

# Gender Assessment

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**FP172: Mitigating GHG emission through  
modern, efficient and climate friendly clean  
cooking solutions (CCS)**

Nepal | Alternative Energy Promotion Centre | B.30/02/Add.04

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## **Gender documentation for FP172**

Mitigating GHG emission through modern, efficient and climate friendly clean cooking solutions (CCS)

### Gender Assessment

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## List of Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AEPC	Alternative Energy Promotion Centre
BFI	Bank and Financial Institution
CCS	Clean Cooking Solutions
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women
CRT/N	Centre for Rural Technology Nepal
ENPHO	Environment and Public Health Organization
FCHV	Female Community Health Volunteers
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forest User group Nepal
FHH	Female Headed Households
GDI	Gender Development Index
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GEM	Gender Empowerment Measure
GII	Gender Inequality Index
GS	Gender Specialist
HDI	Human Development Index
ICS	Improved Cook stove
IP	Implementation Phase
MFI	Micro-finance Institution
MoWCSC	Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen
NDHS	Nepal Demographic and Health Survey
NRREP	National Rural Renewable Energy Programme
TCS	Traditional Cook stove
WDP	Women Development Programme
WoNEE	Women's Network of Energy and Environment

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Gender Background

The International Women's Year (1975) and the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-85) created a wave of activity for bringing women in the development mainstream worldwide. Post this, a series of the status of women in Nepal studies were carried out throughout 1979-81. The policy to promote women's participation in development appeared for the first time in the Sixth National Plan (1980-85) of the country.<sup>1</sup> Nepal has accessed Convention on Political Rights for women on April 26, 1966, followed by ratification of Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on April 22, 1991. Nepal has also ratified Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on June 15, 2007, signed the Beijing Platform for Action, and the International Conference on Population and Development +10. The treaties established a way forward to mainstream Gender Issues in state laws and policies.

The Constitution of Nepal promulgated in 2015, with the commitment to end gender discrimination, has guaranteed the equal right to property, right to safe motherhood and reproductive health rights, right to ensure proportional representation at all concerned levels as well as the right to enjoy fundamental human rights for all women. A separate code of conduct for the prevention of violence against women and girls has been introduced as the Sexual Harassment at Workplace Prevention Act 2015. Also, the Criminal (Penal Code) 2017 protects women and children, particularly minorities.

Women Development Programme (WDP) created in 1981 as a women development office with a vision for an equitable and prosperous society and prime strategies on mainstreaming, empowerment, and inclusion in the domain of Women's development. Since 2000, WDP has been operating with nationwide coverage. For gender issues and women empowerment, the functional ministry is the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen (MoWCSC). The Department of Women and Children under MoWCSC was created in 2000 and later reformed in 2010 with a mandate to do functional jobs in Women's development. National Women Commission was founded in 2001 as a constitutional body to protect women's rights, women's welfare, and incorporate women in developmental mainstreams and establish women's rights and gender equity.

Institutional Mechanisms for GESI Policy in Ministries, National Commissions for Women, Dalits, Indigenous Nationalities, Madhesis, Muslims, Tharus and a National Inclusion Commission that is mandated to protect the rights of Khas Aryas, Pichardiaka ("backward") class, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, labourers, peasants, minority and marginalized communities, people of the Karnali, and the indigent class, National Planning Commission, MoWCSC, and the Department of Women and Children in Central Level, with similar units in Provincial Level. GESI Mainstreaming Facilitation in Local Level is in process.

Nepal Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) had conducted a survey in 2016 which provides reliable estimates at the national level, for urban and rural areas, 3 ecological zones, 5 development regions, and 7 provinces. It has summarised the status of women empowerment in three categories.<sup>2</sup>

- a. Employment: 68% of married women were employed in past 12 months compared to 97% of married women
- b. Ownership of assets: 8% own a home, and 11% own land alone or jointly; among men, 19% own a home and 21% own land alone or jointly

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Women and Children, Nepal <https://www.dwc.gov.np/pages/history>

<sup>2</sup> <https://kathmandupost.com/national/2017/04/24/presidents-women-empowerment-programme-starts-in-26-districts>

- c. Participation in household decisions: 53% to make decisions about major household purchases

Separate governmental programmes such as ‘The President’s Women empowerment programme’ started on March 07, 2017 to establish a gender-responsive governance system and a just society by developing and promoting women’s socio-economic empowerment and entrepreneurship.<sup>3</sup> There are many parallel women empowerment programmes conducted at national and local levels by several NGOs.

The ministry of Federal affairs and Local development had introduced a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policy in 2009 as an uptake in women empowerment in social inclusivity in Local Development entities. The current 15th national plan has allocated the budget of NRs. 14.98 Billion to mainstream Gender equality and inclusion (GESI) principles into the governance system of provincial and local levels as an expected outcome of Provincial and Local government support programmes from 2019/2020 to 2023/24.

