National Network Nepal organized a Thematic Meeting of CSOs on 25 February 2020 to accelerate the process of VPR 2020. First, the meeting has agreed on the VPR 2020 roadmap that elaborates the key activities to be undertaken in the process including collection of data/information in the country so far. The meeting also decided to organize consultations at local and province level. It has also decided to organize National Youth Forum and Nepal Peoples Forum on SDGs. Further, it decided to distribute responsibilities to coordinate the review of each goal, themes and sub-themes laying on each goal. The meeting also outlined the structure of the report.

**Consultation at local and province level:** SDGs National Network Nepal organized consultations and discussions programmes with representatives of local CSOs and social workers in Janakapur, Birganj, Surkhet, Nepalganj, Gorkha, and Dhangadi. These local events were remained very useful to review the situation of implementation and progress of SDGs in their areas. These local events were coordinated by Association of Youth Organizations Nepal (AYON).

**Preparation of Draft Review Papers:** Thematic lead organizations have assessed progress of SDGs through desk reviews. They reviewed several related documents including reports, data, policy documents, laws and newspapers and they drafted review papers of each goal. They further discussed with related organizations and key informants to get more information. Based on the desk reviews and formal and informal consultations, they prepared draft review papers.

**Youth Forum on SDGs:** SDGs National Network Nepal jointly with AYON organized a National Youth Forum on 4 May 2020. This event was virtually organized where representatives of more than 90 youth organizations participated and gave their inputs and comments on the draft review papers, which were widely shared in advance among the youth organizations. Inputs and comments were incorporated in the drafts papers. In youth forum, there was also presence of high level officers from Ministry of Youth and Sports and National Youth Council.

**Nepal Peoples Forum on SDGs:** SDGs National Network Nepal organized Nepal Peoples Forum on SDGs on 6 May 2020. Even, it was virtually organized there was participation from more than hundred organizations. Thematic leads shared the draft review papers of each goal and participants gave their inputs and comments, which were incorporated in the draft review papers. Officers of NPC also participated in the event.

**Review of Main Message of VNR:** SDGs National Network Nepal organized a virtual discussion programme on Main Message of VNR on 26 May 2020 and analyzed the document through civil society perspective. This programme was held in presence of high level official of NPC. The conclusions of the discussion were shared with the NPC, CSOs and development agencies.

**Consultation with marginalized communities:** The improved draft papers were further shared with marginalized and vulnerable communities including Indigenous Peoples, Dalits, Madhesi, Muslims, PWD,

Senior citizens, landless peoples, workers, LGBTIQ etc. SDGs Network was able to able to collect their views and inputs, which were remained very helpful to improve the review papers. Meanwhile, SDGs Network and Nepal Disable Women Association jointly organized a discussion programme among the PWD community and their organizations on 22 May 2020. Similarly, a discussion programme was organized by umbrella organization of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) National Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN) on 30 May 2020, that gave very important inputs in the draft review papers. Perspective of IPs were very valid in the context to development of Nepal. Furthermore, a National Level Dialogue was organized by Dalit Welfare Organization in partnership with SDGs Network on 9 June 2020, that was remained helpful to collect information about the perspectives of Dalits community.

**Review of Implementation Process:** The 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development itself is collective journey and it expects participation and inclusion of poor, women, marginalized peoples in its entire implementation process. In this light, SDGs National Network Nepal organized a virtual programme on 31 May 2020 to review the SDGs' Country Process and participation, but the focus of the discussion was to collect the opinions of key actors of development including different level of Federal Government, national parliament, local and province governments, private sector, media, think-tanks, constitutional bodies etc. The event also collected the views from key stakeholders and marginalized communities including youth, PWDs, Indigenous People, senior citizens, Dalits, Madhesi, LGBTIQ, Women, workers, farmers etc.

**Thematic discussion on environment and sustainable consumption and production:** Environment is one of the key dimensions of sustainable development. Responsible consumption and production has become a serious issues the world. Therefore, SDGs Network jointly with YFEED organized a virtual High Level Discussion Environment and SDG 12 on 3 June 2020, in the context of 5 June, World Environment Day. This event was able to review challenges related with environment, and sustainable consumption and production.

### **1.3.2 Scope and Limitation**

VNR 2020 was explicitly a voluntary and collective initiative of civil society Major Groups and Stakeholders of Nepal, despite it was coordinated by SDGs National Network Nepal. This report tried to explore the current trends and status of development in the country. Most importantly, this report represents the voices of marginalized and vulnerable people, who have been continuously left behind and some of them are forcefully left behind historically due to structural and systemic barriers.

The process of review started from January and it takes about six months until it is published. A roadmap was prescribed to carry out this review exercise. But, due to unprecedented situation created by COVID 19 pandemic, most of the discussions and consultations with key actors were happened virtually. Desk review was the preliminary step to begin the review process, but data were collected from government websites, reports, policies, laws, research papers etc. Number of verbal meetings with key informants including high level government officers and experts were done for the purpose to collect reliable information. SDGs National Network asked the NPC to provide the data or draft report of the government several times, but they could not provide data or share draft report so far. So, this review exercise was heavily depended on secondary data available from government sources. Qualitative data were remained very useful for this review process.

## CHAPTER II: REVIEW OF PROGRESSES

### 2.1 Institutional Mechanisms

In order to mainstream the 2030 Agenda, the Government of Nepal had formed two High Level Committees and nine Thematic Working Groups in 2017 to rollout and implement the SDGs by 2030. National Steering Committee, chaired by Prime Minister is the apex body. The second mechanism is the Implementation Coordination and Monitoring Committee, chaired by Vice Chairperson of the National Planning Commission. The two committees above were supported by nine Thematic Working Groups, chaired by NPC Members. These Committees were also mandated to include representatives of civil society and other stakeholders as 'Invited Members'. Private sector was formally included in high-level official committees responsible for the implementation of SDGs.

Meanwhile, the Chief Ministers of seven provinces and chairpersons of association of local governments have been including in the National Steering Committee. And, chairpersons of federation of NGOs and cooperatives have been also included in Implementation, Coordination and Monitoring Committee. The membership of the coordination and working committees is broadly representative of the public sector, private sector, NGOs and development partners. This means, Government has tried make its national level mechanism inclusive.

Similarly, the thematic working groups have been reorganized into seven groups including (i) Economic Development, (ii) Social Development, (iii) Agriculture Development & Drinking Water, (iv) Energy Development and Climate Change, (v) Infrastructure Development, (vi) Good Governance and Gender Empowerment, (vii) and Coordination. These thematic groups are comprised of members from concerned ministries, private sector, civil society and senior officers of NPC Secretariat. Importantly, these high level mechanisms have not been able to represent representatives from women, Dalits, Youth, Indigenous Peoples, PWDs, LGBTIQ, Madhesi, Muslims and other marginalized communities.

Despite formation of various institutional mechanisms at national level, their functional status is questionable. It is not clear how many times they hold the meetings and what they decided. NPC members are politically appointed and they are not stable, because when new Government comes in power, they are also changed. So, instability of NPC board members is directly affecting in the entire development works in the country.

On the other hand, there is the *Sustainable Development and Good Governance Committee* under National Assembly (upper house), which is the parliament committee, that looks after SDGs affairs in the Federal Parliament.

The county has been shifted from unitary to federal system aftermath of promulgation of the new Constitution in 2015. Nepal has now seven provinces and the Constitution has specified power and authorities of the province level governments. At province level, all the province governments have formed Policy and Planning Commissions in order to manage its planning and policy works. Policy and Planning Commissions are headed by Chief Ministers themselves. These commissions are supporting the province governments in making annual plans and budgets. Also, they are supporting to prepare periodic development plans. Also, Gandaki Province has formed Province Development Council.

The local level restructuring, following the promulgation of Constitution of Nepal in 2015 led to the formation of 753 local governments (consisting of 460 rural municipalities, 276 municipalities, 11 sub-metropolitan cities and 6 metropolitan cities). Elections were held and the local Governments started to function from September 2017. They first sorted out the organization structure appropriate to command and service the functions authorized by the Constitution, and enacted laws necessary for the governance. Despite local governments have elected representatives for last three years, they have not formed any dedicated institutional mechanisms for the implementation of SDGs.

## 2.2 Implementation Status

### Federal Level

Nepal has completed most of the ground works for implementation of SDGs at federal level. Various initiatives have been moved forward by the Federal Government in order to adapt SDGs. As mentioned earlier, NPC is an apex body to coordinate the entire SDGs process in the country. The idea of leaving no one behind is in line with the agenda of new Constitution of Nepal which aims to build a prosperous, egalitarian and pluralistic society with its overarching guidance to all development policies, plans and programmes. The government started to mainstream SDGs in national planning and budgeting system from 14<sup>th</sup> National Plan (2016/17-2018/19), and in other sectoral plans, policies, and their targets are being aligned with SDGs. Specific SDG codes are assigned for all national programmes in the national budget. Government of Nepal has grouped SDGs in social, economic and environment categories. Goal 5, 16 and 17 are categorized as cross-cutting goals. Nepal has embarked its 15<sup>th</sup> National Periodic Plan 2019/2020 to 2023/2024 since last year. Also, it has formulated 25-year visionary plan with roadmap and slogan "Prosperous Nepal: Happy Nepali". 15<sup>th</sup> National Plan has tried to mainstream SDGs.

NPC produced SDGs Status and Road Map 2016-2030 that identified 479 national indicators, set milestones and targets to achieve SDGs by 2030. Similarly, the NPC has developed SDG data portal where province wise data are available and a separate webpage (<http://sdg.npc.gov.np>) on SDGs has been launched. Government wants to develop partnership with province and local governments, private sector, cooperative, civil society and NGOs, international development organizations, regional cooperation organizations, and stakeholders. Government has developed strategies to mobilize internal resources, local and province revenues, private and cooperative investments, as well as development cooperation. Moreover, the Government has estimated budget required to achieve the SDGs for three fiscal years 2018/19-2020/21.

SDG Need Assessment, Costing and Financing Strategy 2018, formulation of planning and monitoring guideline to local and federal governments, and review of sectoral plans and strategies in order to align with SDGs are some important steps taken by the Government. Further, Government has promulgated a number of new laws to implement the fundamental rights. Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Guidelines for Federal/Provincial/Local level have also been prepared. Initiatives for localization of SDGs have also been taken through preparation of guidelines, capacity development, assisting in preparing results framework at sub-national levels. Baseline indicators for provinces and manual for localization has been prepared. Ministries have been made responsible to implement the SDGs through their programmes and budgets. Main issue of SDGs' implementation is, annual policy, programmes and budgets of the Government are not in line with SDGs national targets as stated in SDGs Roadmap. Absence of sense of ownership of the agenda with high level political leadership is another challenge to implement the SDGs in the country.

Implementing SDGs is very tough job in Nepalese context because geo-politics and domestic political environment determine the entire development process. The country is now extremely suffering from COVID-19 crisis. All the development works have been disrupted and economic activities have been almost stopped. They have directly impacted in all most all goals of the 2030 Agenda, but in the context of Nepal Goal 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8 have been highly affected. Most likely, Nepal's plan to graduate from LDC in 2021, will be difficult in reality.

### Federal Parliament

Sustainable Development and Good Governance Committee of National Assembly has established a resource center in Kathmandu targeting to the members of parliament. Development of separate website (<https://digobikas.gov.np>) is another important work done by this committee. Further, it has organized trainings to some members of Province Assemblies and tried to develop them as SDGs champions. Furthermore, this committee has developed a *Parliamentary Checklist* that will help to make every national laws, policies and programmes SDGs oriented.



## **Province Level**

It is yet to align SDGs at province level planning and budgeting processes. However, Gandaki Province and Province No. 5 have prepared baseline report of SDGs. Gandaki Province has formulated 5-Year Province Level Periodic Plan 2019/2020-2023/2024 and also it has set province level development targets of SDGs (SDGs Baseline Report of Gandaki Province 2019), which are good examples of localization process. SDGs Report has set province level targets and milestones by 2030. Federal government has provided SDGs monitoring framework to the province level governments.

GoN developed a national and provincial monitoring and evaluation framework and most recently identified 117 SDGs indicators for the provinces and also interacted with province level planning commissions. NPC has almost readied SDGs localization manual for provincial and local governments to facilitate their specific SDGs plan of action/budget aligned to national periodic/SDGs plan, that still remains to be rolled out. Province governments have not codified their budgets in line with SDGs. In reality, province level governments need to work hard to align SDGs in their development process.

## **Local Level**

Role of local governments is very important to implement the SDGs. But, most of the local governments are still not aware about the 2030 Agenda. Also, local people are also not aware about the SDGs. But, local government associations (Association of District Coordination Committees, National Association of Rural Municipalities and Municipal Association Nepal) are trying to support local governments to mainstream SDGs in local development process. Local governments have realized the imperative of having SDGs interlinked development thrust and accordingly many of them are already in the process of formulating it.

National Planning Commission and Administrative Staff College are facilitating the process through training on SDGs localization and deployment of trained facilitators in 11 municipalities on a pilot basis. So far, all three local government associations are actively providing supports to local governments that include deliberating onto SDGs as well. Further, capacity development trainings are needed from national and provincial governments to help the local governments to develop SDGs framework therein. The strengthening of local capacity could be visualized as a three step process: fully functional and adequately staffed organizational setup, formulation of SDGs framework.

Realizing SDGs at local level needs awareness, full political ownership, capacity development, development of frameworks and clear guidance from federal governments. Of course local governments need more financial resources to implement the SDGs in their territories, which is very challenging. Local governments are not codifying local budgets in line with SDGs. Local governments should not take SDGs as burden or separate programme.

Most importantly, the development is still not taken as human rights of the people. Political society, policy makers and government officials should change their mind set and to adopt human rights based approach in planning, policy making, programming and budgeting.

## CHAPTER III: PROGRESS IN GOALS

### Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

#### Progress and Achievements

While globally, poverty was taking a drop by half in 2015 the brighter promises of eradicating it in all its form and dimension was on top of the global challenges (SDG: Goal no 1). General Assembly resolution 70/1 reaffirmed its faith in democracy, good governance and the rule of law in creating an enabling environment at the national and international levels for sustainable development, and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and the eradication of poverty and hunger.

Nepal in the last 5 years has faced three massive socio-economic tragedies. First a devastating earthquake on 25 April 2015 increased poverty rate by 2.5 to 3.5 percent, adding another 700,000-982,000 to the list of the population below the poverty line (ADB report, 2015). The second tragedy began on 23 September 2015, when India imposed an undeclared economic blockade on Nepal, creating a massive shortage of basic amenities like fuel, food supply and even medicine. The blockade hit major hospitals running short of life-saving medicine; the education sector was hit by government rationing diesel to schools and thereby further creating shortage in basic education material like books, inks and note pads. Overall, it contributed to a greater economic loss than the devastating Earthquake (12 Dec, BBC). The blockade pushed an additional million people into poverty, throwing 220,000 workers out of work. It further hit the tourism industry with a loss of more than 800,000 tourists. However, incidence of poverty is reduced to 18.7 percent by FY 2017/18.

Latest and the worse ongoing global tragedy is the virus COVID19. It will have an unrelenting damage on the developing economies like Nepal with amplified effects on vulnerable groups which will create more inequality. According to The World Bank, Nepal's economic growth is expected to fall to a range between 1.5 and 2.8 percent this year; six months ago it was projected 6.3 percent. As the COVID-19 lockdowns creates demand for food and other basic subsistence with the return of migrant workers and shut down of all labor activities, Nepal will require an unprecedented *mutatis mutandis* shift in economic policy.

#### Key Issues, Challenges and Gaps

The question remains what does this still mean to the 21 percent of the population in Nepal that lives on USD 50-70 cents a day? Nepal's nearly 29 percent of the population still faces multidimensional poverty (NPC,2018). Addressing these cross sector vulnerabilities that suffers improvised life due to systematic disadvantage or deprivation like poor health facility, malnutrition, deprivation from education or formal training will be one of the key challenges. Loss in GDP will most likely to increase poverty in the country. It is sure that Dalits, Madeshi, women and other vulnerable people will be pushed towards poverty. Poverty with Dalits is higher in comparison to other communities and one can guess, level poverty will not be progressed due to the impact of COVID-19.

The human right based approach to addressing poverty has challenges more on an accountability framework for pursuing social justice. Referred to explicit human rights norms rather than a broad appeal to notion of redistributive and egalitarian justice (Stephen p marks, 2018) meaning that poverty cannot just be defined by readdressing material resources but a rather much grave violation of Human dignity and such violation need legal accountability. Poverty has eroded or nullified economic and social rights such as access to health, education, housing and safe drinking water.

Nepal has the total population of 29.3 million out of which 21 percent are below the poverty line, and 4.8 million people are in the job market. The average wage of a male is NRs. 19,464 and that of a woman is NRs. 13,630, making almost 30 percent income disparity between men and women. Even poverty rate is reduced; its qualitative aspect is not satisfactory. Additionally, Nepal has 908,000 people jobless and more than 56 percent people are dependent. Dalits, sex workers, muslims, daily wage earners, migrant workers,

Indigenous People, PWDs and minorities including LGBTIQ have very limited access to employment opportunities. PWDs community has concern about the uncertainty of social security services.

In Nepal less than 10 percent of the population can actually afford the medical expenses and others are dependent on that same 10 percent for their medical and other expenses like education and daily expenses. Additionally, marginalized and vulnerable community suffer from marginalization from socio-economic and political spheres. Consistent poverty traps caused by deprivation are key challenges in addressing poverty, and some of its characteristics are as follows:

Poor work opportunities, especially for PWDs, lack of innovative sustainable industrial growth, cross sector discrimination and violence, climate change as a cause of cyclical poverty amongst farmers, Medical Poverty Trap (Poverty induced by Out of Pocket medical expenses), high level of dependency ratio on each household, lack of adequate social security for senior citizen and PWDs are some challenges. Further, state is unable to analyze situation of poverty of different segments of the society.

Though remittances alleviate poverty, improve nutritional outcomes, and are linked with higher spending on education, a decline in remittances impacts families' ability to spend on these areas as more of their money will be aimed at solving food shortages and immediate livelihoods needs.

### **Call for Actions**

One of the great challenges of eradicating poverty is to ensure equitable division of economic opportunities and resources nationally and globally. As far as promises in official documents are concerned, we have made a big leap in these five years. However, we have made very little progress in reducing poverty in practice. The vulnerable and marginalized groups should be at the center of all development policies. Nepal needs to review the definition of poverty. Multi-dimensional poverty could be a good indicator to measure the poverty. The joint efforts of the government, business sector and CSOs can certainly be the key to eradicating poverty and improving the economic situation in the country. For poverty alleviation Ministry of Poverty Alleviation should be strengthened, which is seemed as sideline ministry.

Development efforts should focus on Province no. 2, Karnali Province and Sudur Paschim Province as they are left behind than other provinces. Governments should earmark adequate development budgets for marginalized communities. Massive targeted programmes should be implemented for poor, marginalized and vulnerable communities. Governments should follow the principle of Positive Discrimination to uplift them from poverty. Historically excluded communities like Dalits need focused programmes and their access to basic needs such as food, education, health, housing, and land should be protected. Federal governments should use Social Security Fund targeting to poor, marginalized and vulnerable people. It is very unfortunate that Government is not able to use this fund.

Development cannot be seen only as numeric games of economics rather has to be a matter concerning fundamental human rights based on granting equitable access to the market. Two percent of the people in Nepal have some form of disability. But this two percent of the population has been systematically deprived of adequate transportation and disabled-friendly workplace infrastructure, even though reducing such hurdles will add more to the work force and eventually will contribute to poverty reduction. The fundamental action needed for poverty reduction has to be reforming quality of education and health by making it more accessible to all disadvantaged clusters by providing free schooling and healthcare. Right to food, health, housing, social security should be looked at through the perspective of social security.

Since agriculture and tourism are the backbone of Nepalese economy, climate action is the biggest cross cutting issue that the economy rest upon. The unpredictable nature of climate change causes poverty trap amongst farmers and hence is subject to call for action. In order to reduce burden on working men and women government should come up with plans for providing free daycare services to children of these working people. And more importantly, enforcing adequate reservation policy in all job sectors (private and public) for LGBTIQ community will help uplift the community poverty trap. Governments should

bring policy to provide social security facility to LGBTIQ community as they are deprived by multiple ways. And PWDs need special public infrastructure facilities for easy access to public services.

## **Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture**

### **Progresses and Achievements**

Main aim of the SDG 2 is to end the hunger and ensure that all the citizen of the country have enough food for the whole year by 2030. Also, this goal aims to increase the agriculture practices and create maximum investment opportunities and markets, ensuring the quality, ownerships and development of the agriculture uses as well as improving different factors to alleviate possible threats from climate changes. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/>

In the 2019 Global Hunger Index, Nepal ranks 73rd out of 117 qualifying countries. With a score of 20.8, Nepal suffers from a level of hunger that is serious.

1The Government has developed “The Agriculture Development Strategy 2015” with the vision of “A self-reliant, sustainable, competitive, and inclusive agricultural sector that drives economic growth and contributes to improve livelihoods and food and nutrition security leading to food sovereignty.”

NPC (2015) has indicated Nepal already being successful in reducing absolute poverty and is on a right track to halve the proportion of people suffering from hunger.

Constitution of Nepal (article 36) stated the Right to food: (1) Each citizen shall have the right to food. (2) Every citizen shall have the right to be protected from a state of starvation, resulting from lack of food stuffs. (3) Every citizen shall have the right to food sovereignty as provided for in law.

According to The World Health Organization (WHO), stunting is defined as “the impaired growth and development that children experience from poor nutrition, repeated infection, and inadequate psychosocial stimulation.” Children can be viewed as stunted if their height-for-age is more than two standard deviations below the WHO Child Growth Standards median. More than 35 percent of children under the age of 5 in Nepal are stunted, according to the research done in accordance with SDGs.

Agriculture provides work to 68 percent of Nepal’s population and accounts for 34 percent of the country’s GDP, yet food is in low supply for Nepali citizens.

One in four people in Nepal lives below the national poverty line that is just 50 cents per day. People that live under the poverty line do not have enough money to meet their basic needs like food, clothing and shelter.

### **Key Issues, Challenges and Gaps**

Despite significant progress in addressing the targets of Goal-2, Nepal has its challenges and some are described hereunder.

- The 2019 Global Hunger Index (GHI) found that 9.5 percent of Nepal’s population was undernourished. Nepal is ranked 73 out of 117 countries in the GHI, and the report rates Nepal’s hunger at 20.8, which falls into the category of serious. However, these numbers are lower than they have been in past years since 2000, when GHI ranked Nepal’s hunger at 36.8. Nepal is going to face a severe problem of hunger as the impact of COVID-19.
- The GHI 2019 report shows that, since 2000 significant progress has been made in the fight against hunger in Nepal (<https://kathmandupost.com/money/2016/10/15/ghi-rates-nepals-hunger-as-serious>).
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 Article 25: “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including food, clothing,

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<sup>1</sup>Civil Society Beijing Report

housing, and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.”

- People that live under the poverty line do not have enough money to meet their basic needs like food, clothing and shelter.
- Farmers have not got good returns from their agriculture products. There is tendency of new generation not to involve agriculture.
- Those who live in mountainous, more rural areas are the most likely to suffer from poverty and hunger that affects the country.
- Agriculture provides work to 68 percent of Nepal’s population and accounts for 34 percent of the country’s GDP, yet food is in low supply for Nepali citizens.
- The government and the U.N.’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) introduced the Zero Hunger Challenge in 2014, with the goal of eradicating all hunger issues in Nepal by 2025.
- Need specific mechanism or focal desk in all the line ministries to implement SDGs including Zero Hunger Challenge Action Plan 2016-25.
- Country has not been able to timebound plan for the implementation of food security act.
- More capacity should be enhanced of local level service providers to implement the multi-stakeholder's nutrition plan/interventions (MSNP) including food security related laws and policies.
- Food security, sustainable agriculture development to end hunger and mal-nutrition itself is an issue.
- The Zero Hunger consists of five main challenges: i) All food systems should be sustainable, from production to consumption; ii) Need to end to rural poverty by doubling incomes and productivity of small-scale producers; iii) Adapt all food systems to eliminate loss or waste of food; iv) Access adequate food and healthy diets, for all people, all year round; and v) End to malnutrition in all its forms.

