### Gender Equality, Women Empowerment: Context in Nepal

**POLITICAL:** Devolution of Power
- Ongoing Federalization
- 15th Development Plan
- National Gender Equality Policy (2021) commitment to good governance, social justice, gender equality and women’s empowerment
- Significant shift with federalism, 100+ Laws drafted/amended
- Women representation from 2022 election (36.4% at provincial and 33.8% at federal level). Decrease in Deputy Mayor/Vice chair position (93% in 2017 to 75% in 2022)
- CEDAW Committee concluding observation 2018, and implementation status report by National Women Commission

**SOCIAL:** Diversity & Inclusion
- Harmful traditional practices:
  - 33% women and 7% of men are married before age of 18
  - 1 in 4 of married women have experienced spousal physical, sexual, or emotional violence
  - 64% victims of sexual violence reported to police were children below 18 years and 83% of perpetrators were acquaintances (Nepal Police: July 2020 to June 2021)

**ECONOMIC:** Growth & Hazards
- Strong provisions on women’s economic empowerment in the constitution, National employment policy (2015), Labour Act (2017)
- The rate of women’s labour force participation is less than half of that of men (26.3% and 53.8% respectively).
- Average monthly earning for women is only two thirds that of men. Women mostly work in informal settings.
- Multi-hazard prone: Ranked 4th most vulnerable to climate change, 11th to earthquake, 30th to floods. Top 3rd country in Asia for disaster-induced displacement of persons.
- Green, resilient and inclusive development (GRID) approach for sustainable recovery, growth and jobs post COVID-19
- Nepal’s graduation from a Least Developed Country

**Harmful traditional practices:**
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Objective

To advance gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in Nepal, to realize the national vision of a prosperous and developed Nepal (Vision 2030).
Alignment with national priorities

- Constitution of Nepal 2015
- 15th Periodic Plan
- National Gender Equality Policy 2021

Other sectoral legislations, policies and guidelines:

- The Act relating to Children 2075 (2018)
- Contribution-based Social Security Act
- Gender-responsive budget guidelines including recently adopted model guideline for provincial and local government 2021 developed by Ministry of Finance

Contributes to SDG 5 Gender Equality, SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities, and SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, among others
Men and boys, families & communities demonstrate more gender-equitable behaviour, support for positive social & gender norms that promote gender equality and women’s empowerment, and women and girls have increased agency and voice.

**Areas of Focus:**

**Social Norm Change and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention**

- Engage men and boys to model gender positive behavior in line with men engagement strategy
- Support community/institution i.e. schools, women & girls' networks to challenge/transform harmful social norms
- Empower women/ girls, parents, caregivers, community using gender transformative approaches to speak up against gender discrimination, address harmful social norms & model positive behaviors
- Promote equitable gender norms including around unpaid household and care work within families
- Promote social care infrastructure to address women’s unpaid care work
- Expand on existing GBV champions program to enable promising adolescents and youth to advocate gender equality and human rights, particularly sexual and reproductive health rights in their communities
- Strengthen data systems and evidence generation on GBV - National GBV Prevalence Survey

**Outcome 1 contributes to GE Policy Strategy 2:**
End GBV by changing social norm through prevention, mitigation and regulatory efforts

Social norms and harmful practices prioritized in GE policy under Strategy 2: Chhaupadi, Child Marriage, Polygamy, Dowry, Witchcraft
Outcome 2

Women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, fully enjoy and exercise their equal economic, labor and social rights.

Areas of Focus:
Women’s Economic Empowerment (agriculture and forestry value chains)

- Promote decent work through strengthening labor administration systems
- Increase women’s participation in labor force and improve working conditions
- Promotion of social dialogue in all tiers of governance, aimed at promoting decent work, gender equality and human rights in line with the principles of leaving no one behind
- Enhance tripartite dialogue structures and capacity of market-based organizations (trade unions, chambers of commerce, cooperatives, producer groups)
- Strengthen gender sensitive social protection measures, including social assistance and contributory schemes
- Promote income generation opportunities
- Support women-led businesses
- Promote sustainable value chains linked to green growth and formalization
- Promote access to gender and age sensitive essential services including through government supported One-Stop Crisis Management Centers (OCMCs), safe houses and shelter homes for GBV survivors

Outcome 2 contributes to:

GE Policy Strategy 2: To end GBV through preventive, responsive and regulatory efforts.

GE Policy Strategy 4: To increase women participation in labour market by changing gender-based labour division and count women’s contribution in economy.

GE Policy Strategy 5: Advance women’s economic empowerment through integrated programme on self-employment, employment and entrepreneurship.

GE Policy Strategy 6: Make women self-dependent through economic empowerment, equal access and control over resources/tools and access to decision making.
Institutions deliver gender equality outcomes in all spheres, in line with international and national normative frameworks.

**Areas of Focus: Women’s leadership and representation**

- Support Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens to monitor implementation of gender equality policy
- Support national human rights institutions including National Women’s Commission on implementation of international and national normative commitments
- Strengthen gender mainstreaming in select sectors at all levels of government
- Support gender-responsive budget (GRB) implementation at provincial and local level government in line with model GRB guideline developed by Ministry of Finance
- Promote women’s leadership and access to decision making (elected women representatives) to strengthen gender responsive governance
- Promote civic engagement especially of women and youth at all levels of government
- Promote the ratification and implementation of ILO Conventions with support of Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security
- Support National Child Rights Council to institutionalize Child Protection Information System and support Nepal Police in data collection and analysis

**Outcome 3 contributes to:**

**GE Policy Strategy 1:** Make existing and new policies gender responsive and continue provisions on positive discrimination and its implementation for gender equality

**GE Policy Strategy 3:** Promote gender responsive governance in all three tiers of governance through legal provisions, institutional reforms and capacity development
Project timeline and budget

Project timeline: 2023 - 2026

Project budget:
USD 19.5 million
(EU contribution-USD 15.5 million
UN Contribution- USD 4 million)

FEDERAL LEVEL:

Partnerships

PROVINCIAL LEVEL:
Ministry of Social Development, Provincial Planning Commission and line ministries/ departments

LOCAL LEVEL:
Collaboration and joint implementation with local governments.
Geographical strategy

The project will be implemented in **Karnali, Madhesh and Sudurpaschim Provinces**, with cross-cutting activities in partnership with federal, provincial and local governments.

- **6-10 palikas** (all project activities)
- **20-30 palikas** (select project activities)
- A detailed qualifying criteria will be developed to identify the project palikas in consultation with federal, provincial and local level government and other relevant stakeholders.

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The UN delivering as one

- Technical specialized knowledge
- Bring global knowledge/good practices
- Normative facilitation role
- Support members state to implement agenda 2030 (in line with LNOB principle)
- Four UN agencies with specialized expertise coming together to design and implement a holistic and integrated programme on gender equality