The current 15th national plan has the gender equality and women empowerment vision to “Build Nepal as a gender-equal nation.” It has identified the target indicators to fulfill in the year 2023/24 with reference to baseline data from 2018/19 tabulated below.<sup>4</sup>

Indicators	Baseline Year 2018/19	Target year 2023/24
Women representation in Legislation	33.81%	40%
Women representation in Local Governments	40.75%	41%
Women representation in Public Sector	24.7%	34%
Gender Development Index (GDI)	0.897	0.963
<b>Women Empowerment</b>		
Women Owned Enterprise (of total enterprise)	26%	40%
Household with house and land registered in women’s name	26%	33%
Gender Empower Measure (GEM)	0.57	0.64
Ratio of female and male labour participation rate	0.49	0.98
Ratio of female to male wages	0.49	0.98
<b>Violence against Women</b>		
Women who have victimized lifetime of physical, mental or sexual violence	24.4%	13%

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<sup>3</sup> Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2016 <https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/SR243/SR243.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> 15th national plan, National Planning Commission  
[https://npc.gov.np/images/category/15th\\_plan\\_English\\_Version.pdf](https://npc.gov.np/images/category/15th_plan_English_Version.pdf)

The World Economic Forum published a recent report on the Global Gender Gap 2020 where Nepal ranks 101st among 153 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index 2020 rankings ahead of China (106) and India (112)<sup>5</sup>. Among South Asia countries, Nepal ranks second after Bangladesh in regional level ranking. The report ranks the countries according to calculated gender gaps between women and men in four key areas: health, education, economy and politics. Key findings from the report are shown in Table 1.

	% Female	% Male	Female to Male Ratio
<b>Economic participation and opportunity</b>			
Labor force participation	84.5%	86.3%	0.98
Estimated earned income (PPP, US\$)	2.1	3.3	0.63
Legislators, senior officials and managers	18.4%	81.6%	0.23
Professional and technical workers	37.5%	62.5%	0.60
<b>Educational attainment</b>			
Literacy rate	59.7%	78.6%	0.76
Enrolment in primary education	74.8%	86.0%	0.87
Enrolment in secondary education	58.6%	56.5%	1.04
Enrolment in tertiary education	12.8%	12.0%	1.07
<b>Health and survival</b>			
Sex ratio at birth	-	-	0.94
Healthy life expectancy, years	62.1	60.5	1.03
<b>Political empowerment</b>			
Women in parliament	32.7%	67.3%	0.49
Women in ministerial positions	14.3%	85.7%	0.17
Years with female/male head of state (last 50)	3.7	46.3	0.08

Table 1: Gender Profile

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<sup>5</sup> World Economic Forum, *Insight Report. The Global Gender Gap Report 2020*. Geneva, Switzerland: World Economic Forum, 2019.

Human Development Report 2019<sup>6</sup> shows that the Gender Inequality Index (GII) value of Nepal is 0.476, ranking it 115 out of 162 countries in the 2018 index. Whereas, 2018 female Human Development Index (HDI) value for Nepal is 0.549 in contrast with 0.612 for males, resulting in a (Gender Development Index) GDI value of 0.897.

## 1.2 Gender and Energy Sector

Normally energy policies are approached from a technical and gender neutral perspective and have implications for equality between women and men and for the poor. Improvements in women's health, girls' education opportunities, household nutritional status, and livelihoods can be led by alternative and rural energy technologies like rural electrification, micro hydropower, solar technologies. However, maximizing these benefits requires attention to the barriers that women and excluded groups face in accessing these technologies.

Major policy documents governing the energy sector include the Electricity Act 1992, Hydropower Development Policy, (2001), the National Water Resources Strategy (2002), 15th National Plan (2018-2023), the National Water Plan (2005), and the Rural Energy Policy (2006).

The legal and policy framework governing energy issues is largely silent on recognizing GESI as a factor requiring separate treatment, with some exceptions (e.g., Rural Energy Policy, 2006). A general trend evident in these legislations is that the more recent ones, especially those introduced post-2006, are more sensitive to GESI issues. For example, the Renewable Energy Subsidy Policy, 2016 is more GESI-sensitive in many more parameters compared with something like the Electricity Act, 1992.<sup>7</sup> For instance, the Rural Energy Policy, 2006, among others, explicitly states "as rural energy is directly linked to activities traditionally carried out by the women, programmes of rural energy technology will be implemented considering it as an integral part of the women's enabling activities" (Article 10.6). The policy also emphasizes issues such community management, enhancing productivity of end users, and representation of excluded groups in user committees.

Policies which are more relevant to the project components would be Renewable Energy Subsidy Policy and Rural Energy Subsidy Delivery Mechanism, 2013 which have specific subsidies targeted to women and the socially excluded groups<sup>8</sup>:

- a. Additional subsidy of Rs. 2,500 per household will be provided to households with single woman, backward, disaster victim, conflict affected, poor and endangered ethnic group as identified by the Government of Nepal.
- b. For solar thermal technologies for rural areas, additional Rs. 20,000 will be provided if at least 50 percent of the target groups are single women, backward, disaster victim, conflict victim, endangered ethnic group.
- c. For biogas and metallic cookstoves, additional subsidies of up to NPR 4000 and 1000 are offered to single women, backward, disaster victims, and endangered poor households, ethnic groups.