### **Call for Actions**

- Increase the investments in agriculture and ensure funds are clearly targeted to agriculture programme, including policy implementation and subsidy programmes - that are fully gender-sensitive and disability-friendly - that directly benefit to the poor as well as other marginalized farmers. This should also include funding for upgrading to a categorization of farmers and community participation with quality monitoring.
- Formulate a mechanism of proper supply of agriculture production. Course design and resource allocation should be in line with innovation of indigenous knowledge of lead farmers. Promote the indigenous seed with proper system and practices to promote the sustainable agriculture.
- Develop and implement a mechanism to assess for small farmers, landless and marginalized people on all types of agriculture skills, inputs, resources and market. Local governments should develop the programmes to promote urban farming, including kitchen garden and roof farming to promote food security.
- Build the food supply channel ensuring quality, quantity and proper availability in rural areas.
- CSOs have number of opportunities to work on the SDG 2. Nepal Government has formulated several acts and policies to secure the right to food and food sovereignty of peoples living under poverty and hunger. All the CSOs need to focus their actions on SDGs together rather than separately. Likewise, concerned government line agencies of central to local levels also need to act proactively focusing on achieving the concrete results.

### Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

#### Progresses and Achievements

The restructuring of the political system of the country and post-earthquake reconstruction were aligned with the onset of SDGs, providing the country with the opportunity to localize and strengthen the health system. The new constitution demanded several new acts, policies, and directives, leading to new policy level achievements in the health sector as well. For e.g.: Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act 2075, Health Insurance Bill, National Health Policy, Nepal adolescent health and development strategy, provincial health policies, etc. Along with the National Periodic Plan, Nepal Health Sector Strategy –NHSS, 2015-2020 was also designed in line with SDG 2. Also, the political commitment to the health sector was strengthened at the international arena with the Government’s adaptation of Universal Health Coverage in 2019 and stronger commitment to sexual and reproductive health and rights in platforms like ICPD+25 Nairobi Summit. Safe Motherhood and SRHR law address none discriminatory health service for sexual and gender minorities people as well.

At the indicator level, the SDG indicators of health are progressive for maternal mortality rate, newborn mortality rate and TT utilization by pregnant women<sup>2</sup>. Composite coverage index of Essential Health Service is 64 percent. Public health service coverage shows > 85 percent child vaccine coverage, > 50 percent skilled birth attendance and a significant reduction in communicable diseases. Life expectancy continues to increase (69.7 years as of 2019) and the fight against neglected diseases including some infectious diseases has made significant progress. WHO has certified Nepal as a trachoma free country in July 2018.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, the significant achievement is that the budget increased healthcare expenditure by NPR 24.64 billion (US\$ 228 million) in 2019.<sup>4</sup> 56 percent of the damaged health facilities have been reconstructed and another 12 percent are under construction.<sup>5</sup> Similarly, Nepal has introduced Traffic Accident Information System software in Kathmandu valley and Kathmandu-Birganj Corridor. Also, vehicle fitness checking centres have been established in seven provinces.

Though the health sector in Nepal is still majorly owned and contributed by the government, the CSOs and private sector have also been playing a major role in imparting health related information and behavior change communication. Some cooperatives can be found running health centers and hospitals in more remote areas of the country<sup>6</sup>, and this partnership will enable communities otherwise cut off from health services to access necessary medical treatment at affordable rates, and support to leave no one behind.

#### Key Issues, Challenges and Gaps

71 percent of the indicators for Goal 3 has publicly available national data to track the commitments and progress on SDG, making it the goal with most data available<sup>7</sup>, and depicting that the health management information system is in place. However, several indicators do not have a baseline, making tracking still difficult. This highlights the need for segregated data for evidence-based decision making in the health sector. Marginalized and vulnerable people do not have easy access to public health services. Poor, PWDs and senior citizens are suffering by many ways.

Data shows five indicators are regressive for Goal 3. Nepal needs to reduce the maternal mortality rate, which stands at 239 per 100,000 live births, to 70 by 2030, while the country needs to bring neonatal deaths to 12 per 1,000 from the existing 21 and under-five mortality to 25 per 1,000 from the existing 39 to meet

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<sup>2</sup> Presentation by national planning commission

<sup>3</sup> [www.ngofederation.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Civil%20Societies%27%20Perspectives%20Report%20on%20SDGs%20Implementation\\_September%202019.pdf](http://www.ngofederation.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Civil%20Societies%27%20Perspectives%20Report%20on%20SDGs%20Implementation_September%202019.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/259650182\\_State\\_of\\_non-communicable\\_disease\\_in\\_Nepal](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/259650182_State_of_non-communicable_disease_in_Nepal)

<sup>5</sup> Rebuilding Nepal, a National Reconstruction Authority publication, Jan-Feb 2020

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.undp.org/content/dam/nepal/docs/project-documents--2019/Development\\_Advocate\\_2019.pdf](https://www.undp.org/content/dam/nepal/docs/project-documents--2019/Development_Advocate_2019.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Nepal\\_15.pdf](https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Nepal_15.pdf)

the targets.

Recent global fight for Covid-19 was an eye opener to the current health system of Nepal and indicate two main reasons (i) people are not able to access to services they need especially in public health facilities – and (ii) weak preparedness for public health emergencies. The cases have yet not reached epidemic as of today, and the reasons are yet to be explored. However, the expertise in the health sector and timely decision for prevention and control has been attributed as quoted by various sources worldwide. While prevention is always the key, COVID-19 pandemic also opened up the question regarding health infrastructure in case pandemics like this occur. There were lack of testing and treatment facilities, that strongly recommends building the capacity and number of health workforce<sup>8</sup>, and tertiary level health care facilities throughout the country.

The trust of public on health system is degrading due to no medicines, no doctors, and no proper health response to patients by health providers, when 80 percent of the service seekers go to public health facilities<sup>9</sup>. Privatization of health care facilities has increased tertiary level hospitals, but they are limited only to the country's capital and there is lack of regulation on the cost of care they charge. Free health care services are available through different tiers of the health system in Nepal; however, the quality of the service is questionable. The people still face challenges such as lack of essential medicines in the health institutions, absence of health workers, lack of information or counselling on free health care services. The marginalized people such as people with disability, sexual and gender minorities, rural people, Dalit, women and girls, young people are not able to access and afford the health system adequately, questioning the leaving no one behind theme of SDGs. Persons with homophobia is badly suffering these days. LGBTIQ community are facing health sector stigma because of their gender identity and sexual orientation and sex characteristics.

Sustaining finance for the health sector is another challenge. The proportion of current health funding is significantly lower than the government's own target to attain 8 percent of the national budget for health expenditure, and the World Health Organization's (WHO) recommendation of general government health expenditure of at least 5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP).<sup>10</sup> More than 2/3rd of the population depend on out of pocket expenditure.<sup>11</sup>

Health budget is increased slightly but varies annually and spent mostly on infrastructure and not on services and medicines. As a result, 2/3 of health expenditures comes out of pocket which pushes people especially poor into poverty when people face catastrophic expenditure.

All commitments look good in paper, but real implementation has been a challenge. Currently there is no clarity on the role of provincial health department as well as district health and health centers– a lot of ambiguity exists which might hamper smooth implementation. Lessons need to be learned from other countries like Indonesia and Philippines which are still struggling. Thailand is a good case of success, including regarding involvement of civil society. They have created people's assembly which is organized annually.

### **Call for Actions**

- Increase political commitment, resources at least 10-12 percent of annual budget, and governance in the health system. Ensure the fundamental rights to health of every citizen by reaffirming constitutional commitments and international commitments such as UHC. Ensure easy access and none discrimination health service for poor, marginalized and vulnerable people such as PWDs, senior

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<sup>8</sup>[kathmandupost.com/valley/2019/06/08/nepal-will-struggle-to-achieve-sdgs-and-universal-health-coverage-without-ensuring-quality-health-care-experts-say](http://kathmandupost.com/valley/2019/06/08/nepal-will-struggle-to-achieve-sdgs-and-universal-health-coverage-without-ensuring-quality-health-care-experts-say)

<sup>9</sup> [www.himalkhabar.com/news/13167?fbclid=IwAR13U1p\\_mX5HLZt3VDDfcehRoblhPV7Uxym4qZKOyUwZBmo8mXEPUEngUe4](http://www.himalkhabar.com/news/13167?fbclid=IwAR13U1p_mX5HLZt3VDDfcehRoblhPV7Uxym4qZKOyUwZBmo8mXEPUEngUe4)

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/259650182\\_State\\_of\\_non-communicable\\_disease\\_in\\_Nepal](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/259650182_State_of_non-communicable_disease_in_Nepal)

<sup>11</sup> <http://english.lokaantar.com/articles/achieving-universal-health-coverage-nepal/>

citizens and LGBTIQ people. Public health service needs to give more attention to Sexual and Reproductive Rights of the young people. Nepal may need to give more attention in prevention and treatment of mental health patients, since mental health problem is growing rapidly after COVID-19 crisis.

- Revise the existing model of predominantly disease-centric, donor-driven, and vertical programming. Since out of pocket expenditure is very high in Nepal, Nepal should adopt integrated people centered health approach that brings preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative as well as preparedness for public health and humanitarian emergencies.
- Increase investment in strengthening health facilities, including upgrading and increasing service sites and their infrastructure capacity, so that health facilities reach the last mile. Also, ensure availability of human resources, equipment, and commodities at all the primary health care centers.
- Now, time has come to rethink about the operation of private hospitals, nursing homes, private clinics etc. as they have been established to earn money and maximize their profits, rather than to provide services. Country must end the privatization of public health service to ensure right to health.
- Promote innovation in health access through youth friendly interventions such as mhealth, telehealth, mobile clinics, youth information centers etc. so that marginalized populations who have limited access to health services are also benefited.
- Invest in capacity strengthening and monitoring of human resource for health. Strengthen national system, civil vital registration system, to collect and disseminate segregated health data and conduct robust periodic national health surveys. Where this is not possible, accept and adopt the data provided by the private sectors and CSOs, and CSOs also need to support the Government by providing data to fulfill the data gaps in SDGs.
- Strengthen primary health care with adequate medicines and skilled health workers to reduce maternal mortality. Retention of health workforce is a challenge as half of approved health workers do not report to PHC level – this is much higher in remote areas.

#### **Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**

The Government's policy in education, in line with UN SDG 4, emphasizes full access to quality education for all (NPC, 2017b). This inclusive policy has potential to reduce inequalities in society, eradicate poverty, and promote economic growth.

The devolution of governance structures in federalized Nepal presents an opportunity for improved coordination of education at the local level, supporting progress towards all SDGs including SDG 4 (Daly, Parker, Sherpa & Regmi, 2020). In addition, this new structure allows for decentralized decision-making and empowers local education agencies to assume greater responsibilities ownership, accountability and authority to strengthen their capacities.

Constitutional provision provides full authority to local governments for implementation of the education programme and constitutes a big leap forward for decentralized delivery of the education services (UNESCO UIS, 2019).

#### **Progress Assessment of SDG 4 Targets and Indicators Set by NPC for 2019**

**SDG 4.1. By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes**



Indicator Description:	2019 Target	2019 Progress
4.1.1 Net enrolment rate in primary education (%)	98.5	96.30 (1)
4.1.2 Primary completion rate (%)	90.7	83.16 (1) (2016)
4.1.3 Proportion of pupils enrolled in grade one who reach grade eight (%)	81.5	73.55 (2) (2016)
4.1.4 Ratio of girls (to boys) enrolled in grade one who reach grade eight	1.03	1.04 (1)
4.1.5 Ratio of girls to boys enrolled in grade one who reach grade twelve	1.04	n/a
4.1.6 Ratio of students to teacher in basic education (up to grade 8)	36	19.74 (2) (Primary)
4.1.7 Ratio of students to teacher in secondary education (up to grade 12)	35.3	28.26
4.1.8 Proportion of trained teachers in primary and secondary education (% of total teachers)	96.5	88.85 (2) (secondary)
4.1.9 Learning achievement / Score (Math, Nepali and English) for Grade 5	60.8	n/a
4.1.10 Gross enrolment secondary education (grade 9 to 12)	72	80.18 (2)
<b>SDG 4.2. By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education</b>		
4.2.1 Coverage of child grant for pre-primary education (number in '000)	1038	n/a
4.2.2 Day meal program coverage (%)	31	n/a
4.2.3 Attendance to early childhood education (Gross Enrollment) (%)	85.8	87.43 (1)
<b>SDG 4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university</b>		
4.3.1 Ratio of girls' enrolment in technical and vocational education	0.66	n/a
3.2 Ratio of girls' enrolment in tertiary education (graduate level)	1.04	n/a
3.3 Scholarship coverage (% of total students)	38.3	n/a
<b>SDG 4.4. By 2030, increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship</b>		
4.4.1 Youth and adults having technical and vocation skills (number in '000,)	165	n/a
4.4.2 Working age population with technical and vocational training (%)	38	n/a
4.3 Internet users (percent of adult population)	59.5	n/a
<b>SDG 4.5. By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access</b>		

4.5.1 Gender parity index (GPI) (primary school)	1.01	1.05 (1)
4.5.2 Gender Parity Index (GPI) (secondary school)	1	1.04 (1) ( <i>Lower Sec.</i> )
4.5.3 Gender Parity Index (GPI) based on literacy (above 15 years)	0.72	n/a
<b>SDG 4.6. By 2030, ensure that all youth and at least 95 per cent of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy</b>		
4.6.1 Literacy rate of 15-24 years old (%)	91.37	92.39 (1) (2018)
4.6.2 Literacy rate of 15-24 years old (women) (%)	90.5	90.88 (1) (2018)
4.6.3 Numeracy rate of 15 years and older (%)	71.7	n/a
4.6.4 Numeracy rate of females of 15 years and older (%)	63.4	n/a
4.6.5 Public spending per student (Basic education in '000)	19	17 (3) (2017)
<b>SDG 4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development</b>		
4.7.1 Human assets index	68.85	n/a
4.7.2 Gender development index	0.58	n/a
4.7.3 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed at all levels in: (a) national education policies, (b) curricula, (c) teacher education and (d) student assessment (In scale of 0 to 5: Where "0" is none)	-	n/a
<b>SDG 4.a. Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all</b>		
4.a.1 Schools with access to electricity (%)	-	n/a
4.a.2 Schools with access to internet (%)	28.6	n/a
4.a.3 Schools with "WASH" facilities (%)	53.0	n/a
4.a.4 Disability friendly schools (%)	-	n/a
<b>SDG 4.b. By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries</b>		
4.b.1 ---	-	n/a
4.b.2 ---	-	n/a
<b>SDG 4.c. By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States</b>		

4.c.1 Proportion of teachers in primary education who have received at least the minimum organized teacher training (%)	100	97.29 (1)
4.c.2 Proportion of teachers in basic education who have received at least the minimum organized teacher training (%)	100	85.40 (1)

(Cells marked 'n/a' refers to data not available while '-' indicates no indicators set by Nepal)

(1) UIS Update (2020). UIS Database. <http://data.uis.unesco.org/>

(2) UNESCO UIS (2019). UNESCO Institute for Statistics Report of Nepal

(3) NCE Nepal (2018b). Research on Education Financing GAP Analysis

Government plans to establish at least one Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institute in all 753 local levels in the country as of May 2019, Nepal has seen an increase of TVET institutes from 332 to 507 (UNDP Nepal, 2019).

Nepal's Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has linked Covid-19 to education by making public service announcements on the guidelines and providing the relevant materials for the students to learn from home (MOE, 2020).

Nepal has fared well in increasing its net enrolment rate for Grade 1 in Karnali Province, which was noted at 97.3 percent in 2017 (MOE, 2017). Showing that Nepal has the capacity to achieve certain education indicators in its least developed province.

Nepal has seen consistent success in reaching education indicators. Whereas, in 2019, 87.43 percent of pre-primary children attended school, higher than the government target of 85.8 percent (UNESCO UIS, 2019). Additionally, the literacy rate for 15-24 years old was 92.39 percent in 2018, higher than the Government of Nepal's target of 91.37 percent in 2019 (NPC, 2017a).

In regard to 4.1.6 and 4.1.7, it's important to note that the teacher to pupil ratio is greatly varied throughout the country. Ranging from, 1:60 in some remote schools to 1:15 in schools in urban areas.

In regard to SDG 4.6, in 2018, the adult literacy rate of Nepal was 65.9 percent (Dhakal, 2018), an increase from 59.6 percent in 2011 – 75.1 percent were male and 57.4 percent female (MOE, 2017). Despite the increase in literacy rate, gender inequality and inequitable accessibility persisted across different regions of the country. With the far and mid-western regions still experiencing the lowest literacy rates.

Despite progress in addressing the targets of its education goal, Nepal continues to confront deeply entrenched issues of educational access, gender inequity, student retention at all levels of schooling, overt unionizations in the learning institutions, undue political influence, poor quality of learning, poorly trained and motivated teachers and lack or inadequate teaching resources. Some of these interlinked and complex sets of institutional, political, and educational challenges are described hereunder.

## **Key Issues, Challenges and Gaps**

### ***Prioritization and investment:***

The national budget allocation on education has declined from 17.1 percent in 2011/2012 to 10.20 percent in FY 2018/2019 (NCE Nepal (2018a) that makes around 4 percent share of GDP.

Government's lack of high priority in quality education has undermined the human capacity development of the population especially impacted by the Maoist conflict (Pherali, 2016) and other factors including natural disasters and health concerns.

Many public schools in poor rural areas and urban slums lack essential and adequate infrastructure and resources like toilets (separate for boys and girls), safe drinking water supply (NIRT, 2016) and earthquake resistant schools which is only 11 percent of total schools (UNICEF, 2019).

### ***Inclusiveness and equity in education***

Contrary to the aim of the Government's 'Nepal School Sector Reform Plan 2016–2023', the education system in Nepal remains neither inclusive nor equitable (Ezaki, 2018).

Although enrolment of girls in primary school is increasing (UNESCO UIS, 2019) retention of these female students, especially in secondary schools, remains a challenge given the societal pressure to withdraw early from school due to patriarchal expectations as well as early marriage. This trend is higher among Dalit communities especially and along the Nepal-India border, and lower in hill communities (LeVine, 2019). Traditional taboos, socio-cultural factors, and the patriarchal system continue to limit women and girls from reaching their full potential in formal learning including their access to higher education (Karki, 2019).

The gap between educational outcomes of public and private schools is significantly wide indicating growing educational inequality, contradicting the ‘School Sector Reform Plan 2016–2023’, of an inclusive and equitable education system for all. The analysis of the differential educational outcomes of public versus private schools is largely absent from national planning (Ezaki, 2018).

There is inequity in the education sector, as only 12 percent of children from the lowest wealth quintile are developmentally on track in literacy and numeracy compared to 65 percent from the highest wealth quintile (UNICEF, 2019). Challenges to access of quality, among females and marginalized communities, continues to be a bottleneck in improving participation of these groups in various sectors of the country.

### ***Enrolment and completion***

Despite progress, primary school enrolment targets remain unmet. In 2019, Primary School Net enrolment rate was 96.3 percent falling short of the government target of 98.5 percent. This difference resulted in 103,384 children and 46,598 adults unable to access learning and education (UNESCO UIS, 2019).

Enrolment rates of 6-10-year-olds have increased at the primary level, but access to schools remains a problem for marginalized and underprivileged groups like the Dalits and Janajati, and those with special needs such as physical disabilities. Access to school is further complicated due to the terrain of the country with physical distance to schools remaining a challenge especially for children from poor households (Upreti, 2019).

A significant proportion of students do not complete primary schooling whereas only 73.55 percent made it to the last grade of primary school (UNESCO UIS, 2019). 770,000 children aged 5-12 years are still out of school and over 80,000 children with disabilities or from indigenous minorities are currently not able to stay in school (UNICEF, 2019).

### ***Early childhood development and protection:***

The Early Childhood Development (ECD) is a key policy of the government that has had positive outcomes. However, services provided under ECD are not integrated and do not ensure protection of children under five (UNICEF, 2018) and, ECD has been mistakenly understood to be privately run Early Childhood Education (ECE) centers such as nursery/kindergarten.

Attendance rate at ECE is still low at 51 percent (UNICEF, 2019) and the cause for the low attendance rate is not well understood. Additionally, the detailed data on coverage of child grant for pre-primary education is not publicly available.

### ***Quality education:***

Nepal has improved access to schooling significantly, including access across all groups. However, the disparity across regions, gender and type of schools (public/private/others) remains very high. Very few schools in Nepal meet child-friendly school standards to date (UNICEF, 2019).

National Assessment of Student Achievement (NASA) indicates that half of students in grades 3, 5 and 8 do not meet the academic achievement criteria for Nepali and mathematics (UNICEF, 2019). Additionally, NASA fails to report of achievement in English and also on how achievement indicators have been used to monitor and improve the progress on SDG 4.

According to a World Bank report, 80 percent of children in poor countries cannot read and understand a simple story by the end of primary school (World Bank, 2019). This leads to the questioning of the reliability of the literacy progress claimed by Nepal.

Teacher quality is an important factor impacting the quality of education in Nepal. However, Nepal lacks adequate data on teacher quality and performance.

Per new provisions, the power to manage and award the School Leaving Certificate will be devolved to local and provincial governments. However, currently the government does not have the resources nor the expertise to effectively execute these powers.

Enhancing the quality of public schools and managing private schools are challenges affecting the provision of quality education. Given the better educational performances of private schools, it is not surprising that they are increasingly associated with that ‘quality education’, resulting in a large shift of students moving from public to private schools (Ezaki, 2018). Under these circumstances, concerns have been raised about the ‘pauperisation’ of public schools and how it would disproportionately affect children from lower economic strata as well as the loss of respect and trust in the quality of education of public schools (Ezaki, 2018; Mathema, 2007; Dhakal, 2019).

#### ***Digital exclusion:***

In 2017, 58.72 percent of the population were internet users indicating that almost half of the population still lacked access to the internet (Rana, 2018). In the age of digital learning and communication, the lack of ICT literate teachers, costly internet facilities, and low level of ICT literacy is worrisome. Moreover, the infrastructure needed to extend internet to rural areas is not adequate (Dawadi and Shakya, 2016; Rana, 2018).

#### ***Technical and Vocation Education Training:***

In 2019, the total enrolment in TVET for students in secondary education was 2.65 percent (UNESCO UIS, 2019). Low enrolment rates have attributed to unskilled adults being in hazardous and dangerous occupations in and outside the country, without the appropriate training to ensure their safety and well-being.

TVET sustainability and relevance of curriculum as well as quality of teaching remains unmonitored and thus standards are questionable.

#### ***Appropriate and reliable data availability:***

The target and indicators NPC have set are not uniform with global standards. Resulting in the absence of important indicators in the UNESCO global database.

NPC fails to consider important factors – income distribution, geography, demographics – in setting targets and indicators. Resulting in the review of SDGs difficult and unrealistic.

Nepal has Education Management Information System (EMIS) in place but it draws mostly administrative data. Student performance data is missing in EMIS.

Nepal’s NASA covers students in grades 3, 5 and 8, on an intermittent basis (Education Review Office, 2016) but how these are used to target SDG 4 indicators is not clear.

Five years after the adoption of SDGs, there is no updated data for indicators that Nepal set such as: tertiary education, learners’ relevant skills, TVET, ICT, ECD and educational facilities. This data gap may signal that Nepal is mainly focusing on access and participation of the children and neglecting quality and equity.

There is no data on gross enrollment data on ECD, the data only covers the enrollment for ECE.

## **Call for Actions**

Nepal's education system is facing challenges requiring remedial action by the government. Below are suggested actions by the government during the next three years.

### ***Investment:***

Increase public investments and ensure funds are clearly targeted for education policies, infrastructure development, and programmes that are: (i) fully gender-sensitive and disability-friendly, (ii) directly benefit poor and marginalized groups, and (iii) promote higher standards, quality, sustainability, community participation, and effective supervision.

### ***Inclusiveness and equity in education:***

Provide free school uniforms, nutritional meals, stationery, and first aid at schools to promote a student centric approach – to foster high enrolment and high retention.

Prioritize the provision of subsistence grants and scholarships for students from poor, under-privileged and marginalized families; including Dalit, Janajati and students with disabilities.

