



Protecting Livelihoods and Assets at Risk from Climate Change Induced Flooding in Glacial River Basins of Nepal

A five-year project proposal prepared for submission to the Green Climate Fund

Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion Assessment

FINAL DRAFT REPORT

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Acronyms

ADS	Agriculture Development Strategy
AEPC	Alternative Energy Promotion Centre
ARC	Agriculture Research Center, Pakhribas
CAPA	Community Adaptation Plan of Action
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CC	Climate Change
CEAPRED	Center for Environmental and Agricultural Policy Research, Extension and Development
CFUG	Community Forest User Group
CRT	Center for Rural Technology
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DADO	District Agriculture Development Office
DEOC	District Emergency Operating Centre
DHM	Department of Hydrology and Meteorology
DNF	Dalit NGO Federation
DNPWC	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
DoFSC	Department of Forests and Soil Conservation
DoI	Department of Irrigation
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DSCWM	Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management
DWSSO	District Water Supply and Sanitation Office
EWS	Early Warning System
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forestry User Groups
FGD	Focused Group Discussion
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEDSI	Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GLOF	Glacial Lake Outbursts Floods
GoN	Government of Nepal
HDI	Human Development Index
HIMAWANTI	The Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association
I/NGO	International/Non-governmental Organization
ICIMOD	International Center for Integrated Mountain Development
iDE	International Development Enterprise
IP	Indigenous People
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KCAP	Kanchanjunga Conservation Area Project
KII	Key Informant Interview
LAPA	Local Adaptation Plans for Action

LDRMP	Local Disaster Risk Management Plan
LIBIRD	Local Initiative for Biodiversity, Research, and Development
LRP	Local Resource Person
MEDPA	Micro-enterprise Development for Poverty Alleviation
MoEWRI	Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation
MoFE	Ministry of Forest and Environment
NARC	Nepal Agriculture Research Council
NEFIN	Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities
NIWF	National Indigenous Women's Federation
PDGL	Potentially Dangerous Glacial Lakes
PDNA	Post Disaster Needs Assessment
PEEDA	People Energy and Environment Development Association
PWD	Persons with Disability
RRN	Rural Reconstruction Nepal
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SFDRR	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
SGP	Small Grants Programme
UNDP	United National Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VDC	Village Development Committee
WWF	World Wide Fund For Nature
YAF	Youth Alliance Forum

Executive Summary

On the request of the Government of Nepal (GoN) a five-year project proposal on 'Protecting Livelihoods and Assets at Risk from Climate Change Induced Flooding in Glacial River Basins of Nepal' is being formulated by UNDP Nepal in collaboration with Ministry of Finance with support from several other related ministries such as DHM/MoEWRI, MoFE/DoFSC, and DNPWC for submission to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

In this regard, a GCF proposal on glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) and flood risk management on protecting livelihoods and assets at risk from climate change induced flooding in glacial river basins of Nepal is being prepared by bringing on board a technical team, organising consultations with concerned ministries, CSO, NGOs, Private Sectors, local government, indigenous peoples (IPs), local communities and networks, women groups, youth groups, people with disabilities and highly marginalized groups directly affected by glacier/snow related events, flooding and climate induced disasters in the glaciated basins. An inventory¹ of Glacial Lakes in the Koshi, Gandaki and Karnali River basins of Nepal has been prepared with technical support from ICIMOD outlining 47 potentially dangerous glacial lakes (PDGL). As part of the proposal preparation, two consultation reports have been prepared: "Indigenous Peoples consultation to understand potential glacial lake outburst floods risks for safeguarding lives and livelihoods (February 2018)" and "NGOs, CSOs, Private Sectors and Government consultation to understand potential glacial lake outburst floods risks for safeguarding lives and livelihoods (March 2018)."

The detailed scope of the project being formulated will vary in each watersheds or districts or municipalities or wards in the three basins (Koshi, Gandaki and Karnali). Tentative interventions envisioned are: Lake Lowering (selected lakes); Monitoring Stations for Hydro-met/climate data/information; Early Warning System; and Community Based Climate Risk-Management Initiatives including flood mitigation/risk reduction activities. As per the requirement of the GCF, a Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Assessment and Action Plan were to be prepared to have a well-articulated gender and inclusion components that build the gender-responsive adaptation measures, incorporate gender related concerns in the context of changing climate into a gender action plan, outlines a detailed gender-responsive results-based management and plan to communicate the gender goals and results adequately. In this regard the GESI assessments were carried out of: overall differential impact of climate change and disaster risks and existing coping mechanisms and adaptive capacity on men and women in general, children, elderly, persons with disabilities, the vulnerable and marginalized groups; impact of the climate resilient development interventions and community-based adaptation measures on the lives and livelihood of men and women, with particular emphasis on most vulnerable and marginalized groups; role of women and marginalized groups in contributing towards gender and inclusion responsive planning and building resilience at the community level; policy gaps that need to be addressed to strengthen and foster mainstreaming gender and inclusion into climate and disaster risk management interventions; and the traditional/indigenous knowledge, if any, that makes them resilient to the climate change.