The National Rural Renewable Energy Programme (NRREP) managed by AEPC, a 5-year programme that started in 2012, was an integrated version of different smaller programmes or projects. The

<sup>6</sup> UNDP. (2019). Human Development Report 2019. Beyond income, beyond averages, beyond today: Inequalities in human development in the 21st century. Washington, DC: Author. <http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdr2019.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> ADB, 2018 <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/401781/gender-equality-social-inclusion-assessment-energy-nepal.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> RE Subsidy Policy 2013 [https://www.aepc.gov.np/uploads/docs/2018-06-19\\_RE%20Subsidy%20Policy,%20202073%20\(English\).pdf](https://www.aepc.gov.np/uploads/docs/2018-06-19_RE%20Subsidy%20Policy,%20202073%20(English).pdf)

NRREP programme mandated that specific affirmative action will be planned, implemented and monitored across all component activities, aiming to empower women and marginalized groups through enhancement of their technical capabilities and assisting them to take up ownership of technologies. A number of development programmes in Renewable Energy Sector of Nepal, such as the Biogas Support programme (BSP), the Rural Energy Development Programme (REDP), and the ADB-supported Decentralized Rural Infrastructure and Livelihood Project (DRILP) provide good practices in GESI integration that can be learned and integrated into programme planning.<sup>9</sup>

The GESI approach has been considered as a cross-cutting issue in all the programmes of Government institutions and NGOS. For instance, FECOFUN, a federation of Community Forest User Groups has a 50% representation of women with equally divided portfolios in the Executive Committee including people from all regions, indigenous peoples, minority groups, differently abled people, and ultra-poor. They practice Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) from Federal to local FECOFUN chapters. Similarly, Women's Network of Energy and Environment (WoNEE) is a national network of grassroots women willing to contribute to women's economic empowerment and ensuring energy and environmental justice in Nepal. It is also working to leverage funds from local governments and co-finance the e-cooking sector.

In most of the programs, it is found that women have less access to information through official channels as reviewed by Koojiman A, 2021. Also, the inability of the programmes to involve women in technical trainings and capacity building is also a reason of shortage of women technicians in the market which we have tried to mitigate by setting specific targets of women participation and involvement in technical trainings. Female Community Health volunteers have been the most effective medium of communication and awareness in community, learnt from their experiences in creating awareness in COVID pandemic or post-earthquake scenario.

An instrumental partner in the awareness creation and local monitoring activities of the project could be the Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs). It is reported that the community health interventions which are mobilised through FCHV have high population coverage and they can be an important factor for home visits and demonstration projects. They are also mobilised for COVID-19 awareness. Under the Green and Inclusive Energy (GIE) program, FCHVs were trained on prevention and control of household air pollution and further mobilised to train households on the benefits of clean cooking solutions.

Leadership ability of women and girls in the energy sector are undermined by prevalent gender norms and discriminatory gender roles. There is no such consideration of gender issues and inclusive financing as well. There is priority loan provision but it is more focused on youth and poor people, who want to initiate self-employed or micro enterprises. The barriers exist not just in the policy and legal framework, but also the institutions, programmes and implementation of energy and water sectors<sup>10</sup>. Moreover, there is no data available on segregated data on GESI in credit financing to market chain actors in RE technology.

### **1.2.1 Gender and Finances**

The supply side of the energy sector has very few involvement of women technicians and experts. In the case of female household heads, they are more vulnerable than male heads to such external changes in terms of acquiring new knowledge and access to new resource bases<sup>11</sup>. Therefore, special

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<sup>9</sup> Koojiman A., 2021 <https://mecs.org.uk/publications/gender-responsive-electric-cooking-in-nepal/>

<sup>10</sup> Centre for Rural Technology Nepal 2018 <https://www.crtnepal.org/document/Annual%20Report%202018-wxzKeKGutX.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/institutional-document/32561/women-nepal.pdf>

measures have to be taken to monitor that women family members and female heads of households receive adequate assistance.

Gender stereotypes for women to have less education, early marriage, and total responsibility in household has hindered women to work as technical human resource. Unlike in cottage and small scale industries, interventions to promote women's involvement as technicians are insufficient. In the value chain, representation of women has been the major barrier in policy sectors while their active participation has been the same at local level.

There is no such consideration of gender issues and inclusive financing as well. There is priority loan provision but it is more focused on youth and poor people, who want to initiate self-employed or micro enterprises. The barriers exist not just in the policy and legal framework, but also the institutions, programmes and implementation of energy and water sectors<sup>12</sup>. No data is available on segregated data on GESI in credit financing to market chain actors in RE technology. There are few women led entrepreneurs in the clean cooking business that have been promoted by CRT/N and other agencies but those are very small in number and operate as a side business. For instance, Women's Network of Energy and Environment (WoNEE) is a national network of grassroots women willing to contribute to women's economic empowerment and ensuring energy and environmental justice in Nepal. It is also working to leverage funds from local governments and co-finance the e-cooking sector. In all provinces, there is no such initiation for GESI integration in the cookstove sector.