Provide free education as the fundamental rights enshrined in Article 31 of the Constitution of Nepal (2015). National government must ensure that private schools provide free education to marginalized students which will represent no less than 15 percent of the total student population.

Enact legislation to implement Article 38 of the Constitution, on special measures for women's education especially addressing the needs of those from lower socio-economic status and remote and rural geographical locations. Government must spearhead a program to bring fundamental changes to entrenched patriarchal practices, taboos and stigmas that affect Nepalese societies, which greatly restrict students.

### ***Quality Education:***

Include student performance component in school EMIS data with the capability to assess school performance.

Review SDG4 indicators in terms of quality education, linking them with global indicators. NASA assessments and other national efforts in quality education should be streamlined with national and global indicators of SDG4.

Replace the current narrow “literacy” definition with “functional literacy”. New definition of literacy should include reading, numerical skills with proficiency indicators.

Reform teacher colleges to ensure all schools have well trained and qualified teachers with current subject related knowledge. The past glory and image of the College of Education under Trivubhan University (established in 1956) should be regained to produce quality teachers needed for the nation.

Conduct curriculum reforms on a 5-year rotation which consider international and local contexts. Incorporating curriculum that encourages empathy and develops critical and creative thinking skills required for rigorous challenges of advanced learning capabilities and problem solving.

Integrate climate, health (Including hygiene and sexual and reproductive health) and other crisis preparedness, response and resilience in school curriculum.

Make in-service teacher training and knowledge sharing activities mandatory in schools. Draw upon diaspora resources for training and knowledge sharing to enhance quality of education.

### ***Decentralization and devolution:***

Provide sufficient and qualified human resources to create dedicated governance structure for education at the local level. Ensure tasks are delegated and decision making devolved to local levels to alleviate persisting educational challenges, as well as address lack of accountability. Ultimately, guarantying the

required actors are in place to properly and efficiently carry out all tasks that are required at each level of governance.

Ensure that provincial and local institutions responsible for provisioning resources and teachers, are making informed and nonpartisan decisions.

***Management and accountability:***

Make administrators, bureaucrats and school headmasters accountable for delivery of quality education and for school's overall performance.

Stakeholders must plan and operationalize budgets in a timely and transparent manner (effective delivery) to garner public support for increasing future budget allocation in the education sector.

Hold educators and teachers accountable for students reaching a high-quality of standard in every grade. Provide supervision and support for ensuring improvement takes place.

Incentivize schools to create a multi-cultural and children-friendly learning environment. Provide both incentives and sanctions to ensure that quality standards of education and learning are met.

Conduct regular stakeholder meetings with parents, local CSO representatives and marginalized communities, to promote ownership and accountability of groups in the shared future of the community.

Address capacity gaps of government planners and policy makers at all levels by leveraging the NPC authority and Provincial Planning Commissions and enhance capacity building of federal and local governments to meet the requirements of delivering quality and efficient education management systems which contribute towards achieving SDGs.

***Early childhood development:***

Require local governments to deliver ECD services to children in a holistic manner through community run centers, with special focus on marginalized and disabled children.

Government to establish regulatory and monitoring mechanisms for commercially run day care/nurseries/kindergartens.

Ensure that: resources required for the proper training of teachers and, the tools needed to provision quality education, are properly provisioned and accessible to ECE teachers.

***Digital and STEM:***

Build adequate ICT facilities at schools to allow for teachers to implement and facilitate ICT classes.

Teachers undergo training to become ICT literate. Mandate basic computer literacy and competency for all teachers.

Prioritize STEM education. Require schools to have minimum of one science laboratory with a trained teacher.

***Technical and Vocational Education and Training:***

Set up national TVET qualification and certification system and accredit it with well-established framework. Require it to regulate TVET institutes to ensure that the courses offered are (i) responsive to the demands of the existing and emerging industries, (ii) trained qualified teachers are available in sufficient numbers, and, (iii) quality of practical training meets a minimum standard.

Implement an incentive scheme for students who choose to study vocational courses.

Government provide vocational courses from Grade 10 onwards, both at the local and national levels, to meet the demand for skilled workers.

### ***Other Important Action Needed:***

Adopt a staggered approach to implement trilingual (English, Nepali and mother tongue) education, beginning at the primary level with bilingual education of Nepali and mother-tongue language and English as an elective course.

Establish mechanisms to gather evidence of best teaching and learning practice provisioned by schools and disseminate findings to schools.

Prepare all learning institutions to offer blended teaching (Face-to-face+ Distance) as a new dimension of education and also to cope with the crises like earthquake, pandemic and so on.

Declare schools and institutions of learning into zones of peace; restrict partisan politics by students and school staff, as well as political unionization of students' unions at all levels of learning institutions.

PWDs need special communication means to ease their access to education services. There should special facility to disable children and LGBTIQ to admit in the schools and continue their education in the school.

### **Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

#### **Progresses and Achievements**

The Government of Nepal is committed to gender equality, women's rights and the empowerment of women under its Constitution 2015. The Constitution guarantee of fundamental rights to Nepalese women, including the right to freedom, equality and social justice, presented a particularly important milestone and<sup>12</sup>provided for women's right to equal pay and social security, established daughters' right to ancestral property, and encouraged special provisions for women's education, health, and employment for increased participation of women in national development. Affirmative action policies have been adopted to ensure women's representation, voice and agency in politics, governance, and in the society more generally. Nepal first ever have had women as Head of the State, Chief Justice, and women as head in Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FNCCI), Minimum 33 percent women candidates in the Constituent Assembly (CA) elections, a minimum representation of women in the Cabinet, other constitutional bodies and public institutions, including local peace committees, the civil service, the police, and the army.<sup>13</sup>There are also provisions for economic and social benefits of women from 2015 to 2019 along with various policies and funds for the enhancement of women.

The decade-long conflict in the past and other political challenges, Nepal has made remarkable progress expanding learning opportunities for children and adults. Net Enrollment Rates (NER) in elementary education, for instance, increased from 66.3 percent in 1999 to 97 percent in 2016. According to UNICEF "Status of women and Children" Nepal achieved an overall adult literacy rate of 65.9 percent (75.1 percent Male and 57.4 percent Female) through varied literacy campaigns, by implementing adult and functional literacy, along with income generating activities. The Government of Nepal has also passed an Inclusive Education Policy with the aim of ensuring quality education and improves all education system.

If we talk about women and health, historically, Nepal has had one of the highest rates of maternal morbidity and mortality in South Asia. <sup>14</sup>The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) in Nepal decreased from 539 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births to 239 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births between 1996 and 2016. The Federal Parliament has passed the Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Right Act. Procedure Guidelines on Safe Abortion Services Programme was revised to implement free abortion services in 2016. Safe abortion services are available free of cost as basic reproductive health care package services in Nepal.

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<sup>12</sup>Civil Society Report on Beijing+25

<sup>13</sup>Single women security fund guideline 2013

<sup>14</sup>National Demographic Survey



The maternal and reproductive health of women and girls has also been improved by implementing the National Safe Motherhood Program through preventive and promotive activities.

Women's economic empowerment is a fundamental prerequisite for every aspect of development. The Constitution of Nepal, 2015 expresses its determination to create an egalitarian society based on the principles of proportional inclusion and participation, to ensure equitable economy, prosperity and social justice. Likewise, at present, numerous new initiatives have been launched by the Government of Nepal such as the Prime Minister's Agricultural Programmes and the President's Women Empowerment Programme which demonstrate government's commitment to invest in the economic development of women. The continued practice of gender-responsive budgeting in its financial planning and programming has contributed positively to increase resource allocation to women.

Constitution of Nepal (2015) protects women from physical, mental, sexual, psychological or other forms of violence or exploitation based on religion, social, cultural tradition, or on any other grounds; makes all acts of VAWG punishable by law; and empowers the victim with the right to obtain compensation. Similarly, government enacted Sexual Harassment at Work Place (Prevention) Act in 2014 and Witchcraft-related Accusation (Crime and Punishment) Act, in 2015. The Country Criminal Code 2017 has elaborate legal framework to address the issue of VAWG. The Act criminalizes all forms of discrimination based on caste, gender, religion, disability and ideology inter alia. It also criminalizes the practice of forced labor, bonded labor and enslavement and makes such practices punishable. Witch-hunting, socially exclusionary and degrading practices like Chaupadiis also criminalized along with child marriage, forced marriage and polygamy. The constitution has partially addressed recognition of gender minorities (LGBTIQ) and they can get citizenship ID and passport by their gender identity.

The Local Government Operation Act 2017 have provisioned for the representation of women in self-governing local units either as Mayors or Deputy Mayors which as a result has reflected on the local elections held where the representation of women has been ensured in 700 local units out of 753 as Deputy Mayors. Around 6567 Dalit female members were able to win in local level election. Out of 753 local bodies, only 18 (3 percent) are headed by women (Chairperson/Mayor and only 23.54 percent are in civil service sector). Currently, women representatives in the local level governments is about 41 percent.

The Government also passed Gender Equality Act, in 2006 and amended almost 56 discriminatory provisions from various laws and policies to end gender violence. Government of Nepal has adopted Zero Tolerance policy on violence against women and declared 2010 as gender violence free year and an inter-ministerial committee formulated to deal with GBV. The government has formulated a national response for prevention of Gender Based Violence (GBV) with special focus on its prevention and the protection of women and girls and has established a gender violence prevention fund.

Mentioning about the land holding over the years, the Government of Nepal has been introducing several proactive measures to promote women's access, ownership, and control over land and property.<sup>15</sup> These measures, depending on the geographical location, include a 25 percent to 50 percent tax exemption on registration when land is owned by a woman; a 35 per cent tax exemption for single women (Financial Bill 2072, Ministry of Finance); and joint registration of land in the names of husbands and wives with a fee of Rs. 100.

### **Key Issues, Challenges and Gaps**

Nepal is a country with a strong patriarchal value and system, where women are considered as subordinated to men. The impact of the existing patriarchal society reflects on the limited participation of women at all levels despite of the reservation policy. In Nepal, most of the women are home based workers and are engaged in informal sector with low wages, where they face harassment and abuses. Although the constitution of Nepal promulgated on 20 September 2015 has brought significant changes to the women

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<sup>15</sup> IOM UN migration Securing Women's Land and Property Rights in Nepal

with 33 percent reservation as well as Gender Equality Bill to address the inequality through legal frameworks. However, a number of factors still exclude women from meaningful participation, access to justice and from the leadership roles.

Goal5 mentions about achieving gender equality and how women and girls can be empowered. Nepal has made remarkable progress in ensuring equal access to education for female, with gender parity in primary and secondary level school enrolment. Several national laws and policies have been amended and enacted to reduce gender based violence. Nepal has also set target to eliminating gender disparity in all levels of education, wage discrimination at similar work, physical and sexual violence, and all harmful practices, and raising the presence of women in the national parliament and public service decision-making positions.

22 percent women in 15-49 age groups have experienced physical violence since age 15. Ever married women reported current husband (84 percent), Ex-husband (11 percent) is perpetrators. Experience of physical or sexual violence increased with age; from 12 percent sexual violence of women with disabilities is high in Nepal, though there is lack of evidence.

VAW cases registered in Nepal Police in Nepal

Year	Rape	Domestic violence	Witchcraft	Child Marriage
2016	1089	9398	28	20
2017	1131	11629	24	26
2018	1480	12225	48	59

Source: According to National Demographic Survey (NDHS) 2016

To implement the Constitution, new Acts need to be formulated to address discrimination and violence against women and girls remain, despite significant and continuous improvement. More than one fourth (26 percent) of women aged 15-49 year 35 experience physical or sexual violence.<sup>16</sup> Among the different forms of violence, domestic violence is predominant followed by girls trafficking, physical/sexual abuse, social abuses and malpractices such as allegation of witchcraft, Chhaupadi (exclusion from family during menstruation), dowry, early marriage (before the age of 18 years) etc. Building and transferring knowledge at province and local level, creating GESI system drafting GESI policies, collecting data, are also macro level challenges.

If we talk about women and economy sector many programmes implemented for financial empowerment of women have failed to meet the intended goals this has created acute challenges for women with regards to access and usage of resources. On the women and education sector persisting challenges are the scholarship programmes for girls initiated by the State are not effective due to lack of monitoring, follow up, learning and programs development mechanism. One of the main persistent challenges is related to existing infrastructure; a majority of the school buildings are not gender and disabled-friendly, environments in terms of infrastructure such as access to classroom, library and toilets. Although state has reaffirmed the provision of highest attainable standard of Reproductive Health Rights through safe motherhood and reproductive rights act 2018, state's inability and gaps to formulate regulation and necessary procedural guidelines has hindered its full and effective implementation.

Gender equality is when people of all genders have equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities.<sup>17</sup> Everyone is affected by gender inequality - women, men, LGBTIQ, children and families. It impacts people of all ages and backgrounds. We need gender equality at all level. Gender equality prevents violence against women and girls. It's essential for economic prosperity. Societies that value women and men as

<sup>16</sup>Civil society report Beijing+25

<sup>17</sup>Civil Society Report on Beijing+25

equal are safer and healthier. Gender equality is a human rights and it not only benefits the women but society as a whole.

Women have unique experiences because of their race, class, religion, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity. Issues of gender equality and women's political participation cut across all segments of the very diverse Nepali society, where gender, caste, geography, disability, age and ethnicity impact an individual's standing. Whether they are Madhesi from the Terai region or Dalit from anywhere in Nepal, women face gender discrimination and inequality. Dalit women and women from lower castes clearly suffer extraordinary challenges based on the continued weight placed on caste in Nepali society. Muslim women must balance conservative religious practice in their homes and communities with civic engagement.

Any public policies and actions must seriously consider the issue of intersectionality. Diversity within women should not be overlooked. Issue regarding gender equality is exclusion of sexual and gender minorities & intersex community (LGBTIQ), even though constitution talks about the equal rights. They often face security threats and sexual violence. There is number of laws they do not recognize LGBTIQ and state is unable to protect them. Transgender people cannot amend citizenship ID as per their preferred name. They can choose only "other" category in gender marker. There is no representation in state structure form sexual and gender minorities community. Definition of minorities fail to include sexual and gender minorities as that this community are left behind to represent in state structure and equal opportunity in employment.

Women with disabilities are confronted by social stigma, discrimination, physical barriers and lack of accessible information and services. Their double marginalization (or multiple marginalization if they are from an ethnic or religious minority or lower caste) places enormous burdens on their everyday life. The rural/urban divide in Nepal places distinct demands on women's experiences in society, especially when the nature of their work may make it more challenging, such as migrant, domestic and factory workers. There is no voice of the rural woman. Women who are single, widowed or divorced navigate these challenges in a patriarchal society that demands male family members in decision-making roles, which makes carrying out even ordinary tasks more difficult. The gender quota with the Dalit women inclusion measure was mandated to improve the representation of one of the most invisible groups of women in Nepali society, but their role is undermined and some of them experience caste-based discrimination even today.

### **Call for Actions**

The decision making role of women in regards to her bodily autonomy, her family community and indifferent state machineries should be considered for the meaningful decision making process. Quality of participation should be improved. Government must implement the recommendations given by periodic review of CEDAW. Government agencies should take concrete actions, at least to achieve 50:50 target of representations in public bodies by 2030.

Ensure equal and equality representation of women at local government by ensuring quality in education and capacity development of rural women and likely giving technical support to the women who are capable to hold the leadership position. State should ensure equal access of all women in internet service to prevent the digital divide.

The policies, law social welfare programme activities implemented by the state have to be implemented effectively/sustainably in targeted manner Effective community awareness program must be run robustly by the state, local governments, private sector and the civic society actors

Increase accountability of law enforcement Interim relief must be provided immediately after commission of the crime; no matter defendants are arrested or not.

Promote an integrated approach to eliminate violence against women by focusing on gender mainstreaming and a zero tolerance to VAW policy at all levels of society to eliminate all forms of violence against women

through policies and programs as well as systems, procedures and processes. The Country Criminal Code 2017 which was passed by the Parliament on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2018 criminalizes Chaupadi and discrimination and exclusion based on menstruation period. The “chaugoth” were destroyed but that didn’t stop them from continuing the practice. The main reason they are following this is because they feel impure and it’s obvious from them to feel this way because of their menstrual hygiene. They don’t have access to sanitary pads, and the ones they get in subsidy is not enough. Though government has been running training and awareness on Menstrual Health Management (MHM), it is not widely practiced and has been limited to few districts. Therefore, before carrying further step MHM should be widely spread.

Perhaps most critically, efforts should be made to regularly convene women’s rights activists from various backgrounds, including substantial representation and engagement from Dalit women and other historically marginalized communities including Madhesi, Muslim and indigenous women, women with disabilities and LGBTIQ. Convening women with a breadth of priorities and experiences will generate familiarity and respect among them, as well as mutually beneficial strategies for achieving gender equality, including the successful implementation of gender quotas.

Amend of definition of “Minorities” and open the opportunity for LGBTIQ to participate in state structure and employment. Citizenship bill should not mention “Need of medical proof” to access citizenship certificate for gender minority peoples.

As with Nepal, diversity among women should be acknowledged and incorporated into the adoption of gender quotas and other affirmative action strategies around the world. This effort cannot be a one-off gesture, however. Rather, policymakers and women leaders must carry out a series of deliberate and inclusive efforts to diversify political participation over time.

Efforts to address gender based violence must be multi-sectorial, including health, education and justice with holistic services such as shelters, helplines, and psycho-social support.

Women’s responsibility for unpaid care work has to be recognized and redistribute within household so that women and girls will have access to education, income generating opportunities and participation in public life. Social Protection for all who are in unpaid care work, informal work.

The commitment to “Leave No One Behind” is to be incorporated effectively to government policy, programmes and budgets, that needs to address the most marginalized women who have experienced of marginalization, extreme poverty, violence and exploitation. Invest on building knowledge and capacity to implement measure normative frameworks i.e. Constitution. GESI issues should be serious included into the periodic/annual plans. Financing for GESI and investment on social norm change and mindset is crucial.

Revisit SDG5 national targets and indicators with thorough consultation with women rights groups. It is recommended to adopt and establish GESI data collection, GESI Budget, and track the progress through robust monitoring system.

## **Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**

### **Progresses and Achievements**

Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG6) aims to ensure water and sanitation for all, and to stop open defecation by 2030. There are six targets within the SDG6 prepared by Government of Nepal. As per the national goal, it is aimed that the basic water supply coverage will become 99 percent whereas improved sanitation facility is aimed to reach to 95 percent by 2030 (SDP, 2030) in Nepal.

However, water coverage has modest growth reaching to 89 percent only while basic sanitation coverage leaped forward with toilet coverage 99 percent with through the nationwide Open Defecation Free Campaign. Nepal has been declared as ODF on 30 September 2019 where Total Sanitation Guideline 2015 as the base beyond ODF though SHMP itself also holds the mandate beyond ODF. If functionality is considered water coverage drops down below 50 percent.

The National Budget over the last four years indicates that the budget for sanitation is increasing, but that for wastewater and solid waste management is fluctuating. Stand-alone sanitation budget found encouraging.

Water Sector Ministry has drafted the WASH Sector Development Plan (SDP) and waiting for endorsement by government of Nepal. Recently the sector ministry has also published WASH status report of Nepal. Various activities are planned and proposed in draft WASH Sectoral Development Plan to contribution to meet WASH SDG targets by 2030.

All seven Provincial governments and 753 Local governments (Rural/Municipalities) are also well resourced in the federal context with WASH mandates and resource is dedicated to WASH services. As per the federal constitution, WASH plans and programmes are developed at municipal level integrating with other development agenda. Municipalities' sanitation investment also includes solid waste and drainage management as it is on high public demand.

### **Key Issues, Challenges and Gaps**

There is an established monitoring and evaluation system; National Management of Information Programme (NMIP) which followed a conventional and manual format system about collecting programme data. It could be link with the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) integrating Water and Sanitation component indicator such as use of improved water sources, use of improved sanitation, hand washing and water quality etc.

Basic water supply coverage reached 90 percent, however, less than half of the households have access to piped water supply and it is varying across social groups and place of residence. It will drop down below 50 percent if considered the functionality. Providing the safe water is challenging, only 20 percent population are provided the safe and treated water whereas 80 percent households are using contaminated water with E. coli.

Nation has declared the ODF and achieved the basic sanitation coverage, it is a challenge to sustain the sanitation progress and achieved total sanitation environment. Although two-thirds population is using latrine, only 30 percent urban households are connected to sewer systems. However, there is still a challenge to close the sanitation gap and treatment and safe disposal of the wastewater.

The sector should focus on water quality and functionality of the infrastructures, safe, hygienic, and functional toilet facilities to move beyond toilet coverage. All WASH sector agencies and partners need to continue to support in sustaining and upgrading WASH facilities and activities.

Transgender and gender diverse people could not access public toilets.

There is a wider opportunity for Nepal to move forward to implement SDG6. The policies need to revise to align with SDGs and to be translated in annual plans with appropriate budget allocations.

The national periodic plans need to be translated into actions, work plan with budget and time-frame should be continued to follow periodic plans. It is also equally important to clarify roles of different stakeholders and build capacity of human resources in all level to effective implement SDGs.

The nation should plan and move forward to achieve SDG6 target with appropriate indicators and plans beyond coverage of water and sanitation.

Lack of implementation strategy and plan for all SDG6 targets, lack of plans for implementation of goals at provincial and local government levels for enhancing operational activities, lack of a clear data, knowledge-base and monitoring systems to track SDG targets, limited functional secretariat to address SDG6 at local and provincial levels, capacity gaps of CSOs in line with implementation of SDG6 and absence of community stakeholders' participation in the process, lack of consolidated effort and defined advocacy agenda and contextual analyses of micro level issues, and engagement of CSOs in the federal, limited engagement in provincial and local level are some challenges to be addressed.

## Call for Actions

Re-assess a set of data and knowledge to define accurate baseline and develop a platform for data analytics, preferably employing AI (artificial intelligence) enabled system, which would allow continued monitoring and analysis of information and facilitate a robust and objective decision making process. Accordingly, plan and set realistic and achievable indicators for all the SDG6 targets, which are also cross-verifiable with SDG3 indicators for ensuring impacts. Nepal needs to give priority to personal hygiene.

Revisit the strategy by separately addressing the issues around urban and rural areas, as they present entirely different setup in terms of challenges, opportunities, resources/capacity, as well as regulatory provisions.

Government needs to plan to re-activate all Federal, Provincial and R/Municipality level existing structures WASHCC and must give them business for functioning and wider actors' engagement.

WASHCC at all level should start comprehensive discussion among sector actors about the strategies and plans for localizing SDG targets and enhancing operational action.

Make national estimate comparable with JMP.

All gender toilets within disabled friendly toilets for easy access of toilets for trans and gender diverse people

Government and development partners shall plan and budget for institutional capacity building and sustaining of CSOs.

Government should focus on quality of potable water and functional services and facilities adapting to local context and needs.

CSOs need to develop clear and common strategy to make governments accountable for sector progress in line with SDG6. CSOs should have their consolidated effort and defined advocacy agenda, own functional roles and contextual analyses of SDG targets to advocate government and sector partners. CSOs should be engaged in the federal, provincial and local level to support sector actors and educate and instill knowledge and skills to local community stakeholders for managing the WASH infrastructures and services.

## Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

### Progresses and Achievements

In case of SDG Goal 7, it has 3 major indicators and they are further divided into 11 different sub-indicators. As per the baseline conducted in 2015, the progress is presented in the table below:

Indicators	2015 (Baseline)	2020 March (Achievement)	2030 (Target)
Proportion of population with access to electricity	74%	85.69%	99%
Per capita energy consumption (in gigajoule)	16	19.3	24
Households using solid fuel as primary source of energy for cooking	74.7%	62.5%	30%
People using liquid petroleum gas (LPG) for cooking and heating	18%	22.5%	39%
Electricity consumption (kWh per capita)	80	245	1500
Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption	11.9%	17.64%	50%
Installed capacity of hydropower (MW)	782	1167	15000
Commercial energy use per unit of GDP (ToE/mRs)	3.2		3.14

In order to achieve the figures presented in the table presented above, the government and private sectors contributed lots of efforts. The efforts made by government side are from policy level and implementation level both. The policy efforts were realized from facilitation of conducive environment for investment and

business ecosystem by the proclamation of various policy documents such as "Rural Energy Policy 2006", "Climate Change Policy 2011", "Renewable Energy Subsidy Policy 2016", "Biomass Energy Strategy - 2017" and mentioning "Electric Stoves in each house" in "White Paper 2018". The government also made favorable environment by reduction and exemption of custom duty and VAT for promotion of electricity, renewable energy, clean cooking and biomass energy-based technologies etc. As a result of conducive and favorable environment, a tangible number of private sectors have been able to achieve generation license of hydro-electricity of more than 6500 MW and installed capacity reached to 1167 MW. The electricity access has been reached to more than 85.69 percent of total population whereas the penetration of renewable energy technology reached to 17.64 percent. Similarly, the access to clean cooking has been reached to 22.5 percent while the consumption of traditional solid fuel has been reduced to 62.5 percent. The per capita electricity consumption has been remarkable increased to 245 kWh and per capita energy consumption reached to 19.3 GJ which are the major indices of overall development of the country.

Similarly, the financial institutions (banks) and private sectors have made a huge investment for development of hydroelectricity through various projects running in the country. In partnership with government, I/NGOs and private sectors, the "National Electric Cooking Campaign" initiated electric cooking in various districts of the country. With support from government, more than 300 Community Rural Electrification Entities (CREEs) have been able to extend basic electricity access to more than 5,50,000 rural households in 53 districts of the country.

### **Key Issues, Challenges and Gaps**

However, with contribution and joint effort of government and private sectors all, most of the indicators of SDG7 has been able to get some positive achievement towards its target, still this sector has some issues those may act as obstacle to reach the target within set time.

- Goal 7 is not being considered as a cross cutting issue to achieve the target of other goals of SDG.
- Substantial reduction on consumption of electricity due to shut down of entire business, commercial and industrial activities during worldwide COVID-19 pandemic situation.
- Unequitable distribution of energy access between haves and have not groups.
- There may be chance of discrimination in distribution of access of energy to different constituencies like marginalized and pro-poor groups, people living in remote areas and other deprived groups etc.
- There is no diversification of use of clean and green energy for different sectors which could achieve the target in faster way.
- Lack of skilled and specialized human resources such as energy efficiency and energy audit experts.
- Continuation of subsidy on LPG rather than promotion of carbon neutral and clean and green energy to develop climate resilient society.
- No any concrete projects on clean cooking technologies.

### **Call for Actions**

- Government and private sectors should realize that the energy sector is only one component which would recover the country from COVID-19 pandemic situation in faster way than others in terms of revival of agriculture, education, technology, business, industry, employment etc.
- Government should adopt necessary policy to increase the access of decentralized clean and green energy to the marginalized and deprived groups without any discrimination. For instance, PWDs also need energy to ease their life and mobility.
- It's right time to bring policy to increase the consumption of electricity per capita and energy efficiency rather than access to energy to develop and maintain the quality of life of citizens.

- Priority to diversification of energy into different applications such as clean cooking, irrigation, modernization of agriculture, electric transport, rural and cottage industries and other productive applications etc.
- For the development of carbon neutral and climate resilient society, the existing subsidy on LPG must be transferred to electricity and other renewable energy based clean cooking technologies. The custom duty, excise duty and VAT on electric vehicles must be eliminated for tangible replacement of fossil fuel-based transportation system.
- National and provincial planning commissions should be able to realize that the energy as a core and cross cutting component of development and it must be integrated to other sectors such as agriculture, education, health, business, industry, technology and so on.
- There must be a well coordination among all three tier government bodies for planning and execution of their activities in line with SDG targets.
- Provision of department/desk of energy in all (rural) municipalities for increasing wider and diversified access of energy to the people of the country.

## **Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**

### **Progresses and Achievements**

By the end of 2019, Nepal's GDP per capita showed a rising trend, reaching USD 1034 as compared to USD 998 in the previous year. Average economic growth rate in last three years was 7.3 percent. While this progress is in line with the targeted growth rate of 4.5 by 2022, slower than anticipated growth might be the norm for the next few years since agricultural yield, industry, services and remittances will likely be hard-hit by the outbreak of COVID-19. Economic growth rate likely to go down even further due to loss of productivity in the coming years. These factors combine to work against Nepal's aims of achieving its target of per employed person real GDP growth rate of 5.5 by 2022.

The present unemployment rate in the country stands at 11.4 percent, while the underutilization rate of labor is at 39.2 percent. In this respect, the targeted underemployment rate of 19.5 percent by 2022 seems very daunting. Nepal therefore has a lot of ground to cover if it is to achieve its targeted underemployment rate of 10 percent by 2030. The country is also supposed to promote development-oriented policies to decrease informal employment and encourage the growth of small and medium enterprises. As of FY2019, 41 percent of labor is employed in the informal sector, against the target of 10 percent in 2030.

In the past, remittances had been counter-cyclical, where workers dispatched more money back home in periods of crisis. For instance, the compensatory response of remittances was a valuable mechanism for disaster relief in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in April 2015. However, this is not true in the present context. In the ninth month of FY 2019/20, Nepal's remittance income dropped sharply by 51.4 per cent to Rs. 34.5 billion as compared to Rs. 71 billion in the same month of FY 2018/19. Because of this, the country's inflow of remittances fell by 4 per cent to Rs. 626.9 billion in the first nine months of FY 2019/20 in comparison to Rs. 653.2 billion in the corresponding period of the previous year. Moreover, according to the World Bank, remittances to Nepal are expected to fall by 14 percent in 2020.

It should be recalled that remittances contributed 27.3 per cent to the country's GDP in 2019. Currently, most of the destination countries attractive for the Nepali workers have announced a lockdown. In this situation, the effect of COVID-19 on remittances could be very damaging, and Nepal will have to forego the crucial contribution to its GDP that the country gains from remittances.

Nepal has high potentiality of eco and cultural tourism. Number of tourists arrived in Nepal was gradually increasing in past few years. Number of star and non-star hotel has been increased in the country. Nepal announced Nepal Visit Year 2020, but it has been postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic.



## Key Issues, Challenges and Gaps

Excluding the winding-down period, Nepal has just a little or five years to achieve its stipulated goals. For the country to make the most of this time, there are several key issues that need to be focused on. COVID-19 has badly affected the economy of the country. Economic growth is expected to decrease to 2.5 percent in 2020. Federal Government proposed 7 percent economic growth rate for FY 2020/21, which is most likely impossible. Moreover, emergence of COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on lives and livelihood of the people posed the question on growth-model development. Neo-liberal economy will not serve the people. Government introduced Prime Minister Employment Programme and its annual budget is heavily increased, but this programme is seemed ineffective.

Reduced domestic demand and the adverse long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are likely to decrease industrial output. Major industries like iron, cement, and brick have for the past few years already been operating below their full capacity, and this is likely to continue. In addition, the government policies on real estate lending have also contributed to the sluggish growth in this sector. Therefore, for employment and output in this sector to increase to targeted levels, judicious restructuring of the economy and reformulation of financial policies are required.

Growth of private consumption in the country is expected to take a significant hit. This was already the case before the pandemic, since Nepali currency has recently been depreciating, thus eroding purchasing power. The post-pandemic situation looks worse, given that volume of remittance is likely to stumble.

Natural hazards frequently tend to decrease farm outputs and damage the infrastructure in the poverty-stricken areas of Nepal. The Twenty-Year Agricultural Development Strategy was announced in FY2017, but in the absence of implementation of such announced policies, and lack of support for use of advanced technology, entrepreneurship, innovation, and development of commercial agriculture with access to better technology and financial services, such problems are likely to persist.

Because of discrimination for equal opportunity in employment, many transgender people are involve in sex work. No law of employment address quota, reservation and equal opportunity in employment for LGBTIQ people. PWDs do not get opportunity for nurse training.

Not much progress has been made in Nepal regarding decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation. Hence, promotion of sustainable consumption and production, which requires decrease in material footprint per capita, needs to be seen as an urgent issue, if the targeted rate of 60 percent material intensity in total manufacturing is to be achieved by 2030.

Nepal faces capacity deficiencies not only regarding execution of announced policies, but also regarding collection of data to support evidence-based reforms in the economy. Together with these dual problems, lack of fiscal prudence and accountability are likely to undermine Nepal's aspiration of high economic growth and poverty reduction. To further exacerbate the problem, exogenous shocks such as COVID-19 will weaken global demand, affecting out-migration for foreign employment and putting pressure on Nepal's economic targets for 2030.

A number of Nepali migrants have already lost their jobs due to the crisis. As uncertainties of the pandemic unfolded in February and early March, a large number of workers had returned to their hometowns and villages in Nepal. Still, many migrants were unable to return after the declaration of a nationwide lockdown by the government on March 24. All in all, the coming back of overseas workers is a misfortune for Nepal as the country will lose the desperately needed hard currency. Moreover, there will be many more to the already unemployed figure. This could lead to many households gradually falling below the poverty line. It is very serious that who are already marginalized and vulnerable, specially youth, they are losing their employment. Many returnees from Gulf, Malyasi and India will be from Dalits, Madhesis and Indigenous People.

Though a few view that remittances could recover relatively quickly, as was the case in the aftermath of the global financial crisis of 2008, it will be different this time around. In the first place, COVID-19 is truly global. Secondly, with oil prices at extraordinarily low levels, employment opportunities in the oil-rich Gulf nations could come to a standstill. Thirdly, India, a popular choice for Nepal's poor migrants, is also encountering a prolonged slowdown.

The tourism sector is expected to bear the brunt of the adverse economic effects of COVID-19. Nepal expects to attract 3 million tourists by 2030 and create 1 million jobs in tourism industries. With the calling off of Visit Nepal 2020 and the long-term restrictions on global international travel, such targets do seem unreasonable at present.

### **Call for Actions**

Concerted efforts from the government, private sector, and the public are required for Nepal to reach its targets for 2030. The following five action points are of urgent importance:

- Nepal's industrial development strategy needs to maintain balance between high economic growth and low material footprint. This means choosing a strategy that is not based on high carbon emissions. For a country that is not sufficiently industrialized, this requires cooperation and coordination between the government, industries, and the civil society.
- Government can make employment centre and develop a roster of people, who want are seeking for jobs. Moreover, they can test their skills and go into job market. Employment programmes must have special provisions to provide employment opportunities of PWDs. CTEVET and other public technical institute should develop special course targeting to PWDs for their employment.
- Investment in technology, finance, and commercial agriculture can be a way forward for increasing employment and formalization of informal labor force. The existence of fallow lands and the loss of potential production have hampered Nepal's self-sufficiency in food and other consumable goods. To address this problem, the private sector can take a decisive step with the help of clear government policies and subsidies. Addressing this issue alone can generate high levels of employment and bring the current rate of underemployment closer towards the 2030 targets. In addition, Government should amend existing laws for equal employment opportunities for extremely minority population such as LGBTIQ by including provision of quota, reservation etc.
- Policies regarding taxation, regulations, and investment have a direct consequence on unemployment, poverty, inequality, exclusion, and segregation. In order to re-orient such policies towards economic growth, substantial improvement is needed regarding fiscal prudence and accountability standards.
- The level of national compliance of labor rights needs to be further improved so as not to disadvantage women, migrants, and those in precarious employment. Policies aimed towards reduction of informal labor should be pursued in connection with recognition of basic labor rights. Cooperation between the government and civil society organizations is of vital importance in this regard.
- Agriculture and forestry sector can generate huge number of employment in the country. All level of governments should invest in agriculture to create the jobs, who lost their jobs within and outside the country.

### **Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation**

#### **Progresses and Achievements**

During the past two decades, Nepal has significantly improved its infrastructure sector. The length of roads reached 34,347 km in 2019. The road density was 0.42 per sq. km in 2019. 51.4 percent of people have access to a paved road within 30 minutes' walk. The construction of rail road tracks has begun. Nepal

constructed 576 bridges in last five years. Government has amended Company Act to end the syndicate of transportation entrepreneurs.

Connectivity by air transport is improving with 33 airports in operation and 25 domestic private airlines and 26 international airlines operating flights in and to Nepal. The country's tourism infrastructure is also improving with 1,073 tourist standard hotels in 2020. Nepal has greatly improved its information and communication technology infrastructure as the density of telephone users reached 110 percent. In 2016, the share of industry in GDP was 15 percent, and manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP was 6.5 percent.

Electricity is now accessible to 70 percent of total population. 78.9 percent of population has access in motorable road, 25 KM rail road open in this year and east west electricity railway 641 km DPR is ready for upcoming years. 90 percent people are using mobile phone, 72 percent population using television and 87 percent population has access to the national radio, Internet access is available to the 55.4 percent in total population. The length of railway in Nepal is now 42 km.

In this period, Government has passed Industrial Business Act 2019, and amended Micro-Enterprise Development Programme Directive and Special Economic Act. According to Government, total number of industries is 8212 including big, medium and small scale industries and they are providing employment to 615 thousand people. According to the World Bank, Doing Business Environment Index is improved, its rank is reached to 94 in 2019, which was 107 in 2017. Nepal is third position after India and Bhutan in South Asian countries. Number of registration of companies is increased to 25 thousand. In 10 industrial areas, 637 industries are running.

### **Key Issues, Challenges and Gaps**

Contribution of manufacturing business in industries is only 5.5 percent in last five years. That indicates poor presence of industries in the country. It is estimated that contribution of economic growth will be -2.3 percent.

Country is not able to start mining industries, but 26 cement factories are being operated in the country. Limited funding, quality and reliability of infrastructure needs improvement, lack of skilled human resource and use of appropriate technology, difficult terrain, and lack of appropriate equipment for construction and maintenance of roads and transmission lines, natural calamities prone country lack of education and awareness, political instability, and dependent mentality are some issues for infrastructure development.

In some infrastructure development projects Indigenous people have very bitter experience. Development activities should protect habitat, culture and livelihoods of the local people, rather than to displace them. It is estimated that about 150 thousand people have been displaced in Kathmandu valley in the name of expansion of roads. Fast tracks and outer ring roads are those projects, which are displacing Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Most likely, they will also be going to lose their lands, which is not justice.

Reconstruction works after 2015 earthquake are experienced not sensitive to the cultural and indigenous architecture of indigenous nationalities. For instance, the designs prescribed by National Reconstruction Authority undermined the Stone roofing practice of Thami community.

### **Call for Actions**

- Improve planning for infrastructure, and improve coordination and integration of different types of infrastructure.
- Allocate budget for scientific research related to the use of science and technologies for infrastructure. Increase fund for infrastructure development and related research and studies.
- Upgrade relevant technologies that are suitable for Nepal's conditions.

- All level governments and private investors should obey the principle of Free Prior Informed Consent, when they want to work in those areas where people are living there for a long time.
- Create standards for quality infrastructure design, construction and maintenance. Designs of public infrastructures should be gender friendly and disabled friendly.
- Create opportunities for continuous improvement for personnel related to infrastructure by making training, manuals and support systems available.
- Encourage private providers of infrastructure when desirable, and promote public-private partnership in infrastructure provisions such as in transportation, energy and utilities.
- Create appropriate levels of funding and capacity for the maintenance of infrastructure.
- Prioritize travelers and vehicular safety in the construction of roads with an aim to achieve drastically reduced or even zero road fatality within seven-ten years.
- Create Green Infrastructure Standards and Manuals for the country, regions and local level jurisdictions that include water conservation, site water retention, water flows and retention, pavements, passive solar systems and use of local construction materials.
- Consider the impacts of impending climate change in the planning and design of infrastructure.
- Devise systems, mechanisms, checks and plans to complete infrastructure projects on time.

#### **Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries**

##### **Progresses and Achievements**

Nepal is witnessing various forms of inequalities including gender inequality, caste and ethnicity based inequality, ability based inequality, and geographical inequality in terms of access to resources, opportunities, wealths and public services. Unequal access to and representation in power structures is the serious issue in the country.

The key targets for SDG10 are to reduce consumption inequality (index) from 0.33 in 2015 to 0.16 by 2030 and to reduce income inequality from 0.46 to 0.23 at the same time period. The PALMA index is targeted to improve from 1.3 to 1 in the same period.

Government has been emphasizing in skill development of poor and marginalized groups. Local government is prioritizing income generation and self-employment opportunities. There has been the provision of poverty identity card and farmer identity card. Opportunities of employment have been created through Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization Programme and Prime Minister Employment Programme. Constitution of Nepal has ensured fundamental rights of its citizens. There is provision of reservation system ensured by constitution for those caste, gender and regions who are excluded.

Constitution states proportional inclusion of women, Janajati, Madhesi, Muslim, Dalits and castes who are excluded from social and politically. Due to this, women representation in governance system has been increased notably and Dalit women have also been gaining opportunity for the same. Through the local election, 41 percent women are elected as local representatives where 6529 Dalit women are also elected as Dalit women ward members too.

There is provision of Caste-based discrimination and Untouchability (offence and punishment) Act 2011 and constitution also declared Caste-Based Discrimination and Untouchability as Crime. Strict laws have been enforced at central level against any type of gender discrimination and women violence and such laws are progressively enforced at provincial and local levels too.

Ministry of Social Development has been established at provincial level in order to make social development even more effective. But, trend on budget allocation must ensure gender equality in provincial and local level government.

It seems that Nepalese who fly abroad as labor force have not been treated well and are not safe compared to immigrants of Nepal. However, some improvements have been made compared to previous years in this issue.

### **Key Issues, Challenges and Gaps**

- Though Nepal government has developed positive initiatives for unemployed and poor people, these programmes have not been effective. Poverty reduction programmes have not outreached effectively to poor groups. COVID-19 crisis has clearly exposed the severity of inequality of Nepalese society.
- Inequality is clearly observed in employment opportunities and representation in the state structures. Marginalized communities such as Dalits, women, minorities are deprived. PWDs are facing various forms of inequalities in the country.
- Prime Minister Employment Programme has not been able to engage youths in creative works.
- Though there is provision of farmer identity card and poverty identity card, no initiatives has been taken to bring this provision in effect.
- Inclusion and reservation quotas have not been completely implemented by the government. Public Service Commission, Law Commission, and other commissions have published notice against such reservation quotas to appoint staffs. This is completely against the norms of the constitution.
- Provision of land grant to landless Dalits for one time has not been clearly indicated the Land Act of the constitution and such constitutional provision has not been implemented so far.
- Though there is provision in the constitution to eliminate caste-based discrimination from society, due to lack of implementation of such laws, human rights of so-called untouchable groups have been violated.
- Monitoring mechanism is needed to develop at all levels of the government structure for the effective implementation of SDGs and monitor the situation of inequalities.
- Though women and Dalits are included in the government decision making structure, no meaningful participation has taken place so far. It should be emphasized in their skill and capacity development for the meaningful participation in decision making process. Dalit women have represented in wards only as ward members and they are not getting meaningful role. Dalit women participation should be ensured meaningful role in decision-making and law-making position as well.

### **Call for Actions**

- Provision and laws should be made on 'equal pay for equal works' by district coordination committee and province government between and among men and women.
- Economic development programme and formal and informal employment environment should be made by the government to eliminate economic disparities of poor, Dalits and excluded groups.
- There must be provision of compulsory budget allocation for economic development and empowerment of target groups by new laws and provisions like previous practices by (VDC and DDC block grant) Nepal.
- Government should make reasonable agreement with those countries where Nepalese people go for labor works to ensure their safety and dignity and reasonable payment for their jobs.
- Plans should be made to create Jobs within Nepal since foreign Job is never be reliable.

- Awareness raising: Inequality of various forms is the serious problem. So, we need to raise awareness against inequality at national, provincial and local level withing government entities, private business and CSOs.
- Advocacy for allocation of budget and programmes: CSOs need to organize delegation campaigns and initiate intensive discourse for development of programmes and allocation of budget in favor of poor and marginalized community at all levels.
- Public consultation and lobby for equitable development method: To prioritize development of backward province and municipality through public consultation to eliminate economic, social and cultural differences of the country.
- Assessment to find out all discriminatory laws and provisions against LGBTIQ people and address the gaps through laws and policies.
- It is strongly recommended when making public public pólices, programmes and budgets, they sould give priority those communities, who are really left behind. Political society, policy makers and government machineries must change their mind set to do so.
- There should intensive public dialogues on Goal 10 at all levels for its appropriate implementation in the country.

## **Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

### **Progresses and Achievements**

SDGs Status and Roadmap: 2016-2030 published by NPC in 2018 states issues of safety of buildings, emerging private sector in housing, urban slum are its issues of consideration in Goal 11. The 2030 target it takes is to construct at least 60 new satellite cities. The plan targets to complete the reconstruction of houses, public buildings and heritage sites destroyed by the earthquake of 2015 by 2020 through publicly subsidized funding. The target is to make at least 50 percent of the highways safe by global standards. The proposed specific targets for 2030 include doubling the proportion of households living in safe houses to 60 percent; substantially reducing air pollution, preventing the deaths and injuries due to disaster, and increasing the budget allocation to the protection of cultural heritage from about 1.15 percent in 2015 to 2 percent by 2030. People living in safe houses reached 40 percent and 27 new cities have been established in the country.

Distribution of land to slum dwellers has been announced, but the public lack trust in the plan to be fair and doubt it could be given to people with connections, political affiliation or for corrupt purposes. Rural road construction and expansion of existing roads has happened on a rapid scale.

The government has been working on about 30 satellite cities, with 4 inside the capital city of Kathmandu valley, 5 in regions around Kathmandu, 10 in the hilly regions along the mid hill highway, and about 10 city planning in the plains. Nepal has established air pollution monitoring centres in 29 cities. Also, it has established Air Quality Data Display Board in 7 places of the country.

Public transport improvement was visible in some cities mostly led by private sectors. Projects on electric rail connection between cities have been ongoing which is a positive step. Bagmati Province Government has also committed to electrification of urban transport in major cities, but there is no concrete step to meet that goal has been identified.

### **Key Issues, Challenges and Gaps**

The goal to complete reconstruction of homes and cultural heritage destroyed by the 2015 earthquake has not been achieved. The Government has to take the responsibility of failing to engage the community in the reconstruction of cultural heritage, causing delay in heritage reconstruction. Road accidents and fatalities continued to grow as the government built multilane urban highways through the center of cities all around

Nepal. These constructions focused on speeding vehicles through dense settlements. It did not have preventive measures to reduce coalition and no public notice or instructions were made targeting non motorist road users and the general public on how to use it while new infrastructure was being built. This increases fatal collisions and sense of insecurity among vulnerable population. Government focused on multi lane highways and overhead bridges in cities without considering accessibility for all and particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged population. Road construction has been taking place rapidly but lack of proper environment assessment, or geographical study has caused environmental hazards in many cases. The safety of such roads built haphazardly without sufficient assessment and engineering remains questionable.

Government regulations and investment to ensure improvement in public transport and its reliability and accessibility remained nominal. The continued increase in sales of private vehicles indicates the absence of any progress in access and quality of public transport, also caused by the private vehicle centric development that the government is leading, that is rather reducing the factors of equity and accessibility to mobility for all. PWDs and senior citizens do not have full access to public spaces. Public infrastructures are not disable friendly. Roads are being built only to operate vehicles, blind people, cyclists, wheel-chair holders are suffering a lot. PWDs community feels that reconstruction of infrastructure facilities are not disable friendly.

Most of the new city planning are done with private vehicles in mind, and is likely to conflict with climate goals, and responsible consumption goals of SDGs. As these designs threaten agricultural lands in many sites, it is also threatening the sustainability aspect of these settlements impacting SDG goals on hunger and poverty reduction. Public participation in selection of these sites for new cities, and in the process of the design, has been limited to formality thus failing to achieve the best sustainable design for these future cities.

Some of the development projects especially the national pride project of Kathmandu-Terai fast track has threatened to impact the cultural heritage settlement of Bungamati and Khokana. The government remained insensitive on the issue, as the local communities protested the decision to exploit land used for cultural rituals against their will. Cultural heritage reconstruction was slow and the government faced protests from the local community as it did not meet the standards of heritage conservation, while lacking sufficient public participation in decision making processes.

Though some efforts have been visible at the municipal level to better manage waste, no considerable efforts to permanently reduce air pollution was recognized. Inclusion of DRR in local development planning process is still an issue, although Governments has been able to bring Disaster Risk Reducation and Management Act in 2018.