However, Nepal Rastra Bank directives to the banks and financial institution regulates them to lend up to 5% of their loan portfolio to the deprived sector that covers, low income, socially backward women, janjati, dalit, and differently-abled persons<sup>13</sup>. Loan extended by BFIs to MFIs on corporate guarantee for wholesale lending to cooperatives called deprived sector lending. MFIs and cooperatives being member based organisations usually are successful in targeting GESI objectives which is also usually part of their objective.

Most cooperatives and MFIs have more than 50% female members. Women have loan repayments above 95%. Therefore, these organisations are providing credit targeted beneficiaries for cookstoves. This approach has been a success also with win-win situations for BFIs, MFIs and cooperatives and strongly recommended for future acceleration of clean cooking projects<sup>14</sup>.

Credit financing through multipurpose cooperatives have been in practice to support several types of small businesses. Few examples of same to purchase electric cookstoves in Kavre district have been taken as case study by (Koojiman, 2021). Similar models will uplift the beneficiaries' capacity to bear Capital expenses of cleaner cookstoves. This will create a conducive environment to make market sustainable.

### **1.2.2 Gender and cook stove**

More than one half (52%) of the households in the country use mud-stoves for cooking purposes, followed by kerosene/gas stove (21 percent), open fire-place (22 percent), and smokeless stove (3 percent)<sup>15</sup>. The gender dimension imposes influence on the household activities specially kitchen,

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<sup>12</sup>Centre for Rural Technology Nepal 2018

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.crtnepal.org/document/Annual%20Report%202018-wxzKeKGutX.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Landscape Analysis of the cookstove Sector of Nepal, 2021

<sup>15</sup> Central Bureau of Statistics. (2011). Nepal living standards survey 2010–11.

with girls and women bearing the majority of the negative effects of fuel collection and transport, household air pollution, and the use of time-consuming and unsafe cooking technologies. Overharvesting of fuelwood and fodder is also considered one of the major issues of deforestation in Nepal<sup>16</sup>.

The present unemployment rate in Nepal is 11.4 percent where the rate of female (13.1%) unemployment is higher in comparison to male (10.3%)<sup>17</sup>.

The gender assessment shows Nepal as a country with gender equality issues. Cooking is almost entirely carried out by women, requiring on average about 4 hours a day for cooking using a traditional cooking stoves<sup>18</sup>.

Women in Nepal spends about 142 minutes to collect the firewood whereas men spends only about 50 minutes<sup>19</sup>. Likewise, the study shows the involvement of women in collecting agricultural residue and cow dung is 70.2% whereas involvement of men is only 29.8%, this shows that in collecting of both firewood and biomass fuel involvement of women is much more than men<sup>20</sup>.

Despite having plenty of engagement in cooking, women have not been able to make decisions in selection of cookstoves. They have less or no access to information through official channels. For female headed households or single women, if they are illiterate, there are many challenges for them to have privilege of clean cooking technologies. They are so busy in earning their livelihood that they are not even able to utilize the benefits they are eligible to. These are the major barriers in the cookstove from gender's perspective, which would be somewhat addressed by the GAP activities 1.1.2 on selection criteria of beneficiaries, and 3.1.1 and 3.2.1 on selection of CCS mobilizers.

In Nepal, on average, there are 18.3 *bharis* (headloads of about 30 kg on average) of firewood collection per capita per year in Nepal. On average, a household spends 5.01 hours collecting one *bhari* of firewood<sup>21</sup>.

WHO estimates global 3.8 million people yearly die prematurely from illness attributable to the household air pollution caused by the inefficient use of solid fuels and kerosene for cooking. A study on Household Air Pollution by ENPHO found that the average 24-hr mean PM2.5 concentration in Nepali kitchens is 2127 µg/m<sup>3</sup> with Traditional Cooking Stove (TCS), and with ICS it is 728 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>16</sup> Chaudhary et al., 2015. Deforestation in Nepal: Causes, consequences and responses.

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/284859236\\_Deforestation\\_in\\_Nepal\\_Causes\\_consequences\\_and\\_responses](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/284859236_Deforestation_in_Nepal_Causes_consequences_and_responses)

<sup>17</sup> Report on Nepal Labour Force Survey 2017/2018. <https://nepalindata.com/media/resources/items/20/bNLFS-IIIFinal-Report.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> Practical Action, 2014. *Gender and Livelihoods Impacts of Clean Cookstoves in South Asia*.

<sup>19</sup> Venkata Ramana Putti, Michael Tsan, Sumi Mehta, & Kammila, S. (2015). *The State of the Global Clean And Improved Cooking Sector*.

<sup>20</sup> Practical Action, 2014. *Gender and Livelihoods Impacts of Clean Cookstoves in South Asia*.

<sup>21</sup> ibid

## **2 Gender Assessment**

### **2.1 GCF rationale for Gender Assessment**

The GCF's commitment to gender equality centers on gender-responsive country programmes and initiatives that benefit everyone, women and men. This requires gender analysis to understand the social, economic and political factors underlying climate change-exacerbated gender inequalities, and the potential contributions of women and men to mitigating and adapting to climate change, and building climate resilience. It further entails adopting methods and tools to promote gender equality and reduce gender disparities in climate funding by mainstreaming gender in the project cycle. Finally, it means measuring the outcomes and impacts of project activities on women's and men's resilience to climate change through gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation (M&E). Gender mainstreaming should shape the entire project cycle, from project identification to M&E<sup>22</sup>.

### **2.2 Gender assessment**

The project benefits about one million households, comprising 4,800,000 people (average family size of 4.8 people per household) in *Terai* region. 51% of direct beneficiaries are female. The direct beneficiaries of the project comprises about 17% of total population. Also, about 13 million people of *Terai* region are considered as indirect beneficiaries of the project of which 51% of the beneficiaries are female. The indirect beneficiaries of the project accounts for about 50% of total population.

The TCS users are the most vulnerable community as they are among the poorest and socially excluded groups. 23.44 % of the population in the *Terai* region survive under absolute poverty. Against this, 33 % of the population are disqualified to cross the threshold of human poverty. In addition, 25.9% *Janajati* (Indigenous group) and 38.2% *Dalits* population of *Terai* live under extreme poverty<sup>23</sup>.

#### **2.2.1. Status of Gender Equality**

##### **i. Social norms and Practices**

Social norms adequately contain gender inequalities. Traditionally, it is widely practised for women to be involved more in the household activities like cooking, cleaning, laundry, gardening, and child care. Referring to the statistics, women are behind men in all the indicators in economic participation and opportunity, which is because of the established norm that women should only work inside homes. Women are expected and even forced to have early marriages, which hinders the women to have equal opportunity as men. The women of indigenous communities and those below poverty line will have these hindrances amplified. Working women and women with income have good access to the project activities and benefits.

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<sup>22</sup> [https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/guidelines-gcf-toolkit-mainstreaming-gender\\_0.pdf](https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/guidelines-gcf-toolkit-mainstreaming-gender_0.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> CBS, 2011. Nepal Living Standard Survey 2010/2011. [https://cbs.gov.np/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Statistical\\_Report\\_Vol1.pdf](https://cbs.gov.np/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Statistical_Report_Vol1.pdf)

## **ii. Major Indicators and Political Participations**

Female literacy rate, employment in professional sectors, education, political representation and political participation are relatively low, while labour force participation, life expectancy and population is somewhat equivalent or even higher relative to that of male population. Provisions of women reservations in political space and public sectors are there, but despite that, women involvement is less visible due to established boundaries and gender norms set for women. Mandatory nomination of one of chair or vice chairperson of Local government executive body and reserved nomination of 2 out of 6 ward members for female is a progressive sign observed since 2016 local elections. At least 33% of reservation for females in provincial and national assemblies is also supportive.

## **iii. Policy environment**

Gradually, the policies have been made to mainstream gender equality and social inclusion in all the sectors. Integration of GESI policies upto Provincial Level has opened up an environment to take them to local levels. In the current fiscal year, several local governments have drafted their policies for GESI integration and many others are in the process. However, a big challenge is to implement those policies at local levels. Parallelly, independent efforts have been made at local and national levels by Non-Government Organizations, and other agencies to speed up the process. Several gender assessment reports and reviews submitted to the ministries and authorities have helped to create proper guidelines to amend policies and make them gender friendly. The GESI policy of AEPC envisions to have equal and equitable access, opportunities and benefits of renewable energy to both the female and male based on their social status, ethnicities, income, age, physicality, geographic background and projected affected people. The objectives are to empower women, and less privileged people by creating employment opportunities, to increase participation and capacitate them and to help overcome traditional social norms that hinders the user to have equitable access to Renewable Energy Technologies by providing suitable opportunities.

## **iv. Legal Framework**

The legal provisions of action against Gender based violence are secured in the Constitution of Nepal 2015 and Muluki Ain 2017.

## **v. Poverty & Income**

The per capita income stood at US \$ 1,004 (Rs 103,335) in the fiscal year 2018/19 and the main portion of income goes for sustaining livelihoods. In 2016, Nepal achieved a score of 0.148 according to the multidimensional poverty index (MPI), with around 22.3% population vulnerable to Multidimensional Poverty (MP), 11.6 in severe MP, and 15 % below income poverty line<sup>24</sup>.

## **vi. Economic Status and Empowerment**

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<sup>24</sup> Human Development Index Report, 2019 [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr\\_theme/country-notes/NPL.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/NPL.pdf)

Women's labour force participation rate, employment status and overall situation in the labour market show their economic status has improved. Yet the labour market remains marked by many structural barriers and forms of deep-rooted discrimination.

The labour force participation rate in general and women's rate in particular have significantly decreased in recent years. The Labour Force Survey of 2008-2009 showed that the labour force participation rate of women was 80.1 percent, compared to 87.5 percent for men, one of the highest rates in South Asia. Based on the 2017-2018 survey, compared to 48.3 percent of males of working age in employment, only 22.9 percent of females were in employment. Among all working-age women, almost 52.4 percent were either own account workers or contributing family workers compared to 27.7 percent of men<sup>25</sup>.

vii. **Participation in Formal and Informal Economy**

Nepali girls and women work for more than boys and men, spending 25 % to 50 % more time on households' tasks, economic and agricultural activities. Yet, due to the nature of women's work, which is often unpaid, on the one hand, and the flawed definition of economic activity, on the other hand, women's economic participation remains statistically invisible. Women in the more orthodox Hindu communities who are largely confined to domestic and subsistence production display a much less significant role in major household economic decisions than those in the Tibeto-Burman communities where women participate actively in the market economy.