The government has failed to promote local material construction and has played a significant role in rather promoting energy intensive, industrial construction materials that are unsustainable and bad for the local economy.

### **Call for Actions**

The development of new cities can go against the sustainability goals and threaten to contribute to more consumption and exploitation of natural resources like agriculture land, and water. New cities can also go against the goals of inclusivity and accessibility for all as the development can be expensive. The city design process has to be made more participatory, public transport oriented, people-centric and encouraging dense mix use urban design. Urban growth must ensure equity, economic prosperity and environmental benefits for all the residents.

The current vehicle-centric road expansion projects in major cities can disrupt inclusivity for all especially, for the vulnerable population. Multilane highways should be avoided through dense settlements and if needed, should include drastic measures to ensure safety and accessibility of all road users. Investment in public transport rather than road expansion should be prioritized.

Infrastructure to promote and support non-motorized transports (NMT) like walking, cycling, city rickshaw and micro-mobility equipment should be made priority. Urban and rural road expansion programs should follow more stringent policies to reduce the environmental impact and to ensure safety standards of the roads. Investment in better public transport, and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructures should be considered as a more achievable short-term goal that is accessible to majority of the population, then aiming for high tech expensive long-term transport goals like Metro.

In disaster management planning, issues of women, PWDs, senior citizens, Dalits and other vulnerable people should be seriously considered. Nepal should strictly follow Sendai Framework 2015 to reduce the loss and damage.

We need to enhance urban planning capacities in the local level. Training and deployment of planners in all levels of government. Creating of planning and design standards for smaller, medium and large towns and cities. Improving municipal administration and management through training and education. Creation of national, regional and local standards for planning, sub-division, utilities and urban road and transportation. Integrated urban, sectoral plans should respect the issue of gender equality.

Urban development should be guided by the objectives of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and to adapt to the impending impacts of climate change. Additionally, disasters caused by earthquakes, floods, mudslides and other disturbances. The plans and design for urban development and revitalization should include provision of open public spaces, sidewalks, gathering spaces, parks and areas devoted for water retention and flow. There should be special protection and preventive measures for PWDs, Women, Children, senior citizens and people living in risk areas such as river side, slums, slopy areas.

There is a need for the civil society to call for more democratic and participatory procedures while making decisions about any single public infrastructure or while planning and making decisions about every step of major projects like city and town development. A separate policy to ensure public consultation and democratic voting procedures to take approval from the public and local community before construction of public infrastructure should be advocated by the CSO. Public housing projects for vulnerable population at municipal level can also be considered as a safety net for poor residents.

Specific standards and targets should be devised to improve public accessibility, mobility and safety. A well-documented survey to identify the present status will also be needed to create improved plans and programmes related to urban development.

## **Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**

The Government of Nepal has undertaken some major steps in the given time-frame. The Renewable Energy Subsidy policy was launched in 2073 BS with an aim to reduce dependency on traditional and imported energy by increasing access to renewable energy for improving the livelihood of people and create employment opportunities in the rural areas. Similarly, Nepal Renewable Energy Program (NREP), a 4.5 years' programme commenced in February 2019 is to be operated in Province Number 2 and Province Number 5, and Karnali which is designed to support Government of Nepal and private sector plans and invest in renewable, sustainable energy resulting in economic growth, poverty reduction and climate smart development in communities across Nepal. Likewise, with a view to make Nepal free from hunger and malnutrition by 2025, the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD) launched the Zero Hunger Challenge Initiative on 19 December 2014. As a follow up to this activity, this National Action Plan (2016 – 2025) formulation task was undertaken to establish necessary implementation framework. In launching the initiative as well as in formulating this plan, the MoAD has received support from various national and international development partners working for poverty reduction, food security and nutrition. The SDG indicators are produced at Provinces and Local levels to assist policy decisions. An online portal on NPC website, open to public has assured the public access to useful information regarding SDGs, Responsible Production and Consumption.



## **Key Issues, Challenges and Gaps**

Despite the above mentioned achievements, there is a huge scope of improvement regarding the effective implementation of SDG12 in Nepal which is only possible through overcoming the prevailing challenges. As Nepal is a developing country and most of the people are economically poor, poverty is surely a problem here.

In order to replace or improvise the unhealthy practices, an economic assurance to the producer level individuals is a must. Similarly, limited data availability and absence of a data consolidation platform has caused a problem in precise study of the implementation pattern. Capacity development and improvement of physical as well as statistical infrastructure can be seen as a major issue to be addressed. Hence, necessary production of qualitative data, its dissemination and proper use along with establishment of a strong physical infrastructure base is essential.

Resource availability must be ensured and collaboration with international and national institutions must be made for its sustainable utilization. Taking climate change and indigenous knowledge side by side will definitely strengthen the impact of the policy upon the society.

Of course, this goal directly related with consumers, but 8 national indicators are related with consumers. Indicators proposed by SDGs Roadmap are not relevant and even data are not available. Some of the indicators are not related with SDG12. Nepal is spending a huge amount of money by importing petroleum products. Vegetable coming from India have used lot of pesticides, but Nepal cannot check chemical use for 29 pesticides. Practising mono-culture, chemical fertilizers quality of soil has been degraded in the country. Country has separated forestry, agriculture and irrigation and gender aspect of food system.

After COVID 19 crisis medical wastes and plastic pollution have been increased from hospitals or health care centres. Despite, COVID-19 lockdown helps to reduce air pollutions in the country, it has becoming a serious problem in the country.

## **Call for Actions**

- It must be made mandatory to have SDG indicators at Provinces and Local level so that the policy decisions are made in accordance to them. Next, Nepal needs to revise monitoring indicators of SDG12. Local governments can play very important role to promote sustainable practices, but they need incentives for changing their working pattern.
- Environment protection law should be fully implemented. EIA report of each project should be seriously monitored by government authorities. Governments should introduce Polluters Pay principles.
- Country needs to give importance to the Ministry of Environment. There should be separate and strong ministry to look after environment because environment is cross-cutting agenda of all development sectors. Number of environment inspectors should be appointed in all the local governments and province governments.
- The prevailing chemicals used in industries and agricultural enterprises must be graded on the basis of their persistence, bio accumulation and effects on the environment and health. The ones with severe impacts must be banned. Plastic pollution should be strictly controlled, local governments should play effective role to control plastic pollution and development of effective sewerage systems in their areas. Haphazard road constructions, crooked industries and extraction of sands and pebbles should be controlled.
- A sustainable market policy must be implemented where the role of middle men is minimized or taken care by the government itself so that both producers and consumers are benefitted. Fair market and responsible supply is very important in case of Nepal. Producers and consumers, both should be

responsible. We should develop new market chain system, so that producers and consumers could directly connect each other.

- Further, Nepal has to control food loss including reduction of food waste. Farming, culture of food and nature are closely linked. Some of the production system of indigenous people are nature friendly. Domestic wastes can be used by families for kitchen garden or roof farming. Concept of food bank is good, but there should be storage locally produced food. Old best practices and knowledge should be documented. Media also should be responsible about commercial advertisements they promote junk food and unsustainable practices. Of course, organic farming is good, but it should be developed as a whole system.
- Safer transport of the produced items from producers to consumers must be ensured for minimizing the post-harvest and transportation losses.
- Climate change adaptation should be intensified in all sectors. Monitoring of government programmes is necessary. Green behavior and green governance should be promoted. Climate friendly framework is needed in energy, water resource and economy. New technology should be introduced/ developed to combat the challenges.
- Nepal should implement its land use policy and law for sustainable land use. Sustainable use of forest resource can create jobs in the country by agro-forestry. Of course community forestry is very successful, Dalits and other marginalized communities should have easy access.
- Introduction of sustainable mechanization, use of technology and innovative ideas must be made in the country's agriculture sector for having optimum outcome from decent use of resources.
- Governments at all levels need to include environment in educational curriculums. Food production system, culture and food value should be fully respected. Nepal can build on sustainable and consumption patterns by adapting indigenous culture and value systems. Every person should change their behaviour, and need to adapt nature based life style. Role of academic society is very important for changing behaviours.
- Nepal should go to sustainable mobility, for this government should intervene in public transportation system. Further, there should be cycle lane in each road. Unspent electricity can be used for public transportation. Concept of public procurement should be forcefully applied by the government. Government offices should buy electric vehicles.

### **Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**

#### **Progresses and Achievements**

To strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters, the Government of Nepal, in 2017, developed National Adaptation Plan formulation process. The Government of Nepal incorporated the climate change integration in the development planning process. For example, as its commitment to building resiliency and reducing the risks from changing climate, the 2011 National Climate Change Policy has been updated to Nepal Climate Change Policy in 2019. In 2016, this major policy document of the Government of Nepal was also submitted as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) as a Party to the Paris Agreement.

In 2018, Government of Nepal also formulated National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategic Action Plan, 2018-2030 - in line with Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and SDGs. 217 local governments have developed local climate adaptation resilient development plans. Between 2017-18, according to National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC), Nepal recorded 6381 small and large disaster incidents whereby 968 people killed, 3639 injured and 27256 families affected. This should be reduced to meet the target. Nepal lacks disaster preparedness plan and is focused more on the post disaster recovery.

Nepal has prepared National Framework on Local Adaptation plans of Action (LAPA) and have integrated them into the sectoral development plans. In second week of November 2019, Nepal received it first ever project under Green Climate Fund. The Project Enhancing the resilience of ecosystems and vulnerable communities by adopting climate-resilient land-use practices will receive 39.3 million USD Grant. Under GCF's Readiness Support programme, Nepal received \$1 million to strengthening the country's institutional capacities to access the Green Climate funds. Different CSO's are active at national level on advocating climate change policy issues and community level interventions. Nepal is also promoting clean energy related programme in the country.

### **Key Issues, Challenges and Gaps**

According to Meteorological Department and ICIMOD, Nepal is losing 1.5 to 2.0 percent GDP due to impact of Climate Change. Average rate of increase of temperature is 0.056 degree celcius and precipitation is increased by 2-6 percent to 8-12 percent.

Nepal has adopted a target to integrate climate change measures into national policies to tackle the impacts of climate change. However, capacity to implement such policies reside at the national level, provincial and local governments currently lack capacity and expertise to successfully execute them. Nepal's Federal Government need to plan for a nationwide capacity building programmes to empower and engage provincial and local governments.

While Nepal has prepared guiding document for LAPA, it is not mandatory for the local governments to prepare local adaptation planning. Most of the local government that have prepared local and community level adaptation planning lack financial resources to implement plans and policies.

Government of Nepal intends foster climate smart agriculture and build climate smart villages. In a number of cases, in the name of climate smart agriculture, corporate agenda are being pushed pushing the vulnerable communities further towards climate-related problems. The local governments and communities should be cautious about this market approach to risk reduction. There have been efforts at the national level to develop capacity so that the Green Climate Fund accessed. These efforts seriously undermine the engagement of community-based organizations, grassroots groups and frontline communities. The local groups must be actively engaged in all phases of proposals, planning and implementation of climate-related initiatives and programs. On the other climate iduced diasters are becoming a serious problem in Nepal, they affect badly to women, PWD, children and senior citizens.

### **Call for Actions**

- Even after COVID-19 crisis, the issue of climate change will be continued. Governments at provincial and local levels should be actively engaged in climate change science and policy. Nepal needs to implement its revised NDC very seriously.
- Government of Nepal should strongly advocate against global warming. Climate funds should go beyond ODA. Government can seek grants to support implementation of UN SDG13 and other goals.
- There should be a coordinated effort to prepare local level climate action plans so that it aligns with the national climate plans. Simultaneously, it is important to develop local capacity to help communities secure climate related funds for offsetting carbon emissions, such as afforestation, clean energy, and green development. If carefully designed these activities can secure funds from international and bi-lateral agencies in the form of carbon credits.
- The national government can also create funds that can be awarded to the local governments and local communities to help curb greenhouse gas emission, and promote climate adaptation.
- Support local groups to design, implement and utilize clean energy programmes such as community-based solar-powered irrigation and micro-hydro programmes. Solar powered irrigation systems (SPIS) are a promising alternative to diesel pumps, widely used in Nepal for crop irrigation. Seen as a clean,

low-cost alternative, SPIS is tied to addressing food insecurity by improving access to water in smallholder settings, achieving higher and more resilient agricultural yields, farm incomes and household wellbeing.

- Nepalese farmers live in heterogeneous and risk-prone settings that are further challenged by rapidly changing climatic conditions. It is important to develop location-specific approach to climate smart agriculture.
- Most of the grassroots groups are unaware of link between climate adaptation and SDGs. To bridge these gaps, appropriate communication materials and awareness programmes can be developed.
- CSOs' workings on climate change are fragmented in Nepal. This fragmented approach to dealing with climate change challenge is not going to help collective goal of increasing resilience of vulnerable groups and communities. They should be united and work together for climate justice.
- As a part of preparing next generation of citizens, the government should consider climate change education curriculum at K-12 level. Teachers and educators should be trained to communicate the science and impacts of climate change.
- Like Bangladesh, Nepal needs to develop effective disaster communication system and information dissemination program.

#### **Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**

Since Nepal is a land-locked country, this goal is not directly relevant for Nepal. So, the progress of this goal is not reviewed.

#### **Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**

##### **Progresses and Achievements**

SDG15 targets include (i) ensuring, by 2020, the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and dry lands, in line with obligations under international agreements, (ii) promoting the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, and halt deforestation. It also aims at ensuring by 2030 the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development.

Communities manage 39 percent of Nepal's dense forests, which is reached 42.7 percent (GON). In the context of conservation of bio-diversity, 23.2 percent of total land area is declared as protected. Similarly, the country also protects 1,727 lakes, wetlands and ponds. These areas are located in various ecological zones and have helped in the conservation of the natural, biological and cultural heritage of those areas (NPC, 2015).

More than two-thirds (67.8 percent) of the mountain ecosystem is covered by the conservation areas. Twenty of the total of 5,358 lakes found in Nepal are considered to need special protection (NPC, 2017). So far, 3346 watersheds have been conserved. Similarly, 1,675 kilometers of rivulets and riverbanks have been conserved through bio-engineering processes.

The degradation of natural habitats threatens the country's flora and fauna. Some species are moving towards extinction with declines in both populations and distribution. Nepal is home to 12,480 plant and 11,706 animal species, of which 60 plant species (0.48 percent) and 95 animal species (0.81 percent) are threatened. There are currently 198 tigers, 645 rhinos and 300 blackbuck deer in Nepal (MoF, 2015 and MoFSC, 2015). These and other animals need to be protected.

The government has put three plant species and five animal species under conservation plans. The 2030 target is to increase the number of plant and animal species with conservation plans to 15 each (NPC, 2015). The 2030 target is to maintain the share of protected area at 23.3 of the total land area, increase forest under community management from 39 percent to 42 percent of the forest area, halt forest loss and degradation, increase mountain ecosystem covered by the protected area to 70 percent in 2030, and undertake additional plantation of 5000 hectares each year (NPC, 2017).

### **Key Issues, Challenges and Gaps**

There are several issues and challenges in implementing SDGs. There are significant gaps between the goals and implementation strategy of the government. Some of the key issues and challenges are described as follows.

The current projects are being implemented without carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Initial Environmental Examination (IEE). Each and every sector is affected by the impacts of climate change.

There is lack of sustainable management of water, forest, land, national parks, and other sectors. Air pollution, industrial pollution, lack of infrastructure, lack of technology and skilled human power stands as major challenges in the present context. The growth of haphazard human settlements and unplanned urbanization have added extra threat in implementing SDGs. The natural resources are being exploited haphazardly and in an uncontrolled way (For instance, mining of resources).

People are using chemical fertilizers, pesticides, etc. without considering environmental and health hazards. There is improper solid waste management in almost all over Nepal that is polluting large areas of land. Lack of public awareness is another major challenge due to which people still arises questions on whether the SDG15 will be successfully achieved or not.

The main gap in government actions towards obtaining SDG15 is lack of reliable data on climate change impacts on forests and biodiversity and dependent communities. Similarly, lack of coherence in conservation policies creating barriers to coordination, collaborative decision making and effective implementation is another loophole. There are inadequate resources (human and financial) and technologies for sustainable ecosystem management. Likewise, there is ineffective monitoring mechanisms and poor compliance with environmental and social safeguards.

Global biodiversity is very relevant in Nepali context, more so with continuous exploitation of Chure region for gravel mining, sand, timber and other raw materials. The entire region is under threat due to gradual surge in the mining of sand, gravel and limestone not to mention haphazard and poorly engineered construction of infrastructure such as dams and embankments along the local streams. Deforestation and environmental degradation have already increased the amount of sediment flowing through the Chure region via intermittent streams.

Lack of national action plan to facilitate implementation of coordinated land-use planning has resulted in haphazard urban development and settlement across flood prone areas in Tarai. This in turn has led to increased exposure of infrastructure and communities to floods. Furthermore, there is risk of destroying the natural habitat of many wild species with the government's plan felling of 700,000 trees to commence construction activities at Nijgadh International Airport, a national pride project.

### **Call for Actions**

Forests are not only an asset for environmental protection but also have huge potential for job creation, income generation and tourism promotion. Nepal has not fully used the potential of its forest resources. Therefore, the SDGs should consider forestry as a productive sector that enables employment, enterprises and economic growth. This should be reflected in the goals and targets.

In Nepal, the promotion and protection of forestry, the promotion of community based natural resource management and the use of forestry as a productive sector producing timber and non-timber forest products

need to be emphasized. Community-based forest management is promoting democracy, inclusion and gender equality. These need to be recognized and should be key words of the goal. There needs to be increased collaboration between state, community and private sector actors on forest protection, management and use for job creation and as a renewable source of income and subsistence for poor and forest-dependent people.

It is important to clarify the resource, implementation and monitoring mechanism for the sub-goals agreed in the negotiations. It is also important to identify the actors and their roles based on competence and constituencies for achieving the goals. Several SDGs and their targets influence forests and biodiversity conservation and forest governance. SDG 1 on ending poverty and hunger is interlinked with forest resource use as poverty leads people to depend more on common property resources for their livelihoods resulting in encroachment and over-exploitation.

The sustainable and productive management of forests will provide employment and incomes through forest based enterprises. Similarly, SDG2 on ending hunger, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture is strongly related to forest sector development. SDG5 on attaining gender equality and empowering women and girls is related to the organization of women in community forests and the development of their leadership through their participation in decision making related to forest management and use. However, adequate data is not available to see these trends.

Women empowered through participating in forest management demonstrate leadership in other development sectors. It is a similar case with regard to SDGs 6, 11, 12, and 13. The above analysis shows that SDG15 should not be taken in isolation, as it is crosscutting and strongly linked with livelihoods, land use, and development processes. Forest conservation and management is one area where Nepal can share best practices with the global community.

Furthermore, effective EIA and IEE should be made mandatorily before implementing the projects. President Chure programme either should be qualitatively improved or dismissed. Priority should be given to local and domestic products.

Nepal is a mountainous country and it is urgent need to protect mountain ecosystem to check the migration of mountain people and promote sustainable livelihood of people living those areas.

Capacity should be improved to monitor changes in the status of forests and ecosystem health. Additional resources are required for ecosystem management and enforcement of safeguards. Inter-sectorial and inter-agency coordination is necessary. There should be inclusion of forest user groups and poor and marginalized groups in decision making and equitable benefit sharing.

Adaptation should be integrated in the long-term vision for forests and biodiversity. The objectives for the future forest under climate change should be established. Awareness and education within the forestry community about adaptation to climate change should be increased. The vulnerability of forest ecosystems, forest communities and society should be determined. We should develop present and future cost-effective adaptive actions and manage the forest to reduce vulnerability and enhance recovery. We should monitor to determine the state of the forest and identify when critical thresholds are reached. Finally, we should manage to reduce the impact when it occurs, speed recovery and reduce vulnerability to further climate change.

## **Goal 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**

#### **Progresses and Achievements**

Global Peace Index has ranked Nepal as the 76th most peaceful country. Nepal is ranked as 31th in Criminal Level, 53th in Homicide and 89<sup>th</sup> in a Rape Rate. Government announced anti-untouchability campaign to

implementation Criminal (code) Act, 2074. During campaign 1273 *Chhaupadi Goth* demolished by Nepal Government. Government of Nepal declared there are no any conflicts-related deaths in 2018/19.

Government affirmed that Nepal is a safe zone for all citizen and visitors to feel safe walking alone around they live. And it's ranked as top 76<sup>th</sup> safest country in the world for travel as Global Finance Magazine's Safety Index 2019.

There are so many cases of violence, rape, murder and suicide among LGBTIQ people. Rape law does not address rape against transgender woman. There is no specific mechanism established to address violence LGBTIQ community.

### **Key Issues, Challenges and Gaps**

In the previous four fiscal years' data, the rate of crime and violence is increased. According to the police data, the country recorded 28,070 incidents of crime in the fiscal year 2014/15, which rose to 28,563 in the following fiscal year. Similarly, Nepal recorded 31,460 incidents of crime in the fiscal 2016/17; 31,315 in 2017/18; and 39,389 in 2018/19.

The Data shows increase violence and death rate in Suicide, Murder, and Violence to Women and child [The CID Nepal Data shows following data: Rape (11.59%), Attempt to Rape (4.08%), Polygamy (7.035%), Abortion (0.14%), Child Marriage (0.60%), Untouchability (0.30%), Domestic Violence (78.84%), Witchcraft (0.32%), Child Sexual Abuse (1.5%). Many domestic violences and sexual abuses are not reported. Women Disables are also becoming victims of sexual violence.

Suicide cases are gradually increasing (by 25 percent estimated) Nepal as mental health problem is expanding in the country. COVID-19 crisis is fueling to exacebrate this situation. Psycho-social problem is becoing serious as people have lost their jobs and many poor families are not able to manage adequate food for their families. Uncertainty, fear, domestic violence etc. they lead to dipressions to the people.

Even ranked in peaceful country, still there is physical, psychological and sexual violence cases are increasing in Nepal day by day; and it is the most important notice to be focused.

### **Call for Action**

***Strong Implementation of Law and Policy:*** The implementation side of law and policy seems weak in country. So many cases are hidden in the power of political pressure. Citizens couldn't feel the presence of governance in much violence case to defense. It is like as a crisis of governance in a country. So, government should strictly implement the law and policy against violence and crime to support and establish SDG by 2030. Specific mechanism should in place to address violence against LGBTIQ people. Rape law should be amended to address rape against transgender people.

***Strengthen Local Level Governance:*** Government should strength local level with accurate law, provisions and policy acknowledged. Government also focused the rapport building programs between civil society and governance mechanism to improve function of local governance mechanism.

***Support Civil Society Programmes:*** Government should support the activities conducted by local civil society organizations. CSOs also could coordination with governments for door-to-door awareness programmes. CSOs and GO can conduct creative and result based activities to reduce violence and homicide.

***Youth Mobilization and Volunteerism Programme:*** Government could mobilize local youth and volunteerism activities to conduct campaign for reducing violence in community. Government should provide skills, trainings and practices to them to reduce violence in their community by alternative violence promoting programmes.

***Conduct Social Friendship Programme:*** Government and CSOs could organize social harmony to promote peace and harmony in the society. Stakeholders should promote moral education, discipline, self-analysis activities to support and establish rule of law to reduce physical, psychological and sexual violence in Nepal.

## **Target 16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children**

### **Progresses and Achievements**

Nepal government has approved new children act 2075 BS where SDGs 16.2 also addressed. Nepal's Constitution 2072 BS, article 29 also address the SDGs 16.2, School As Zones of Peace National Directorates also mention about SDGs 16.2. Civil Code 2074 also approved by Nepal Government.

Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens also did the programme on SDGs 16.2 as well as civil society also implementing the programme to reduce the corporal punishment to students as well as also run the hotline 1098, 104 to address the violence against children.

### **Key Issues, Challenges and Gaps**

Nepal Government has approved the Children Act 2075 but could not prepare and approve the children regulation which directly effect on child rights. There is no systematic mechanism to collect the data and information about children situation inline with Target 16.2.