The role played by women in the care sector, predominantly their reproductive work, bearing, rearing, nurturing children and household maintenance are activities that fall outside the national accounting systems. While these activities are crucial for household members' well-being and effective participation in different spheres – economic, social and political, they continue to remain non-economic activities. By virtue of women performing these roles, which are statistically not counted as economic and hence not monetarily valued, women's roles and their contribution is assigned low status.

viii. **Education, literacy and information**

Gender gaps in the education sector continue to persist, where girls and women tend to have lower levels of education, especially in rural areas. The percentage of women participating in primary education has increased substantially in the last two decades, where the number of women completing 12 grades rose from 21% to 42%<sup>26</sup>. Nonetheless, equality can still be promoted in terms of access to education, especially in rural areas where studies have found that girls' education often remains a lower priority

ix. **Land Ownership**

Land and house ownership by females is very low compared to that of male. Despite having incentives like Land registration fee waivers for women, it is not able to have instrumental

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<sup>25</sup> Nepal Human Development Report, 2020. <https://nepal.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/UNDP-NP-NHDR-2020.pdf>

<sup>26</sup> CBS 2014

change in increasing the percentage of asset ownership by women. The provision in the amendment of Muluki Ain 2017 has made daughters eligible for the inheritance of parental property, which wasn't the same earlier. As ownership relates to the decision-making power inside a family, women are weaker from that perspective too. Involvement of bigger proportions of females in program implementation would empower them and address this barrier.

x. **Health**

Reproductive health has largely been funded by the government. Each local government has a number of health posts to facilitate general and reproductive health issues and health posts with birthing centres to promote hospital based deliveries. Travel and nutrition allowances are provided to all the hospital/ health posts based delivery cases. Further, the Ministry of Health has also implemented family planning programmes in all its subsidiaries.

xi. **Gender Based Violence**

A nationally representative sample of 12,862 women aged 15-49 in 11,040 surveyed households and 4,063 men aged 15-49 in half of the surveyed households were interviewed. Based on that, the 2016 NDHS (Nepal Demographic Health Survey) provides reliable estimates at the national level, for urban and rural areas, 3 ecological zones, 5 development regions, and 7 provinces.

**Table: Domestic Violence (among women aged 15-49)**

	<b>Women who have ever experienced physical violence since age 15</b>	<b>Ever-married women who have experienced spousal, physical, sexual, or emotional violence</b>
<b>Nepal</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>Urban Residence</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Rural Residence</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>Focal Areas of the Project</b>		
<b>Province 1</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>Province 2</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>37%</b>
<b>Lumbini Province</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>Sudur paschim Province</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>22%</b>

A relatively high rate of gender violence has been observed in Province 2, which is also a focal area of the project and requires some additional measures to help reduce the risk of gender violence. However, the project impacts will not instigate any gender based violence.

xii. **Gender and Energy/Environment**

Energy and Environment sectors have been recognized as gender neutral sectors, based on their technicalities. Policies before Rural Energy Policy 2006 have not been gender friendly. As alternative energy is a newer concept and institutionalized with the help of international grants,

this has been more lenient to gender issues. Stakeholder consultation and public hearing programmes under Environmental Protection Acts seek for inclusive participation. Since the sector is of global concern, it is ahead of other sectors in mainstreaming Gender issues.

Conclusion:

Barriers to an equal representation up and down in value chain includes traditional social norms biased against women, poverty as a result of limited access to education, early marriage, limited asset ownership. Furthermore, women's participation is limited to decision making and income generating activities, and technical workforce.

### **Gender Assessment Team**

A core gender assessment team was formed, comprising:

- Key experts on clean cooking solutions
- GESI expert
- Key government authorities and,
- Representatives of civil societies, including individual from the network of women right movement

In addition to the core gender assessment team, stakeholder consultation space was formed to incorporate inputs from energy and clean cooking experts, government officials, GESI experts, women movement representatives and women right activists, women-lead national and local NGOs, private sectors (including the ones headed by women) in both service-supply and service-demand chain.

### **Recommendations from stakeholder consultations (Annex 1)**

- Training and Awareness should target the female (users) and not the household head. Training should be provided to women on electrical safety and basic technical skills on using induction stoves increases the use of the stove and increases their confidence.
- Capacitate females to repair and maintain stoves to ensure sustainability and empower women.
- The poorest and most vulnerable communities cannot purchase the Tier 3+ ICS and even if the stoves are distributed free of cost, fuelwood is another major challenge. Most of them use cow dung as fuel, which is not compatible with the available technologies. Research should be more focused to make technologies compatible with available local fuel sources so the most vulnerable can assess the technologies.
- Women should be involved as CCS promoters to effectively implement the project and the project should be targeted to the female and most vulnerable communities.
- Gender-specific targets should be set to ensure that certain numbers of female and male entrepreneurs are trained as master trainers to reflect the needs of women and men in their products, business models, and livelihood opportunities.

### **Project Identified Opportunities to Challenge Gender Stereotypes**

Some of the actions that are included in the project activities for the positive gender relations in the project as follows:

1. The economically impoverished and socially excluded families, indigenous people, single women, female-headed households, and widows will be priorities while selecting beneficiary households.
2. The project will assist LGs in placing dedicated personnel related to environment safeguard and gender in CCS projects. In addition, they will be supported in conducting gender sensitive monitoring, evaluation and provide training on CCS and its benefits.
3. For the national level consultation workshop between AEPC, LGs, beneficiaries, clean cooking champions, and local private sector service providers, training materials will be developed by drafting mechanisms to effectively address gender equality and supporting vulnerable communities through CCS.
4. The beneficiaries will receive technical assistance and capacity development services that will help to reduce their vulnerability and build resilience to climate change impact through the time saving, health benefits, gender empowerment and increase in agricultural productivity by using cow dung as fertilizer, by replacing its use for cooking fuel.
5. The project enhances women's access and entitlement to benefits. Since women are direct users of the cook stoves, it will benefit women by reducing their exposure to indoor air pollution, thereby improving their health. Besides, reduction of fuelwood after the installation of more efficient stoves will reduce the workload of women to collect fuelwood, resulting in time saving that they can use for other productive activities such as getting an education and care for children or socialize<sup>27</sup>. More than 50% of the time will be saved via the proposed CCS.
6. The project will address existing barriers in promotion of CCS to poorest households by improving access for vulnerable communities and providing support and training on repair and maintenance of proposed technologies to women and marginalized groups to ensure inclusive sustainability of the project. There are several local NGOs working in the clean cooking sector. The project shall collaborate to mobilize their resources in awareness campaigns and skill development training.
7. A total of 24 Province level trainings will be provided to CCS beneficiaries and vulnerable groups in collaboration with CTEVT institutions. In addition, 1,200 training will be provided on making fuel for Tier 3+ ICS, repair and maintenance, biomass fuel processing, biogas installation, electrical safety and house wiring to CCS beneficiaries and vulnerable and disadvantaged groups (DAG). Training will be provided to women (electric cook stove users) on electrical safety and basic technical skills on using electric stoves to increase their confidence and the use of the stove. Self-employment skilled training related to CCS and others as per the local demand will be provided to the most vulnerable people such as widows, single women, Female headed households, minor ethnic groups, lower caste people (Dalit) and indigenous group (Janjati), ensuring at least 33% female participation.
8. The project provides financial support for the proposed CCS technologies, which will allow vulnerable user communities to transition to better CCS technologies with high returns.

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<sup>27</sup><http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/pt/772731563431443718/pdf/Have-Improved-Cookstoves-Benefitted-Rural-Kenyans-Findings-from-the-EnDev-Initiative.pdf>

9. LGs and local communities will learn a lot from the use of CCS as the project will create awareness on and access to CCS, inform the vulnerable people of benefits in terms of health and efficient systems.

## **Annex 1: Stakeholder consultation Report**

### **Sub-national Stakeholder Consultation Meeting for “Mitigating GHG emission through modern, efficient and climate friendly clean cooking solutions (CCS)”**

AEPC had called for an interaction program on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 with National Stakeholder and relevant stakeholders on the proposed project Mitigating GHG emission through modern, efficient and climate friendly clean cooking solutions (CCS) to collect their feedback on the project. The online consultation meeting started at 3 Pm sharp (NST) via Zoom. In total, around sixty people attended the meeting. It was facilitated by Mr Mukesh Ghimire, Assistant Director of AEPC, where Mr. Rana Bahadur Thapa, Sr. Officer, AEPC gave a brief overview of the project and solicited necessary information from the participants. Mr Nawa Raj Dhakal, the Deputy Executive Director of AEPC, gave the concluding remarks. The meetings enabled interested and concerned parties to contribute their concerns, which might have been overlooked while preparing the concept note. Majority of the participants appreciated the project and wished for its smooth implementation. Additionally, meaningful consultation will be conducted periodically during the implementation phase with the concerned stakeholders with active participation of women's, Dalit's and vulnerable groups.

The tentative topics for discussion includes but not limited to:

#### **1. Role of LGs and involvement of NGOs at local level**

- Awareness on climate change at local level
- Energy planning and Role of local government in CCS promotion including funding (Municipal Energy Plans, Implementation, Any CCS program ongoing or implemented, what %of budget is usually allocated for CCS projects?)
- Any new policy/plans for CCS?
- NGOs currently working on CCS at local level and possibilities to engage them for the project

#### **2. ESS Risks/issues and mitigation measures**

- Key social, environmental, gender, economic and culture risks and issues with respect to CCS
- Possible mitigation measures

#### **3. Local level supply Chain**

- Baseline fuels for cooking,
- Capacity of local supply chain in meeting local demand,
- Any information of supply and demand of CCS at local level
- Expectations to improve the supply chain

#### **Feedback**

- It is very good idea to involve Provincial Energy Coordination Committee (PECC) in province 2, Province 5 and Karnali Province for prioritizing the demand as this committee includes representative from provincial ministries, provincial planning commission, NEA province office, AEPC province team, NARMIN and MuAN.
- Training and Awareness should target the female (users) and not the household head.