### **Call for Action**

- Regular monitoring report need to generate inline with target 16.2
- Children Regulation must prepared and approved

## **Target 16.3: Rule of Law and Access to Justice**

### **Progresses and Achievements**

Nepal has enacted several laws in 2075 (BS) to give effect to the implementation of fundamental rights as guaranteed by the constitution. Sixteen different laws<sup>18</sup> directly related to fundamental rights have been enacted by the federal parliament. Similarly, National Planning Commission also has enacted preliminary paper for 15<sup>th</sup> National Plan (2076/77-2080/81).<sup>19</sup> In this plan, government has shown its commitment to ensure human rights and justice system. As their regular work, in this year government has drafted National Human Rights Action plan 2019/20-2024/25 and it is under finalization process. Further, Government has prepared an Action Plan for the Implementation of Recommendations received through the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

In addition to that, Local Government Operation Act 2018, is enacted by the Federal Parliament, which allows Local Judicial Committees to provide justice in local level. Most of the local governments enacted Judicial Committee Act/Rules/Procedures and functioning smoothly. Around 53 laws amended by the federal parliament through Some Nepal Act amendment Bill. Seven legislations enacted to fulfill the constitutional mandate of the other Commissions as per the part 27 of the Constitution of Nepal.

Police reform and judicial reform is being conducted regularly. A new strategic plan is introduced by the Judiciary. Coordination between Federal, Provincial and Local government Bill, Police Act amendment Bill are underway to clarify the role of three tiers of the government and arrangement of police in different tiers. Each province has chief attorney offices are coordinating with the provincial government, attorney offices and judiciary. NHRC report tabled in the parliament for the first time in Nepalese history and discussed widely.

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<sup>18</sup> These are; Right to Housing Act, 2075, Consumer's Protection Act, 2075, Right to food and Food Sovereignty Act, 2075, Public Health Act, 2075, Child Rights Act, 2075, Right to Employment Protection Act, 2075, Right to Privacy Protection Act, 2075, Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Rights Act, 2075, visited on <http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/np/category> on 7 April, 2020.

<sup>19</sup> Fifteenth Plan (2076/77-2080/81), Foundation Paper, National Planning Commission, Singhdurbar, Kathmandu, Baisakh, 2076.



## Key Issues, Challenges and Gaps

Though Nepal has guaranteed rule of law and access to justice through several laws and fundamental rights in the constitution, beside these constitutional and legal guarantees, access to justice is still a huge threat to ensure rule of law in the country. Many people believe that policies, laws and regulation of the country are failed to capture the spirit of constitutional provisions. Similarly, some people opine that the constitution does not reflect the demands of some marginalized communities.

***Transitional justice process is still in deadlock situation:*** Though Nepal has completed more than 13 years of its peace process but it has still not been able to conclude transitional justice process and government has not been able to ensure justice and reparation through concluding peace process.<sup>20</sup> Many issue related to forced disappearance, extra-judicial killings, rape, deaths and other incidents have not been resolved yet. Vacant position of TRC and CoID has been fulfilled recently, however concerned stakeholders have lusted their faith towards these commissions due to lack of transparency in the recruitment process and government's initiation to amend TRC Act as per the order of Supreme Court and technical note shared by UNOHCHR in 2014.

***The incidents of torture have not been addressed:*** The incidents of torture that took place during the armed conflict period have not been addressed yet.<sup>21</sup>

***Implementation of NHRC Recommendations:*** Nepal government has shown its commitments to ensure rule of law and justice, but it is denying implementing several recommendations made by National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) which is one of the important National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) to oversee the implementation status of government through human rights lens. The data shows that there is negligible progress in its recommendation, as to date out of 856 recommendation only 12.5 percentage have been fully addressed and 60.8 has been partially addressed, so government seems unaccountable towards NHRC's recommendation to ensure human rights of Nepali citizens.<sup>22</sup> Supreme Court of Nepal has decided and ordered to the GoN to implement NHRC recommendation without saying IF and BUT. The status of NHRC recommendations remains unchanged than earlier.

***Prisoner's rights have been curtailed due to their limited capacity:*** Due to inadequate planning and showing resource limitation, the prisoners are facing many problems in the prison and they are living in crowd situation. As per the source of Nepal Human Rights Yearbook, 2020, Jaleswor Jail of Mahottari has capacity of 135 jailbirds but this year 532 jailbird has been passed their life in the suffocated situation. This situation is in various prisoners in Nepal.

***Delayed justice:*** Though rule of law and access to justice presupposed for speedy justice, but due to various factors the ratio of court judgment is very poor. According to Judiciary's fourth five year strategic plan the ratio of court judgment in writ and case is very low.<sup>23</sup> PWDs, Dalits, people affected by crimes do not feel easy access to judiciary systems. Complaints of rape case, incidents of untouchability and caste-based discriminations are not easily registered in police stations.

***Lack of access to justice and resources to ensure ESC rights:*** There is lack of access to justice and due to lack of allocation of state resources; there are many challenges to implement fundamental rights

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<sup>20</sup> Nepal Human Rights Year Book, 2020, Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC), (Nepali Edition), 2076 Falgun, p.2.

<sup>21</sup> Annual Report Synopsis, 2018/19, National Human Rights Commission of Nepal, accessed on [https://www.nhr-cnepal.org/nhrc\\_new/doc/newsletter/Annual\\_Report\\_2076\\_English\\_min.pdf](https://www.nhr-cnepal.org/nhrc_new/doc/newsletter/Annual_Report_2076_English_min.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> *Maulik Hak karyanayanma Bidhaika ra Karyapaliko Bhumika* (The role of Legislative and Executive to Implement Fundamental Rights), National Human Rights Commission, 2076 Shrawon, p.8

<sup>23</sup> According to this report the five years judgment ratio in Supreme Court is 20.98, High Court is 55.09 and District Court is 56.34 percent. Judiciary's Fourth Five Year Strategic Plan (2076/77-2080/82), Supreme Court of Nepal, 2076, p. 5

focusing on ESC rights.<sup>24</sup> PWDs community does not feel comfortable in courts as there is absence of interpreters and even they don't have easy access to bench of courts. Some indigenous peoples feel uneasy access to justice due to language problem.

***Weak implementation of court decisions:*** The progress report of Supreme Court (F.Y 2075/76) shows that there is negligible progress on implementation of court decisions especially in public interest litigation (PIL) case. As per this report out of 246 PIL (Directive order -164, Mandamus -64 and others-18) only 38 judgments (Directive order 25, Mandamus -12 and others-1) have been executed in the period of one year.<sup>25</sup> For example, supreme court order regarding citizenship rights, marriage equality and constitutional provision for equal opportunity in employment, education and representation of to the state structure LGBTIQ has not been implemented so far.

***Delay in Appointment of Commissioner's in Other Commissions:*** Though the constitution has given mandate to the constitutional, council to appoint commissioners within a month, but to date, National Women Commission and National Dalit Commission have been vacant and other four<sup>26</sup> commissions have only one representative in each commission. These commissions are not being able to deliver their task due to unavailability of commissioners.

***People's negative perception on law enforcement agencies:*** A survey report carried out by Nepal Administrative Staff College shows that there is still lack of public trust on police and courts. Nepalis generally agree that if citizens report a crime, the police will take action: 77 percent partially or strongly agree with this statement while 19 percent partially or strongly disagree. More than half of Nepalis (65%) also agree that the police treat people with respect. Yet, nearly one third (29%) do not think that the police are respectful toward general citizens. People are more skeptical – and also more likely to be unsure – about the statements that that the police do not take bribes and 57 percent think that the police may be taking bribes.<sup>27</sup> Restructuring of police force is an important step to improve the security system in the country.

Similarly, the majority of people have faith in the courts, yet there are large shares of people who are skeptical and many believe the courts take bribes. While 65 percent agree that those who are guilty are declared guilty by the courts, over one in four (27%) disagree with this statement. Similarly, while 64 percent agree that no innocent people are punished, over one in four (27%) disagree. More than half of Nepalis think the courts treat citizens with respect (64%) while nearly one in five (24%) do not believe that the courts treat citizens respectfully. Half (51%) think the courts take bribes but one in three people (32%) do not think so and nearly one in five (18%) are unsure about this.

## **Call for Actions**

***Ensure rule of law and public accountability:*** Governments must respect the constitution of the country and make laws and policies according to the spirit of provisions of the constitution. Governments must ensure rule of law and promote public accountability, law enforcement agencies (People's representatives, government officials, security forces) should be accountable and transparent towards the system and law and order should be maintained smoothly. For that, the top most leaders should commit to ensure rule of law in the state, community and society. Nepotism and political amnesties should be eradicated and due process should be followed strictly.

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<sup>24</sup> Maulik Hak Karyanayana Bidhaika ra Karyapalika ko Bhumika, National Human Rights Commission, 2076 Shrawon, p.56

<sup>25</sup> Sarbochha Adalatko Barsik Pratibadan (2075/76), Sarbochha Adalat Nepal, 2076 accessed on <http://www.supremecourt.gov.np/web/assets/downloads/annual/An7576.pdf>

<sup>26</sup> National Inclusion Commission, Tharu Commission, Madhesi Commission and Indigenous Nationalities Commission

<sup>27</sup> Nepal National Governance Survey, 2017/18, Nepal Administrative Staff College, 2018, p.53

***Complete Transitional Justice Process:*** Government of Nepal should be honest to conclude peace process as soon as possible. For that, TRC legislation should be amended as per the order of the Supreme Court and technical note shared by UNOHCHR in 2014. Both commissions should be honest to maintain international human rights standard to receive confidence from international and national human rights communities, victims and other stakeholders. Until and unless they are able to show their commitment and dedication towards victims the process will hardly be completed.

***Participation of Persons with Disabilities:*** State should ensure participation of all including persons with disabilities in all forms of state mechanisms.

***Implement NHRCs Recommendations:*** Though Nepal government has shown its commitments to ensure human rights, rule of law and justice but the ratio of recommendations made by NHRC is negligible. It is expected that the government to implement NHRC recommendations by developing a task force and reporting to NHRC on its progress periodically. To implement it effectively, GoN can develop a periodic plan and invest resources and trend government officials.

***Guarantee Prisoner's rights:*** GoN should increase its resources in the infrastructure of existing prisons. The condition of prisons should be addressed through temporary measures. Human rights violations and abuses in the prison and detention center should be completely stopped. For that concern, Ministry should take prompt action and proper planning.

***Implementation of court decisions and ensuring speedy justice:*** To build public trust in the court system, judiciary and Nepal government should work together and government should support judiciary for proper implementation of court decisions.

***Immediately appoint Commissioners in Constitutional Bodies:*** Human rights related constitutional bodies are directly concerned with the rights of vulnerable people and they work as watchdog oversight agency, so constitutional bodies should not be neglected. Due to lack of members and leaders in this commission, these commissions are being ineffective. To make them effective and address issues of the minority and marginalized communities, these commissions should be fulfilled as soon as possible. In the recruitment process, fair and transparent process need to be adopted. Appointments should be done through a publicly verifiable competitive and merit-based system.

***Ensure accountable law implementing agencies:*** To promote ownership and public trust in the law implementing agency, state should ensure accountability of law implementing agencies.

***Empower Civil Societies:*** State accountability is widely felt to be weak and/or pliant. Inculcate a system of moral responsibility to check on accountability and mismanagement, the government should overhaul its regime of unaccountability and create enabling environment for civil society to operate at all levels. Absence of space and capacity for civil society to monitor the state of governance, especially at all government levels, including provincial and local levels, and to mobilize against weaknesses and excesses. Evidences suggest that mismanagement, abuse of authority and corruption thrive when civil society remains silent. or ineffective to collect evidence and ramp up voices.

#### **16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime**

##### **Progresses and Achievements**

Nepal is a state party of UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances 1988 and UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000. The Department of Money Laundering Investigation (DMLI) is functional as a principal entity to conduct investigation and prevent the commission of money laundering (ML) and the financing of terrorism and proliferation in Nepal. Corruption Elimination Act 2002, Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authorities Act 1991, Money Laundering Act 2006, Organized Crime Act 2006, Corruption Elimination Act, Proceed of Crime Seizing Freezing and Confiscation Act 2013, Money Laundering Listing etc Rules 2013, Extradiction Act

2013, Organized Crime Elimination Act 2013 are some important legal instruments to control criminal activities in the country. Moreover, Ministry of Home Affairs issued a List of Organizations or People Involved in Terrorist Activities. Nepal has developed National Strategy and Action Plan for Fiscal Investment on Anti-money laundering and Terrorist Activities (2019-2024).

### **Key Issues, Challenges and Gaps**

Commonly known as black money, grey economy or dirty money, their linkages to persistent intersecting inequalities, income, wealth, ethnic, age and gender inequality, make illicit financial flows one of the greatest challenges to the financing of development and human rights. Illicit financial outflow, hot money outflows, and trade invoicing are major forms of illicit financial flows in Nepal. Percentage of Illicit financial flow is 4.2559 of GDP (Global Financial Integrity 2016). Illicit Financial Flows challenge on Political and Economic Security, hampering domestic resource mobilization, low level of investment and capital stock, and impact on governance system.

Although Nepal has officially started to work against money laundering, it has not been able to achieve good results. It is flowrising day by day. Because of powerful people and high level public officials, it has becoming very challenging to control it. Act is not able to clearly define what is money laundering and illicit finance. There is lack of coordination between Money Laundering Investigation Department and Informers. In the country Indian currency can be openly used, which is helping in money laundering. We can see number of informal transactions such as Dhukuti and Hundi etc.

Government is not able to keep proper record of transaction of individuals and firms and lack of proactive inspection/monitoring are absent. Investigation agencies have very limited capacity. People have tendency to tax avoidance or tax evasion. CIAA and Government's agencies are unable to keep on those, who are becoming rich overnight by illegal means. Banks have unhealthy competition to attract the clients for cash deposits in their banks. Practice of fake invoicing is rampant in the markets, public offices, and customs etc.

Some legal provisions have loop holes. Money laundry investigation Office is not fully independent and they don't have permanent dedicated staffs. Suspected persons are politically protected. On the other hand, inter-country and international cooperation and coordination are weak.

### **Call for Actions**

The indicator of Target 16.4 should be country-level estimates of illicit outflows related to misinvoiced trade and other sources based on currently available data, and the International Monetary Fund or another qualified international institution should conduct and publish the analysis annually (Bhusal TU).

There should be concrete definition of illicit finance and money laundering. Clients should clear their source of income when they open their bank accounts and for transactions of big amounts. Departments should implement all the policies and promotional functions of the existing acts. Any investigations should be carried out by experienced, professional and dedicated officers. There should be separate ombudsmen body and appellate system. Governments must control informal financial transactions such as Hundi, Dhukuti etc, and unlimited transaction of Indian currency and fake currencies should be fully controlled. Regular staff of departments should be provided adequate trainings. Governments should reach in agreement with related countries to activate the acts related with extradition and mutual legal supports. Governments should strictly follow the advice of Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

Illicit financial flow is the global problem, so all the Governments, international institutions, regional bodies and the global community have to take cognisance of the urgent need to curb illicit financial flows (IFFs) for the immediate and progressive realisation of human rights and the SDGs.

The struggle to end illicit financial flows is closely linked to social justice movements which focus on the rights and livelihoods of Dalits, farmers, fisherfolk, women, youth, the marginalised, persecuted and

indigenous communities. The Declaration deeply reflects the spirit of the NSF bringing together different actors under the banner of “another world is possible”.

## **Target 16.5 - Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms Corruption Control**

### **Progresses and Achievements**

National Vigilance Centre under the Office of Prime Minister and Council of Minister, Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authorities (CIAA), Anti Money Laundering Office and Office of Public Procurement Monitoring are key state bodies to control corruption in the country.

Transparency International’s Global Corruption Perceptions Index 2019 (CPI) has ranked Nepal 113<sup>th</sup>, with a score of 34. Nepal has improved its ranking (131<sup>st</sup> in 2016) in the CPI, but despite climbing a few spots, it continues to remain alongside countries with significant corruption.

Nepal’s ranking improved due to the work carried out in various sectors to curb corruption including— action by anti-corruption agencies against public office holders who abused authority, works of the judiciary, decisions on tax collection, integrity of the state security agencies, especially of the Nepal Army and civil organizations' role in the issues of public interest.

Media is playing proactive role to make government involved scams or deals public, ones that smell of foul.

### **Key Issues, Challenges and Gaps**

Despite Nepal has improved ranking in the CPI 2019, it failed to make any progress on long-term issues as the government could not implement its commitment of zero tolerance against corruption. Corruption has been thriving in Nepal because of the nexus between politicians, businesspeople and bureaucrats.

In 2016, the score of CPI was 29, but it is 34 in 2019 (TI 2019). In general trend of corruption is increased than baseline year. It indicates, corruption is still deeply rooted in society.

No new major policies, laws, regulations or strategies or institutional mechanism has been made to control corruption in this period. Government had made UNCAC Implementation Action Plan, but public not aware about its progress.

Study on Corruption in Local Levels-2020-CIAA reveals 55.3 percent of the respondents claimed they either paid or heard about under-the-table money solicited by the responsible officers of the local levels even as they met all requirements to receive the service. Similarly, 55.2 percent respondents said there were problems of systematic/institutional corruption and 30.3 per cent complained of policy level corruption. The percentage of complaints about irregularities at the local level was 14.6 percent in the fiscal year 2013-14, which climbed to 18.02 percent in the fiscal year 2017-18.

In fact, there have been many scams or irregular procurement deals or contracts reported by the media but the government has not shown any interest to investigate them. On the contrary, it looks more interested to protect the accused. Somehow, impunity can be observed in the country.

Corruption in public and business sectors and abuse of authority continued while citizens lacked access to information. There is a lack of seriousness from the political side, while information remained in the grip of only a specific group of people. Because of this, despite climbing few spots in the 2019 index, Nepal has remained alongside nations with significant corruption.

Some key issues that hinder good governance currently are – conflict of interests of elected and government officials, patronage to party sympathizers, kitchen cabinet influencing government, lack of transparency on government decisions, service delivery corruption, public procurement corruption by politicians and government officials, protection to accused politicians, curtailment of media rights etc.

Some challenges are – materialization of political will, controlling election financing by business people, anti-corruption body’s limited mandate, limiting policy corruption, impunity situation, government regressive attitude etc.

Some gaps are – noncompliance to mandatory provisions of UNCAC, curtailment of anti-corruption body's authority, availability of reliable data etc. Current constitution has not included "Anuchit Karya" word under the authority of CIAA, that gives leverage to corrupt activities who are in power. Similarly, the election process has become very expensive, that encourages the politicians to earn money through illegal means.

Governments at all levels are perceived to be intolerant of freedom of speech. Criticisms of their policies and modus operandi are denied, vilified, and harassed. This attitude is counterproductive and needs correction. Without freedom of speech, governance cannot be improved and made responsive to people's needs. Fair criticisms help governments gauge public opinion about them, find areas of improvement, enhance their delivery. A country with a checkered record of performance vis-a-vis fundamental freedoms, such as the rights to freedom of speech, association, and assembly, will have to face international criticism.

### **Call for actions**

- **Increase political willpower against corruption:** In order to curb corruption in Nepal, government has to promote separation of powers, unveil unbiased budget and service access to stakeholders, decrease the impact of money in politics and address conflict of interest. Government needs to implement a Zero Tolerance policy against corruption with examples shown right from the top, the Office of Prime Minister. Nepal can also opt for the funding system to combat the ever rising political corruption in the country.
- **Increase roles of stakeholders:** Meaningful access to stakeholders in the decision-making process, ending malpractices in the election process and empowering citizens, social campaigners and journalists are also some of the recommendations. Government must guarantee freedom of expression of the people. Improvement is immediately needed in the situation related to curtailed citizen's right to access to important government decisions.
- **Eliminate policy corruption:** To eliminate policy corruption, the country requires to end the current practice of taking unnecessary cabinet approvals on government procurement deals. Country needs to revise existing electoral system and election centric politics. That demands drastic change in electoral system and political financing. On the other hand, Governments should be serious to comply the reports of CIAA.
- **Strengthen anti-corruption bodies:** Country needs to strengthen anti-corruption bodies at all the 3 levels of government- federal, provincial and local in relation to public procurement. Authorities of the CIAA should not be appointed according to the political inclination. Appointments should be done through a publicly verifiable competitive and merit-based systematic-corruption agency should be completely neutral by act and with needed expertise and resources. Moreover, CIAA has to adopt stringent measures to control corruption at local levels. Furthermore, CIAA should be given authority to investigate cabinet decisions.
- **Improve e-governance:** Country needs to improve public service delivery systems by introducing robust e-governance tools. All level of Governments should apply IT based tools and e-payment systems.
- **Develop Holistic and long-term strategy:** State should make a holistic and long-term anti-corruption strategy and action plan encompassing all sectors.

### **16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels**

Good Governance Act 2006, Good Governance Action Plan 2006 and Hello Government are some initiatives of government to promote accountable governance in the country. Meanwhile, Government has introduced the concept of performance contract that applied to ministers and high level officers of ministries.

The 2030 Agenda demands effective, accountable and transparent public institutions at all levels for the effective implementation of SDGs strategies and plan of actions. In past three years, Government has been able to establish different offices at province and local level. Number of functions and offices of federal governments have been handed over to local level.

Nepal is still in transition period, so establishment and rearrangement of public offices are still going on according to the spirit of federalization of the governments. But, Government has to work more to transfer its civil servants to local and province level. It is very tough job, since many civil servants under federal government are reluctant to go to the province and local level. So, most of the local governments say that they don't have sufficient staff to perform their functions. On the hand, the civil servants of government offices have limited exposure and capacity. Various satisfaction surveys show that the public are not satisfied with the service and behavior of public offices. Like in other countries, public offices are losing the public trusts.

Governments all level present their annual budgets and programmes as per the rule. But, most of the governments are not able to implement plans and budgets. It is very bad practice the revision of budget in the mean time of fiscal year. Governments need to improve their delivery capacity. Frequent changes of public-procurement regulation is only serving to the construction companies, which is not good.

Because of the impact of lockdown public offices are remained closed, industries and business have been closed. Revenue generation has been significantly decreased. Governments at all level are using their money to tackle the health crisis. In this time Governments must cut-off its unnecessary recurrent budgets. It is suggested the Governments to cut-off their recurrent budgets. Governments must stop the programme like Election Constituency Infrastructure Development Programmes, which is very unpopular among the people. Next, Federal Government should immediately take action to implement the report of Public Expenditure Review Report, which was led by Dr. Dilli Raj Khanal.

The recommendations of NHRC and other commissions are hardly implemented by the government. Various crimes including and murder, terrorism, kidnaping, rape and illegal detention has not been decreased yet.<sup>28</sup> As reflected in Nepal Year Book, published by INSEC, the ratio of violence against women (VAW) and child rights violation is increased in compare to previous year.<sup>29</sup> Government is not able to share the progress about the progress of UPR implementation.

Media and civil society can play very important role to hold the governments accountable. At least they can monitor implementation budgets and local plans. They should have adequate access to information of the Governments. Nepal should be the member of Open Government Partnership to show its commitment on transparent and accountable governance.

### **16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels**

***Participation of stakeholders in Law Making:*** Though the parliament has full authority to formulate laws and policies, still they do not consult with concerned stakeholders to ensure participatory law making process. Federal, Provincial and Local legislature hardly consult stakeholders while making laws. 16 laws to implement fundamental rights were enacted overnight and request from NHRC was neglected. Parliament argues limitation of time, but it is not true. As per the article 47 of the constitution Parliament had to enact necessary legislations by three years, but the government and Parliament initiated the process overnight. Government also faced a huge criticism due to various flaws and negligence with CSOs, parties and other stakeholders while tabling the Bills related to the NHRC Act

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<sup>28</sup> *Maulik Hak karyanayanma Bidhaika ra Karyapaliko Bhumika* (The role of Legislative and Executive to Implement Fundamental Rights), National Human Rights Commission, 2076 Shrawon, p.78

<sup>29</sup> in 2018 there were altogether 1248 cases registered against child rights abuse and violation but in this (2019) year 1,447 cases have been registered. Similarly in 2018 2824 VAW cases have been registered where as in this year (2019) 3,364 cases have been registered. Nepal Human Rights Year Book, 2020, Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC), (Nepali Edition), 2076 Falgun, p.5.

amendment Bill, Media Council Bill, IT Bill and *Guthi* Bill etc. As per the spirit of the federal system, federal government should consult with provincial and local government while preparing the draft on coordination between three tiers, security, public service, education and health related Bills, which has concerns from all three tiers of the government. The upper house tried to consult with provincial and local level stakeholders on media council, NHRC, IT Bills and health and education policies in a limited scale, but the government never practice such a way while preparing first draft. Nepal needs to follow open budget process; Nepal is still in back rank in open budge ranking.

***Participation of marginalized and vulnerable communities in public desions makings:*** The participation of marginalized people including PWDs in political level and the mechanisms of the state is almost nil.<sup>30</sup> Policies and laws are mostly guided by beruractic knowledge and interests. Many people people believe that law making process is faulty because it is highly dominated by executive body. Sometime, they are influenced by political parities as they impose whips to their parliament members to pass the bills in the parliament. There is no adequate check and balance between parliament and executive government. We can see similar picture at province and local level. Province and local governments have also power make laws and regulation in their constitutional jurisdictions. They hardly discuss on legislative bills with the public and stakeholders. Even there is not adequate discussions among the members of Province Assembly and one can see same situation in Municipal Assemblies. Currently NPC is trying its best to engage civil society and other stakeholders in the process, but level and scope of participation depends largely on attitude of the NPC officials. At ministerial level the stakeholder participation is not satisfactory in general.

### **Call for Actions**

***Ensure participatory law-making process:*** Participatory law making process the backbone of the system. Such process enhances the public ownership and thus promotes accountability toward people and concerned stakeholders. Such process also helps to implement legislations effectively once they took ownership by themselves. The process also educates concerned stakeholders including CSOs, government agencies and political parties and pushes them to act for the effective implementation in days to come. It also reduces unnecessary debates among the participants and contributes smooth process.

Similalry, there is always a question of meaniful participation of women, marginalized people in policy, planning and monitoring process. Therefore, major groups including Indigenous Nationalities, women, youth, Dalits, Muslims, Madeshis, people living in remote areas are not able to take part in public decision makings, on the other hand vulnerable people including PWD, LGBTIQ, informal sector workers, senior citizens are not getting involved in public decision making processes such as legislative process, planning, budgeting and review processes. For instance, 15<sup>th</sup> Plan document could not include a separate chapter for the development Indigenous Nationalities. So, Governments should form appropriate communication mechanisms and open forums to interact with marginalized people and to redress their grievances.

### **16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance**

#### **16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration**

District Adiminstration Office is responsible for providing citizenship certificats and local governments provide service of vital registration including birth registration. Birth Registration has been improving per year because of online registration.

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<sup>30</sup> Annual Report Synopsis, 2018/19, National Human Rights Commission of Nepal, accessed on [https://www.nhrcnepal.org/nhrc\\_new/doc/newsletter/Annual\\_Report\\_2076\\_English\\_min.pdf](https://www.nhrcnepal.org/nhrc_new/doc/newsletter/Annual_Report_2076_English_min.pdf)



Nepal should amend relevant legislation, particularly the Birth, Death and Other Personal Event (Vital Registration) Act of 1976, the Citizenship Act 2006. And it should amend legislation on transmission of nationality by: (a) Removing the requirement for both parents to prove citizenship; (b) Making citizenship by descent accessible through proof of citizenship of one of the parents, regardless of the parent's sex; (c) Making the acquisition of Nepalese nationality by descent accessible to children at birth.

Laws, regulations and practices should contain clear procedures for issuing citizenship certificates without distinction as to caste or gender; that applications for citizenship are registered in a timely manner; that written, reasoned decisions for rejection of such applications are provided within a reasonable time frame; and the availability and accessibility of a complaint mechanism to contest the rejection of applications for citizenship.

Nepal should amend the Birth, Death and Other Personal Incidents Registration Act to ensure the birth registration of all children born on its territory, and establish an efficient birth registration system that is free of charge at all stages. It should also continue to strengthen efforts to remove barriers, particularly for women and those living in rural areas, to access citizenship certificates and birth registrations. The State party should ensure that citizenship provisions of the new Constitution guarantee the equal right of women to acquire, transfer and retain citizenship.

Nepal should ratify international instruments relating to the protection of refugees and adopt national legislation conforming to the standards in those instruments. It is recommended to provide identity documents to refugees in its territory. Nepal should accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

#### **16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements**

There is constitutional and statutory guarantee of Right to Information (Article 27 of Nepal Constitution-2015 AD). It is observed steady rise in the practice of proactive disclosure of information with the enforcement of disclosure guidelines and standard websites for local levels. CSOs' national network and campaigns for sensitization, information request, capacity building, policy dialogue and advocacy and mainstreaming RTI initiatives through national conventions/conferences. Decentralization of information request campaigns seeking justice, opportunity and rights and documentation of success stories with growing awareness on RTI at local level can be seen in the country. There is presence of designated Public Information Officers at federal ministries and their subordinate agencies and the practice is increasing at local level. CSO-media collaboration is increasing for information request and dissemination and follow-up investigative stories.

According to the global RTI Rating carried out by Center for Law and Democracy (CLD), Canada and Access Info Europe for the 2018/19, Nepal's assessment includes Right of access (5/6), scope (27/30), requesting procedures (19/30), exceptions and refusals (18/30), appeals (26/30), sanctions (6/8), and protection and promotional measures (12/16). Nepal scored 113 out of 150 scores, India (127), Afghanistan (139), Sri Lanka (131). The Rating provides reliable assessment of both of the overall strengths of legal frameworks and the strengths and weaknesses of the legal framework in seven categories and 61 indicators (<https://www.rti-rating.org/country-detail/?country=Nepal>).

#### **Key Issues, Challenges and Gaps**

Level of overall implementation of RTI is not optimistic as it is still considered to be the agenda of CSO/media not that of the grassroots citizens. Sense of ownership to the RTI Act from general citizenry is also low.

Threats and harassment are still continuing against the demand for critical information in the areas of governance, opportunity and justice. However, demand for governance is weak and supply side is observed as reluctant.

Appointments of Public Information Officers have not yet been designated in all public agencies which is also challenging the implementation of RTI at all levels. Besides, there are capacity and motivation gaps among PIOs.

Haphazard information and data management is also impeding the RTI implementation since without proper management the reactive and proactive disclosure of information could not be delivered well.

No efforts are visible to strengthen the role of NIC for RTI stewardship. Though the country has already exercised the federal system, the structure of NIC is still at federal level. It has also shrunk the capacity of the adjudication body to discharge its responsibility for the protection and promotion of RTI.

The state of impunity on part of information provider is highly prevalent restricting citizens' optimism on right to information with increasing trend of National Information Commission's order not being adhered. Likewise, follow-up for adherence and statutory action against public authorities for not abiding by the RTI laws is also weak which has limited the meager number of appeals.

There are gaps among stakeholders (government, NIC, CSOs, donors, media and advocates/activists) regarding coordination required to implement the RTI laws. The RTI mechanisms – RTI Coordination Unit at Prime Minister's Office and Monitoring Unit at Ministry of Information and Communications – are not functional. Time-taking process and constant follow-up for info (RTI request, appeal) is also another bottleneck for the implementation of RTI

Lack of political will followed by resistance from bureaucracy; cultural barriers (deep-rooted secretive culture) and limited and dedicated CSOs for continuing with the campaign are among other challenges. Review of the RTI laws and classification of information are not being carried out periodically which has also resulted in challenges in the effective implementation of RTI.

Different different types of disabilities, so some PWDs do not easy access with the public information because of lack of sign language and braille scripts. Nepal needs to ratify Marrakesh VIP Treaty, that allows for copyright exceptions to facilitate the creation of accessible versions of books and other copyrighted works for visually impaired persons.

Despite, constitution guarantees fundamental freedoms such as freedom of opinion and expression; freedom of assembly, freedom to form political parties, freedom to form unions and associations, freedom to move or reside; freed to practice profession; laws and regulations have tried to restrict these freedoms. On the Governments agencies have tendency to constrained these freedoms. Use of excessive force during public protests, news provisions of laws related with media, social media and internet are regressive.

Fundamental rights law fails to address need LGBTIQ people. So, Government should develop law and policy as per Supreme Court decision and constitution through the consultation with LGBTIQ organizations regarding proper implementation of supreme court decisions and constitutional provisions. Similarly, some Indigenous people language barriers to access to information.

Though Nepal's constitution is progressive, which has ensured various fundamental rights in its 31 articles. Nepal is party to the 41 international human rights instruments and directive principles and policies of the state and clause 9 of the Treaty Act 1990 guides to implement international treaties as the fundamental law of the land, but there is weak implementation in controlling violation of civil and political rights. State of impunity is being serious issue.

### **Call for Action**

***Amendment of the Article 27 of the Nepal Constitution:*** Constitutional amendment to include the phrase 'impart' in its Article 27 ensuring the right to 'seek, receive and impart information' as per the international standards and best practice. The right has been only limited to the Nepali Citizens rather it has to be applicable for all people.

***Amendment of the RTI Laws:*** It has to include the provisions to widely define the public agency; simplify work procedure of public information request reducing from 15 days to 7 days; include open government data provisions to remove barriers and improve access to information and addition of data protection provision to Section 5 of the Act to avoid manipulation and misuse of disclosed or published data, Incentives to Public Information Officer (provision of additional logistic support and incentives to information officers) and also include free of cost request application provisions

***Formation of provincial information commission*** (arrangement of provincial information commissions for nationwide effective implementation of RTI in keeping with international practices of the countries adopting federal system when Nepal has already entered into federal structures)

Implementation of overriding effects of RTI to strengthen RTI regime is important. There should be separate law on privacy and whistleblower protection. Massive RTI education among citizens focusing women and marginalized and disadvantaged groups for wider civic engagement and oversight on governance at all levels. Effective enforcement of proactive disclosure by all public agencies adhering with the provision that different 20 types of information should be proactively disclosed in every three months

Networking and knowledge sharing with the community of practices of Open Data, Open Government Partnership, Open Budget, Open Contracting and other CSOs working on other goals of SDGs.

Laws, regulations and decisions of the Government that violate the spirit of fundamental rights of the people should be scrapped and amend the laws and regulations in order to protect and promote their rights. Political society must respect the fundamental freedoms of the people.

### **16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime**

Role of NHRC and other constitutional bodies is very important to hold the government accountable and to protect the rights of the people. But, Government is yet to fulfill officials in constitutional bodies such as National Dalit Commission, National Women Commission etc., they protect the rights of marginalized people. Inclusiveness of commission is another issue, for instance there is no representative of PWDs community in National Inclusive Commission. Government have tried to reduce the authority of the NHRC, which is not justifiable. Political influence in constitutional bodies should be stopped. Constitutional bodies should play effective role and they need to work together with right based organizations.

### **16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development**

Government has introduced a law to control caste base discrimination and untouchability practices. Also, Federal government has established a mechanism to end all forms of discriminations against Persons with Disabilities, but the PWDs communities are not aware about the functions of this mechanism.

Progressive structural change is necessary to end the caste-based discrimination. Ending feudal and Hindu Religion based social-cultural structure, attitude, values and norms should be ended and strong enforcement of existing laws and regulations are necessary to check discrimination against the Dalits.

Government must make a strategic plan to address the issues of PWDs. There should be provision of focal persons or special desks in ministries and all the offices of provincial and local governments. Governments must consider existence of diverse groups and different types of disability within PWDs community. Government must implement the recommendation of UN-CRPD. Governments must ease access of PWDs to communication and transportation services as blind people are suffering a lot.

Similarly, Governments must fully comply international human rights instruments such as UN-DRIP, UN-CERD and ILO Convention 169. Government should provide support in case Indigenous National is ready to run public school in their communities. Government must respect the collective rights of Indigenous

Peoples. Respect to diversity and intersectionality within any community is the clear demand of Indigenous Peoples.

Governments can take concrete steps to set special, protected or autonomous region for the upliftment of particular indigenous communities (Constitution of Nepal, Article 56). Decision taken by Civil Service Commission for recruitment of new employees is against the spirit of constitution to secure proportional and inclusive representations in public institutions. The genuine voices being raised by Dalits, Indigenous Nationalities and other marginalized by should be seriously heard and translated into actions through programmes and budgets all governments.

## **Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development**

### **Finance**

Federal Government of Nepal has enacted some important policies such as Foreign Investment and Technology Transfer Act 2018, Development Cooperation Policy 2018, and Public Private Partnership Investment Act 2018 and Policy 2018. Foreign Investment Policy 2014 are already in place to attract FDI. In this period Nepal has organized two international summits on 3-4 March, 2019 and 1 April, 2019 to attract foreign investors. Similarly, Infrastructure Development Summit was held on 12 September 2019 for Infrastructure development, seeking finance from foreign investment. The Government tried to improve, and amend old laws and broaden the tax areas taxes.

Government report says the country needs 2015 billion US dollars annually for achieving SDGs. Government revenues have gradually served as a major source of finance in the country. Tax revenue has continued with a rising trend. Gross Domestic Revenue has been increased by 13.3 percent in last eight months of Fiscal year 2019/20. Share of internal revenue in annual budget is about 64 percent.

According to Government report, revenue collection should be 27 percent of GDP by 2030, that will provide 63 percent amount for SDG Financing. And, annual economic growth rate should be 8.67 percent. SDGs financing need assessment shows public finance should contribute 54 percent, private sector should contribute 34 percent, whereas cooperative and private HHs should contribute 4 percent each.

ODA reached US\$ 1,622.8 million in FY 2017/18. Contribution of loans was US\$ 819.1 million (50.5%), grants US\$ 570.3 million (35.1%), and technical assistance US\$ 233.3 million (14.4%). On-budget aid disbursement reached 78 percent of total aid disbursement. Recently Millennium Challenge Cooperation of USA Governments has become debatable in the country. Government has introduced one window service system for FDI. In Nepal, proportion of Chinese and Indian investors cover 44 and 30 percent respectively.

### **Key Issues, Challenges and Gaps**

External finance in the form of ODA for financing public expenditure has declined in last few years. Inflow of remittances has emerged as the largest source of foreign exchange earnings, to 30.4 percent of GDP for FY 2014/2015. But, there is 21 percent finance gap in total, and within public sector financing gap is 38 percent. So, there is huge gap of finance for SDGs. Obviously, COVID-19 has impacted on financial resource generation in public, private and international cooperation and public finance will go down.

Illicit financial flows, tax avoidance and tax evasions are becoming serious problems in the country. NCELL tax scandal is one of the examples and verdicts of supreme court is debatable. These issues negatively impact on domestic resource mobilization.

Government has tried built partnership with private sector, but there is absence of clear strategy and plan to participate them in public sector development. Private sector is not encouraged to invest in development projects.

Despite the Government is trying to attract FDI, it is coming in the country. But, many national and international investors are not satisfied with the attitude and working approach of Civil Servants in Nepal

and they also question on laws and regulations and they opine they are not investment friendly. Ratio of business of FDI in production sector is only 24 percent, it means they are attracted in service sector rather than in manufacturing business.

Amount of international cooperation in terms of grant is around 4 percent, but in contrast share of international loan is increased. INGOs' contributions recorded in the AMP have decreased in last year. In one hand they are closing their offices in the country and some say rules, regulations and working environments are not comfortable for them.

Weaknesses in the government's public financial management (PFM) system is a big challenge in the country. Delivery of annual budget is very poor. Share and amount of recurrent budget have been increased which is more than 60 percent. Similarly, about 11 percent of the total national budget is used for payment of loans. Amount of total loan is increasing every year.

Nepal requires an amount of 19 billion dollars per annum to achieve the SDGs and a big gap in resources exists. In this regard, Nepal has developed the financial strategies which include reorienting investment towards SDGs by all stakeholders, formulating investment friendly laws, mobilize internal resources through tax reforms, broaden tax base, using ICT in revenue collection, reorientation of resource towards productive and employment generating sectors, attracting FDI and PPP models for SDG financing, revenue mobilization from sub-national level and get more ODA and aid.

Foreign investment should be investor friendly and less hurdle and hassle from government bureaucracy. All acts related foreign direct Investments in Nepal should be amalgamated into one codified into one set of law so that investors do not have to look for several laws to find out all the details in comply with investment.

### **Call for Actions**

***Reorientation of Investment towards SDGs by all stakeholders:*** In order to achieve SDGs in the country, it is suggested to reorient of investment towards SDGs by all stakeholders including Governments, private sectors and development partners. Governments at all level must track how investments are contributing to SDGs. But, Governments should come up with investment friendly law, policies and regulations.

***Increase internal resource mobilization:*** In order to fulfill the financial gaps of tax laws and policies should be improved. Tax reform, broadening tax base, using ICT in revenue collection and build trust to the people are prerequisite for increasing internal revenues. People must know how and where their taxes are being utilized. Big chunk of public fund should be invested in productive sector and employment generation. Governments must introduce progressive tax system to protect the financial and tax justice.

***Attract FDI, PPP for SDGs financing:*** FDIs and PPP are sources to fulfill the gaps of SDGs funding. Government much simplify policies and procedures to attract the FDIs and public private partnership.

***Stop Illicit Financial Flow:*** Illicit financial flows in Nepal have been higher than net ODA received. So, government must come with tight legal measures and actions to tackle this challenge.

***Stop tax avoidance and evasion:*** Related government agencies should be proactive to stop tax avoidance and evasions. Governments should take actions to those who are involved in tax avoidance. Importantly, Governments must be able to close the loop holes.

***Improve public finance management:*** Governments can improve its financial base if they take serious actions to improve public finance management. Available resources should be fully utilized for public goods and services. Governments of all levels must improve their delivery capacity of their annual budgets.

***Build enabling environment for development partners:*** Governments must build comfortable environment for its multilateral and development partners who are working in the country. Policies and operational procedures should be simple. Nepal still needs cooperation's from international organizations and friendly countries including two neighboring countries.

***Development partners should adhere to their commitments:*** ODAs committed by development partners should be provided to the government on time. ODA should not be scattered and fragmented. Ministry of Finance and other ministries should make proper plan to harmonize foreign cooperation. Development partners and the Governments should fully respect the Busan Principles. Nepal should strongly present for debt cancellation in international forums. Government offices should not buy vehicles by using ODA money.

***Give space to INGOs:*** Nepal still needs supports from INGOs to fulfill the financial gaps. Government should develop conducive environments for the INGOs in the country and encourage them for resource mobilization.

***Improve cooperation between three tier governments*** (Federal, Province and Local): Cooperation and coordination in terms of financial resource mobilization for the development of the country. Natural Resource and Fiscal Commission should play very effective role for equitable distributions of financial resources in the country.

***Build capacity of province and local governments:*** Federal Government must support to province and local level governments to increase their revenue generation and management capacity.

### **Technology**

Banks and other institutions are using latest technology and internet access is raised up to 55.4 percent in the country. According to Government data, internet density is reached to 65.9 percent. Similarly, the Fixed internet broadband subscriptions are increased from 6.09 percent to 12.22 percent in 2018.

Country must increase investment in Science, Technology and Innovation. More investments are needed to invent sustainable technologies. Universities should give more attention on research and development.

Government has to introduce new technology in each and every part of public services, but public offices are not enthusiastic to do so.

Despite increase of use of IT services in the country they should be disable friendly to increase their access. Public services have also started to use IT, e.g. Tutul and Pathau.

In lockdown period use of mobile and internet is significantly increased, but people experience sharp digital divide in society since poor families do not have internet access and rural and remote areas are extremely marginalized.

Poor quality infrastructure and inadequate knowledge and capacity in new technology is another challenge in the country. Government tax rate in internet is higher in comparison to other countries.

### **Capacity Building**

Efficient working structure and trained, motivated and committed civil servants are needed in the country to speed up plans and programmes of the country that lead to achieve SDGs in the country. UNCT, Multi-National Development Banks and Bilateral Development Agencies are providing their capacity development supports in the country. Federal Government should provide supports to local governments and province governments to enhance their capacity.

### **Trade**

Commerce Policy 2015, National Trade Integrated Strategy 2016, and Trade Deficit Reduction National Action Plan are in place to manage the traded in the country. Moreover, Government introduced Safeguard, Anti-dumping and Counter Velling Act 2019 in last year. This act intends to capture spirit of fair trade under WTO. Further, Government has recently introduced cash subsidy procedure to promote the exports and it has kicked off Trade and Investment programme to promote export of coffee and pashmina. Kolkata port and Larcha dry ports are now in operation. Transit treaty with India has been renewed and Nepal can use rivers for trade and transit. Nepal has agreed with China to open boarder in 6 places. Similarly, Nepal

has agreed with Cambodia and Vietnam for beginning trade relation. India Nepal petroleum pipeline has started to operate in this period. Trade Deficit has been decreased by 5.3 percent in FY 2019/2020 as compared to FY 2018/2019, the Trade Deficit was 27.1 percent in past. But, decrease of trade deficit only due to reduction of price of petroleum products in the international market.

## **System Issues**

### **Policy and Institutional Coherence**

Sectoral plans, long-term strategies and perspective plans need further aligning with the SDGs. During the revision, attention needs to be paid to disaggregating targets and indicators at sub-national level, by sex, age, social groups and disability. In addition, to inform the policy process which policies or interventions worked and which did not in achieving SDGs, evaluation-based evidences need to be generated that again demands huge resources and capacities at various levels.

The implementation of the SDGs requires stable, participatory, visionary, development-oriented and people-centric federal, provincial and local governments. Governance needs to be strengthened at all levels. Government should give high priority on integrating SDGs into provincial and local government plans and building capacity of these new institutions.

Government has established Policy Research Institute, which is itself a good initiative, but to what extent they will be able to work independently, is the question. National Planning Commission should be proactive to review the national policies and coordinate with ministries and province governments to track the progress. Inter-Province Council and Inter-Local Governments Council should be functional to advance the coordination and cooperation at national and province level.

There three tier governments in Nepal, their powers and functions are divided by the constitution. Some powers are concurrent. They can formulate their laws and regulations, but federal law can guide the local and province laws. In addition, three level governments are free to develop their own long term and short term development plans and programmes. But, unfortunately the annual programmes and budgets are not able to carry the spirit of SDGs, on the other hand they are not compatible to 5-Year National Plans. Many development programmes and projects proposed by the Governments are politically motivated.

It is clearly observed that there is a gap in policy and institutional coherence between three level governments. On the other hand, there is some gap among the ministries themselves. In order to implement development policy and programmes there should be improvement of horizontal coordination and vertical coordination. Cooperation and functional linkage are crucial in the development process. National annual programmes and budgets should be based on reality of the country and development projects should be directly link with national 5-year plans. Sectoral coordination is another important area to improve in achieving SDGs.

Development policies, plans and public institutions should be more gender sensitive and they should focus on communities who are left behind and vulnerable as well such as senior citizens, Peoples with disability, informal sector worker and daily wage earners, migrant workers, poor, Dalits, Madeshis etc. Business as will not work in coming days. Present time demands transformative shifts in leadership, policies and working approach. Country needs to deeply review the systemic gaps.

COVID-19 has change the entire context of the country. Nepal may need to focus its policies, plans and resources to address the health emergency, food crisis, and to create jobs in the country. Therefore, country needs to make short-term and long term recovery plan, that should have based on the principle of inclusive and green recovery. Importantly, the Government should review its 15<sup>th</sup> Plan in the context of COVID-19 and national targets of SDGs.

### **Multi Stakeholder Partnership**

SDGs cannot be achieved in isolation. All the development actors should come together, they need to develop partnership and work together. Governments should sit in driving seat. Multi-stakeholder

partnership is necessary at all levels. At country level Federal Governments should play pivotal role to develop partnership.

Government is giving emphasis on partnering and coordination at all levels and with all stakeholders, including the CSOs. But, weak partnership with private and civil Society is clearly observed even after beginning SDGs. Marginalized and vulnerable people such as women, children, PWDs, youth, senior citizens, Indigenous Nationalites, farmers, workers should be embraced as development partners, rather than beneficiaries. On the other hand, role of CSOs is deemed seasonal.

In case of Nepal multi-stakeholder partnership is still weak. Country is not able to build adequate partnership with private sector, however the contribution of private sector is important to drive the economy including production, construction, creating employment in the country. Private sector has invested in hydro power sector, but they are not attracted in other infrastructure development sector. Governments should make clear strategy and come with actions to build partnership with private sector. Private sector wants Governments should build confidence and enabling environments and make sure their investments are secured.