- Experience from the past should be analysed to ensure financial, utility, commodity sustainability of the project
- Value chain of ICS (Supply to target group users) should be analyzed to fulfil the gap
- Move forward by catching up bitter experience and golden experienced
- Community should be mobilized in stove distribution (trust fund).
- Local governments should be consulted to reach the poorest of the poor.
- We need to assure the quality of cookstoves and construction of biogas.
- Poverty rate in the Terai region is very high and there are households and communities who don't have NEA meters or the households who cannot keep the meter due to lack of land holding documents. Thus, we need to address these households and communities.
- People were hesitant to adopt the mud ICS may be due to cultural or social barriers. Biogas seems to have much demand compared to ICS so the numbers should increase.
- Community forest spends 25% of their total income in forest conservation and they have been spending the money in biogas and ICS. 37% poor female and vulnerable community can be integrated in community contribution for the project.
- Previous World Bank funded, REED and other projects are more focused in the Terai region so may need to consider other geographical areas.
- Biogas and electric cooking does not benefit the poorest of the poor. Therefore, we need to explore more on how to make these pro-poor.
- Actual demand should be created while collecting demand and exploring the supply side. Options of various technologies should be given to the user to ensure the use of the stoves after deployment.
- Coordination with local government, involvement of females in stove making, distribution, and financial contribution of users creates the enabling environment for stove promotion. At present, each local government has female representatives. They should be enrolled as a facilitator for the long run of the project.
- The poorest and most vulnerable communities cannot purchase the Tier 3+ ICS and even if the stoves are distributed free of cost, fuelwood is another major challenge. Most of them use cow dung as fuel which is not compatible with the available technologies. Research should be more focused to make technologies compatible with available local fuel sources so the most vulnerable can assess the technologies. Research development disseminations and delivery possibilities should be included in the project.
- Cooperation, collaboration, and coordination should be done with the province level agriculture and forestry ministry.
- Activities relating to backward and forward linkage of the project should be carried out parallel along with technology installation. For example, installation of biogas should be linked with promotion of livestock farms and slurry management to promote the CCS.
- Strengthen supply chain by mobilizing the local workforce to provide after sales service.
- Stove design should meet the users' needs such as space heating, agro processing and commercial cooking.
- Access to finance, access to information (how are we giving information to the illiterate), low level of mobility of female should be included
- Awareness campaign should focus on both male and female

- Coordination, collaboration, and coordination should be strong enough. LG has allocated much of its budget in renewable energy and women empowerment. Thus while identifying partners; criteria should be transparent to gain more weightage.
- Free distribution kills the market. Project should not have contradicting policies. In addition, the concept of free distribution should be strongly eliminated.
- Monitoring has to be the part of implementation.
- Coordination with Province level ministries (Agricultural, Tourism, Forest and Environment) to include them in project implementation or monitoring
- Conservation significant area such as buffer zone, vicinity of forest area should be prioritised
- ICS favorable for water heating and space heating to be focused in high altitude area
- More budget should be allocated in technology deployment and should be given to users directly at local level and less in trainings and awareness
- Extended to new geographical area to include Karnali pradesh
- NGOs play an important role in Community mobilization, leadership and awareness campaigns and demand creation. Collaborate with NGO to effectively implement the project.
- Women promoters to effectively implement the project and targeted to the female and most vulnerable communities
- Service centre at each province, repair maintenance centre, development of local manufacturing company makes the project sustainable
- Collaborate with private sector, microfinance, NGOs,
- Projects should be demand driven and should be focused on need.
- Training to women on electrical safety and basic technical skills on using induction stoves increases the use of stove and increase their confidence
- Capacitate female to repair and maintenance to ensure sustainability and empower women
- Research and development to make technologies more efficient rather to replicate the same old technologies
- Strengthen existing Network rather than establishing new ones and allocate more budget to users.
- Sustainability: after sales service and focus on user sensitive programs to increase the use
- Different financial package of support to poorest of the poor people to effectively implement the project
- Shifting to electric cooking may take long time, technical efficiency to user and private sector
- Focused on Socially adaptation of technologies
- Technological capacity development to ensure sustainability
- Provincial/local government should share the cost in technology
- AEPC budget should be focused on enabling environment including the development of
- Need to consider the technological barrier in adopting the electric cookstoves.

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**Green Climate Fund**

- Financial Mechanism within UNFCCC, established (COP 16- Cancun) to help developing countries to invest in low carbon resilient development.
- Acts as operating entity for implementing Paris Agreement
- Can access funding through different three windows.
- Half of the adaptation pool for LDCs, SIDS and African states.
- International Channel or Direct access by country.
- Direct access through Direct Access

Adaptation  
GCF funding windows  
Mitigation  
Private sector facility

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