Governments should coordinate and engage local partners as well as foreign working partners to achieve the SDG goals. Political society should be more open to the independent professionals, think-tanks and civil society. Bureaucracy and political society have tendency to remain in status quo, which is the main hurdle for the develop new partnership.

Three Tire Government Coordination Act 2076 was introduced, which is positive. But, it should be fully implemented. Works of three tire governments should complement to each other and need to build synergy. Federal Government needs to work with foreign as well as national development partners.

In implementing the policies for achieving SDGs, Nepal is facing challenges relating to resource generation, mainstreaming and localization of SDGs, lack of disaggregated data, capacity constraint and weak governance, monitoring and evaluation, and coordination. Partners should work together to address these issues.

In last few years, CSOs and media are experiencing constraining their space in terms of legal and operational environments. Government should develop proper coordination mechanisms at local, province and federal level and ease them to work in the fields.

### **Data, Monitoring and Accountability**

Government of Nepal and CBS are trying to improve statistical system in the country. Government is developing National Data Profile as single depository and it will remain as open data. It is suggested to the governments to recognize and data produced by universities, research organizations and NGOs.

But, it is very difficult to find fresh, updated and disaggregated data. Similarly, statistical system of local and province governments is weak. Because of unavailability of data civil society, media and researchers are not in position to monitor the progress of development.

Collecting data itself is very sensitive. Youth should take responsibility in statistic data undertaking and they need to provide inputs in every public survey or census. National census and statistical system should inclusive and participatory. Peoples should have easy access of official data produced by governments.

Leave No One Behind is the main principle of the 2030 Agenda. So, in case of Nepal we need disaggregated and decentralized data in the form of gender, ability/disability, caste and ethnicity, age group and geographical diversity. It is very a serious issue that Governments at all level is unable to present disaggregated data and it very difficult to analyse progress status of different communities in the country.

Governments need to monitor progress status of women, Indigenous Nationalities, Dalits, Youth, Madeshis, Muslims, PWDs in segregated ways. Therefore, disaggregated data is urgently needed at levels including at provincial and local level. Nepal needs to monitor progress of each goal through the perspective



of gender equality and social inclusion. It is strongly suggested to form monitoring mechanisms of marginalized and excluded communities including women, PWDs, Dalits, Youth, Madhesi and Indigenous Nationalities.

SDGs status and roadmap (2016-2030) proposed 479 indicators, but more than hundred indicators do not have baseline data, even they don't have national targets. Most of the environmental indicators do not have data. Some indicators are not compatible with global indicators.

In order to assist policy decisions, the government in association with the private sector and the civil society organizations needs to adopt state of the art data generation and sharing practices. This requires, to a large extent, encouragement of citizen-generated data. Data produced by universities and research organization should be recognized by the Governments.

Federal Government is not able to bring Monitoring and Evaluation Act so far. Despite having regulatory and documents related with Monitoring of development projects, monitoring and accountability process is still weak and it is not inclusive as well.

Effective monitoring of development programme is lacking, although there is high level body for monitoring. Because of absence of tight monitoring, big projects are not completed on time and also they increase the costs of the projects. Government should improve its existing systems and practices. Monitoring and Evaluation department of NPC should be strengthened and it should be main fully responsible in monitoring exercises. Province and local governments should work hard to improve their M&E system. District Coordination Committees are mandated to monitor development works in the districts, but they are not able to do so as they don't have sufficient power.

Country may need to establish powerful multi-stakeholder monitoring mechanisms to hold the public institutions accountable. National Human Rights Commission is gradually becoming active to monitor the SDGs according to the Merida Declaration 2015, which is positive. But, it should collaborate with related Government agencies and CSOs.

## **CHAPTER IV: FOLLOW UP AND REVIEW**

Follow up and review process is very important for the implementation of the SDGs and to monitor the progress. First time, Nepal took part in Voluntary National Review (VNR) process in 2017 and presented a country report "National Review of SDGs" at HLPF 2017 in New York. In addition, Nepal has been participating in sub-regional forums and regional forums of Asia Pacific, which are convened by UN-ESCAP. These forums are very remained very important to share the progress and experiences. But, these forums should be able to make the Governments and stakeholder accountable.

VPR exercise did not find any information about the follow-up activities of the Government after presenting VNR in 2017. It is difficult to get official information about the progress of way forward measures proposed by VNR report of the Government.

VNR itself is an open, transparent, inclusive and participatory exercise. Being apex body of SDGs implementation, NPC organized consultations with stakeholders including CSOs, private sector, local governments, professional organizations, experts, but was unable to participate civil society Major Groups, marginalized and vulnerable communities including Indigenous Peoples, PWDs, LGBTIQ, Madeshi, small farmers, workers. Despite Government organized consultation with local government association, it is unable to hold discussions at province and local level with VNR process.

Importantly, the VNR should be based on global theme of HLPF 2020, but the VNR process is not align with global theme. Country has to propose transformative actions as per the spirit of global understanding.

## CHAPTER V: CIVIC SPACE and SDGs

### Progresses and Achievements

The civil society aims to protect and empower the people (poor and marginalized) at the greatest risk to ensure "No One Is Left Behind." For this reason, vibrant civic space is crucial to achieving the SDG goals of reducing inequality, ensuring inclusion and improving sustainability, and promoting peace, justice, and strong institutions. To that end, the constitution of Nepal has the mandate for inclusion and the country operates within a competitive political environment which envisions a broad-based development, growth and public services<sup>31</sup>. On top of that, the government of Nepal has identified "a strong civil society, free press, and inclusiveness in social, economic and political processes" as "some of the key dimensions of good governance" in its SDGs Roadmap 2016-2030<sup>32</sup>. Meanwhile, the article 3(1) of the Right to Information Act (2007) ensures the right to information of every Nepali citizen<sup>33</sup>. This provision fulfills the SDG goal 16.10.2 (ensure public access to information) which is closely interrelated to the theme of civic space.

As Nepal transitions in the new federalist system, there lie the avenues for the government to make new laws and policies to align with the constitutional provision which calls for the enabling environment for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to work. Similarly, CSOs also have the opportunities to work more effectively at the local level as the deficits of appropriate manpower, resources, and leadership at the newly formed local units and provinces offer ample civic scope and space for their work in SDGs to enrich the virtues of civic life. A report published in 2018 suggests that there has been an improvement in advocacy, service provision and sectoral infrastructure of the CSOs in comparison to the previous years<sup>34</sup> although the overall sustainability of the CSOs has largely been the same for the past three years<sup>35</sup>. These improvements are the reflection of CSOs' increasing efforts to conduct evidence-based advocacy and to contribute in advocacy and the legislative process by tapping into political platforms and state policy<sup>36</sup>.

It is not only to provide inputs, but also to express dissent that the CSOs have been successful in mobilizing its members. Consequently, some restrictive legislative changes, policies, directives (such as national Integrity Policy, Guthi Bill, Media Bill and attempt to ban public protests in a historically important place like Maitighar Mandala among others) have been withdrawn or are currently on hold<sup>37</sup>. Similarly, in addition to working by receiving grants from the international organizations to work in their areas, the local CSOs are now increasingly collaborating with local governments on service provision<sup>38</sup>.

The role of CSOs (and by large civil society) has been significant in aiding the Nepal Government's efforts to recuperate from the mega-earthquake of 2015. The CSOs of Nepal along with International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) and the Government of Nepal provided immediate relief programmes and longer-term programmes targeted to rebuilding infrastructure and or helping people affected by the earthquake. The CSO needs to play as engaged a role as during the earthquake to help the most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, to reignite the economy that is expected to be badly affected by the impending global recession and to fully realize the SDGs in Nepal.

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<sup>31</sup> [https://actalliance.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ACT\\_SynthesisReport\\_CivicSpace\\_2019\\_Final\\_WEB.pdf](https://actalliance.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ACT_SynthesisReport_CivicSpace_2019_Final_WEB.pdf), page 15

<sup>32</sup> [https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/SDGs\\_Report\\_Final.pdf](https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/SDGs_Report_Final.pdf), page 20

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/right-to-information-act-2064-2007.pdf>, page 3

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.fhi360.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/resource-csosi-2018-report-asia.pdf>, page 5

<sup>35</sup> Ibid, page 4

<sup>36</sup> [https://actalliance.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ACT\\_SynthesisReport\\_CivicSpace\\_2019\\_Final\\_WEB.pdf](https://actalliance.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ACT_SynthesisReport_CivicSpace_2019_Final_WEB.pdf), page 19

<sup>37</sup> [http://www.cocap.org.np/assets/uploads/publication/Workshop%20Report%20Civic%20Space%20Assessment\[1444\].pdf](http://www.cocap.org.np/assets/uploads/publication/Workshop%20Report%20Civic%20Space%20Assessment[1444].pdf), page 19

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.fhi360.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/resource-csosi-2018-report-asia.pdf>, page 5

## Key Issues, Challenges and Gaps

Currently, the political power is wielded to a single party, to an extent much less seen in the past. The present power dynamics is the result of the democratic election process but the consequent legislative moves and practices suggest that the government is exerting control over the civic space<sup>39</sup> and is giving relatively lower respect to civil and political rights<sup>40</sup>. A civic space assessment conducted with about 76 civic space actors in Kathmandu by merging Oxfam's Civic Space Monitoring Tool and the CIVICUS Monitor tool to adapt to Nepal's context found that five out of six categories of civic space as obstructed and another component as narrowed<sup>41</sup>. Meanwhile, the similar assessment workshop conducted with the CSO actors from all the provinces came with the result that the overall civic space in six out of seven provinces as narrowed and obstructed in the remaining provinces<sup>42</sup>.

Pressure on civic space can be categorized as relatively moderate to severe in Nepal, depending on the nature of the CSOs. While "the rights-based organizations run by well-connected higher caste groups were likely to be largely unaffected"<sup>43</sup>, the government is increasingly restricting the activities of traditionally marginalized community<sup>44</sup> and human rights organizations, advocacy groups and all actors that challenge vested interests and demand accountability. A proposed new bill regulating the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) activities and funding sources may harm smaller, grassroots and community-based organizations in remote areas on the one hand while the organizations working for the rights of indigenous, Madhesi, or Dalit rights were believed to be most affected by these new regulations. The groups advocating for rights and recognition of the Madhesi population can be labeled as 'pro-Indian' and have withstood most scrutiny from the state<sup>45</sup>. Similarly, the current practice of the Social Welfare Council (SWC) and the provisions of the draft NGO bill with an 'approval system' rather than a 'notification system' for projects of CSOs do not comply with international standards on the freedom of association<sup>46</sup>, violates the independence of CSOs and can lead to (self)censorship. There is a growing concern among the CSOs working on the 'software' as the government now is prioritizing and mandating the organizations to come up with programs to help them achieve big macroeconomic development. The concept of big development will inevitably compete with the discourses of inclusion<sup>47</sup>, pushing issues of inequality and exclusion down the policy agenda<sup>48</sup> and sidelining the organizations working on the same issue.

A couple of the contentious legislations pertaining to civic space were the IT Bill and Media Council Bill. IT bill has been feared by many as a potential tool to criminalize reporting on the government misconduct and expression of critical opinions by civil society and citizens by leveraging the vague provision of protecting national sovereignty<sup>49</sup>. Similarly, the media council bill wields more power to the government to control the media houses and journalists and aims to curb fake news and click-bait journalism through provisions of fines, imprisonment, and even physical torture<sup>50</sup>. The provisions maybe a genuine attempt to curb the

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<sup>39</sup> [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/334671033\\_The\\_Implications\\_of\\_Closing\\_Civic\\_Space\\_for\\_Sustainable\\_Development\\_in\\_Nepal/link/5d3957e3299bf1995b487ace/download](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/334671033_The_Implications_of_Closing_Civic_Space_for_Sustainable_Development_in_Nepal/link/5d3957e3299bf1995b487ace/download), page 34

<sup>40</sup> [https://actalliance.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ACT\\_SynthesisReport\\_CivicSpace\\_2019\\_Final\\_WEB.pdf](https://actalliance.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ACT_SynthesisReport_CivicSpace_2019_Final_WEB.pdf)

<sup>41</sup> [http://www.cocap.org.np/assets/uploads/publication/Workshop%20Report%20Civic%20Space%20Assessment\[1444\].pdf](http://www.cocap.org.np/assets/uploads/publication/Workshop%20Report%20Civic%20Space%20Assessment[1444].pdf), page 5

<sup>42</sup> [http://www.cocap.org.np/assets/uploads/publication/COCAP\\_Report%20on%20Provincial%20Civic%20Space%20Assessment.pdf](http://www.cocap.org.np/assets/uploads/publication/COCAP_Report%20on%20Provincial%20Civic%20Space%20Assessment.pdf), page 5

<sup>43</sup> [https://actalliance.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ACT\\_SynthesisReport\\_CivicSpace\\_2019\\_Final\\_WEB.pdf](https://actalliance.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ACT_SynthesisReport_CivicSpace_2019_Final_WEB.pdf), page 23-24

<sup>44</sup> [https://actalliance.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ACT\\_SynthesisReport\\_CivicSpace\\_2019\\_Final\\_WEB.pdf](https://actalliance.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ACT_SynthesisReport_CivicSpace_2019_Final_WEB.pdf), page 18

<sup>45</sup> Ibid, page 19

<sup>46</sup> [https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session23/A.HRC.23.39\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session23/A.HRC.23.39_EN.pdf)

<sup>47</sup> Ibid

<sup>48</sup> Ibid, page 22

<sup>49</sup> <https://www.civicus.org/index.php/media-resources/media-releases/3779-proposed-new-social-media-law-in-nepal-threatens-freedom-of-expression>

<sup>50</sup> <https://thediplomat.com/2019/05/nepals-proposed-media-bill-is-a-press-freedom-killer/>

fake news and clickbait journalism but the harsh punishment through fines, imprisonment, and even physical torture<sup>51</sup>; and all-powerful pro-government media council has convinced many in the civil society and journalism sector into thinking the bill as a facade to control the fourth estate and freedom of expression.

Concerning the SDG goal 16.10.01, the number of violent incidents (assault and kidnapping) against the Human Rights Defenders has been on the rise in last two years in comparison to the year 2017 although there are no reported death of human rights defender in the last three years<sup>52</sup>. Similarly, in regards to the SDG goal 16.10.02, there are some gaps between the provisions in the Right to Information Act and its implementation. Many local governments do not proactively publish the information regarding the planning process and budget allocation<sup>53</sup> and there are many instances in which civil service members, activists, and journalists who request the information have had to follow up many times<sup>54</sup>; have been denied the requested information altogether<sup>55</sup>; and have been threatened, arrested or attacked<sup>56</sup>.

CSOs are not infallible either. In the democratically competitive political system of Nepal, civil society is itself divided along the party line<sup>57</sup> which makes it difficult for CSOs to maintain cohesion at contentious political issues. Similarly, most CSOs in Nepal lack the expertise, willingness, and capacity to hold the government accountable over public finances<sup>58</sup>. Meanwhile, the project-based nature of the CSOs makes it difficult for the CSO to attract and retain the best human capital.

### **Call for Actions**

CSOs should come together in a collective way to make the government aware of the need for a vibrant and diverse civil society for sustainable and inclusive development. CSOs need to work in the direction of deflecting any legislation, policies or regulation curtailing the jurisdiction and workspace of CSOs. CSOs/Alliance of CSOs which would be most affected.

The mechanism should be set up such that the respective CSOs and the government discuss the protocols, methodology, and approaches of data collection before a project is approved. This mechanism ensures that the government is satisfied with the data collection and therefore validates the work of CSOs in the field of data, in coordination with CSOs.

The network of the CSOs be it local network, regional network, or national network should encourage capacity building programmes in 'peer to peer' modules to help the CSO frame messages in a strategic, non-confrontative, and evidence-based manner. National Networks of CSOs i.e NGO Federation of Nepal; Provincial Alliances of CSOs; the local alliances.

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<sup>51</sup> Ibid

<sup>52</sup> <https://nepalmonitor.org/dashboard/expert-filter-result?startdate=2017-01-01&enddate=2019-12-31&tags%5B%5D=HRD+Issues&form%5B%5D=01&form%5B%5D=02&form%5B%5D=03&form%5B%5D=04&form%5B%5D=05&form%5B%5D=06&form%5B%5D=08&form%5B%5D=09&form%5B%5D=10&form%5B%5D=11&form%5B%5D=12&form%5B%5D=13&form%5B%5D=14&form%5B%5D=15&form%5B%5D=16&form%5B%5D=17&form%5B%5D=18&form%5B%5D=0&form%5B%5D=1000&form%5B%5D=07&form%5B%5D=19&form%5B%5D=191&form%5B%5D=192>

<sup>53</sup> [http://www.cocap.org.np/assets/uploads/publication/COCAP\\_Report%20on%20Provincial%20Civic%20Space%20Assessment.pdf](http://www.cocap.org.np/assets/uploads/publication/COCAP_Report%20on%20Provincial%20Civic%20Space%20Assessment.pdf), page 21

<sup>54</sup> Ibid, page 15,19

<sup>55</sup> Ibid, page 9

<sup>56</sup> Ibid page 11

<sup>57</sup> [https://actalliance.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ACT\\_SynthesisReport\\_CivicSpace\\_2019\\_Final\\_WEB.pdf](https://actalliance.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ACT_SynthesisReport_CivicSpace_2019_Final_WEB.pdf), page 18

<sup>58</sup> Ibid, page 21

## **Contributors**

1. Asia Academy Peace, Research and Development
2. Association of Youth Organizations Nepal
3. Collective Campaign for Peace (COCAP)
4. CWIN Nepal
5. Dalit Welfare Organization
6. Digo Bikash Institute
7. Eearthday Network
8. Freedom Forum
9. INHURED International
10. Juri-Nepal
11. National Association of Community Energy Users Nepal,
12. National Campaign for Sustainable Development
13. National Farmers Group Federation
14. National Forum for Advocacy Nepal
15. National Policy Institute
16. Nepal Disable Women Association
17. Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities
18. NGO Forum/LUMANTI
19. Sankalpa and Women for Human Rights-SWG
20. Society fo International Law and Public Policies
21. Transparency International Nepal
22. Visible Impact
23. Youth for Environment Education and Development

### **SDGs National Network Nepal, National Coordination Group**

- Association of Youth Organizations Nepal (AYON)
- Dalit Welfare Organization (DWO)
- Dalit Youth Alliance (DYA)
- National Campaign for Sustainable Development Nepal (NACASUD-Nepal)
- National Farmers' Group Federation (NFGF)
- Nepal Disabled Women Association (NDWA)
- Women for Human Rights Single Women Group (WHR)
- Youth For Environment Education Development (YFEED)

### **SDGs National Network Nepal, Secretariat**

National Campaign for Sustainable Development Nepal (NACASUD-Nepal) is now serving as a secretariat of the network by liaison, coordination and facilitation.

NACASUD Nepal is the member of Regional Coordination Committee of Asia Pacific Regional CSOs Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM), which is directly engaging with UN-ESCAP at regional and sub-regional level.

## **Participating Organizations**

1. Action Aid Nepal
2. Action Works Nepal
3. Ageing Nepal
4. Angalo
5. Arpan Poverty Allievation
6. Asia Indigenous International Network
7. Asian Academy for Peace, Research and Development
8. Asmita Women's Publishing House, Media & Resource organization
9. Association for Dalit Women's Advancement of Nepal
10. Association of Community Radio Broadcasters' (ACORAB) Nepal
11. Association of Distrcit Coordination Committees Nepal (ADCCN)
12. Association of Youth Organizations Nepal (AYON)
13. Beyond Beijing Committee
14. Bikashka Lagi Sajha Abhiyan Siraha
15. Blue Diamond Society
16. Campaign for Human Rights and Social Transformation (CAHURAST)
17. CARE International in Nepal
18. Caritas Nepal
19. Center of Needy and Creative, Experimental & Participatory Techniques
20. Central Department of Environmental Science, TU
21. Centre for Social Change
22. Child Fund Japan
23. Clean Energy Nepal
24. CSRC Nepal
25. Dalit NGOs Federation
26. Dalit Welfare Organisation
27. Dalit Youth Alliance
28. Development Exchange Center Nepal
29. Development Project Service Centre (DEPROSC-Nepal)
30. Dhimal Women Forum
31. Digo Bikas Institute
32. Disaster Management Network Nepal
33. Earth Day Network
34. ENRUDEC
35. FECOFUN Nepal
36. Federation for Good Governance Nepal
37. Federation of Sexual and Gender Minorities Nepal
38. Feminist Dalit organization (FEDO)
39. FOCUS-Nepal
40. Forest Environment Workers Union
41. Forum for Community Upliftment System Nepal (FOCUS-NEPAL)
42. Freedom Forum
43. Friends for Peacebuilding and Development
44. GARJAN-Nepal
45. Gate Organization
46. GoGo Foundation



47. Good Shepherd International Foundation (GSIF Nepal)
48. Green Organization
49. Hami DajuVai
50. HAMI YUWA
51. HAPE Development and Welfare Association
52. HOPE Foundation Nepal
53. Housing Recovery and Reconstruction Platform (HRRP)
54. INHURED International
55. International Youth Forum
56. Jagriti Child and Youth Concern Nepal (JCYCN)
57. Joint Trade Union Coordination Centre (JTUCC)
58. Justice and Rights Institute Nepal (JuRI-Nepal)
59. Kamana Foundation Nepal
60. Kathmandu Business and Professional Women Association (YBPW)
61. Kathmandu University School of Education
62. KUSAL NEPAL
63. LAHURNIP
64. Land Coalition Nepal
65. LEADERSHIP WATCH
66. Lumanti Support Group for Shelter
67. Mahila Atma Nirvarta Kendra (MANK)
68. Mahila Shakti Bikash Kendra Nepal
69. Medecins Du Monde France
70. MITINI NEPAL
71. Municipal Association of Nepal
72. National Action and Coordinating Group
73. National Association of Community Electricity Users' Nepal, NACEUN
74. National Association of the Physical Disabled-Nepal
75. National Campaign For Sustainable Development-Nepal
76. National Election Observation Committee (NEOC)
77. National Farmers' Group Federatiion
78. National Federation of the Disabled Nepal (NFDN))
79. National Federation of Women Living with HIV and AIDS
80. National Federation of Youth NGOs Nepal
81. National Forum for Advocacy Nepal
82. National Human Rights Foundation (HURFON)
83. National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal
84. National Indigenous Women's Federation (NIWF)
85. National Trade Union Coordination Committee
86. Nepal Disabled Women Association (NDWA)
87. Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN)
88. Nepal Majhi Women Upliftment Association
89. Nepal Transportation and Development Research Centre
90. Nepalese Youth for Climate Action
91. Nepal Water Conservation Foundation
92. Network for Development of Indigenous Peoples (NDIP)

93. One to watch
94. Option Nepal
95. Poor and Dalit Upliftment Service Committee-PUSEC Dolpa
96. Research for Environment Forest Agriculture and Development Nepal
97. Resource Centre for Primary Health Care (RECPHEC)
98. Restructuring Nepal
99. Rotaract Club of Matribhumi Baluwatar
100. Rural Youth Network nepal
101. SAMATA Foundation
102. Sankalpa
103. Sarokar Foundation
104. SDGs Studio
105. Self Help Environment Awareness Camp (SHEAC) Pokhara
106. Society for International Law and Public Policy
107. South Asia Dialogues on Ecological Democracy (SADED-Nepal)
108. South Asia Partnership Nepal
109. Spiral Farm House
110. Sunita Foundation
111. Support Nepal
112. Sustainability Week Kathmandu
113. Tanneri Chaso Surkhet
114. Sachet Youth Network
115. terre des hommes Germany
116. The Resource Nepal
117. Toni Hagen Foundation Nepal
118. Transformation Nepal
119. TSD Socioeconomic Research Center
120. United Mission to Nepal
121. Visible Impact
122. VSO International Nepal
123. Water Aid Nepal
124. Women Development Society
125. Women For Human Rights Single Women Group
126. Women for Peace and Democracy Nepal
127. Women Youth Empowerment in Social Service and Human Rights
128. World Vision International Nepal
129. YFEED Foundation
130. Young Women For Change
131. Youth Advocacy Nepal (YAN)
132. Youth Development Center
133. Youth for Human Rights Nepal
134. Youth Network for Peace and Development, Mahottari
135. Youth Vision Nepal, Banke
136. YUWA