The analytical framework for the assessment took into consideration the critical GESI related barriers and opportunities in climate change induced disaster risks such as GLOF identified from

¹ Terms of Reference

literature reviews of various studies in Nepal and elsewhere such as in Pakistan² and Bhutan.³ A two-pronged approach was adopted to collect and analyze the data at the: i) Institutional level (supply side), and ii) Community level (demand side) and from two dimensions: a) Historical discrimination/exclusion and b) Situational vulnerability dimensions.

This framework guided the data collection, analysis, report writing, and development of the GEDSI Action Plan.

The Kosi River Basin was selected for the field level primary data collection. In total 30 key informant interviews (KIIs) and 9 focus group discussions (FGDs) participated by 148 people were conducted. In addition, two multi-stakeholder national level workshops: a) sharing the findings of the literature review and the field works was organised soliciting comments on the GESI assessment report and generate inputs for the action plan; and b) validation workshop to finalize the GESI assessment report and the action plan.

Key findings

The findings from desk reviews reveal that though there has been a trend observed in managing GEDSI data post the 2015 Earthquake in Nepal, there is a lack of GEDSI disaggregated data not only in terms of GLOF but in general climate change induced disasters.

Floods and landslides that occur every year cause highest loss of human lives and properties in Nepal after fire. According to official data available in 2017-2018 disaster and loss of human lives related to GLOF indicate that after fire, floods and landslides cause the highest loss of lives in Nepal.⁴ Assessments and studies carried out in terms of earthquakes and floods in Nepal indicate that women were among the most vulnerable of those affected by Nepal's earthquake, lack of gender sensitivity in post-disaster relief, improved understanding of the existing flood early warning systems in Nepal, and needs to make early warning systems more effective and responsive to the needs of vulnerable groups, and poor and highly marginalized women in particular. In the case of differential impacts of floods or landslides socially, though there is a lack of disaggregated data, after women and children, studies have indicated and as National Federation of Disabled - Nepal (NFDN) also claims that people with disabilities are the most vulnerable in disasters including CC induced disasters like GLOF.

Findings from field studies

Community level findings

1. Who are the most vulnerable to Climate Change Induced Disasters? Findings from the field studies in the Kosi basin areas which can be generalised as applicable to other basins of the project indicated that poor Tarai and Hill Dalits who are both historically excluded and situationally vulnerable are considered to be the most excluded and vulnerable people followed by the poor and highly marginalized indigenous people (*Adivasi Janajatis*),

² UNDP, June 2017. Gender assessment FP018: Scaling-up of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) risk reduction in Northern Pakistan. Pakistan | UNDP | B.14/07

³ Choden, Tshering, 28 September 2017. Gender Assessment, FP050: Bhutan for life, Bhutan, WWF, B.18/04. Green Climate Fund.

⁴ Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Nepal, June 2019. Nepal Disaster Report 2019.

particularly living along the river beds such as *Majhi, Kumal, Botes*, etc. The poor from the indigenous peoples such as the Rais, Bhotas living in drought and disaster prone and remote areas were also found to be extremely vulnerable and excluded from the disaster and development resources and services. Within these different marginalized groups, their women, single women, elderly, persons with disabilities (PWD), pregnant and lactating mothers and children were considered to be even more vulnerable from climate and natural disasters. The other climate and natural disaster related vulnerable groups are the poor women, elderly people, people living with disabilities across all caste and ethnic groups particularly living in geographically remote, disaster and drought prone areas.

2. Women's "Time Poverty" has been since long identified, as an issue but is still not recognized as a critical area for intervention in the context of development and climate change. The changing climate and increases in the magnitude and frequency of natural disasters have caused problems in water availability, agriculture, forest resources and increased male outmigration. This has substantially increased poor and marginalized women's already high household workload and drudgery, food insecurity and loss of income. The progress made by women in terms of their material conditions (well-being) and social positions or status (leadership and decision-making) in society also seemed to be declining, as women do not have the time to invest in their personal growth and development. Due to the shortage of labour force, situation of single women is even more critical.
3. Poor and historically excluded women and men particularly living in geographically remote and disaster prone areas, mainly between 25 to 50 meters from the glacial lakes have limited access, and benefits the least from development and climate change related resources and opportunities. The poor outreach mechanisms, exclusive and centralized planning systems, the near absence of functional platforms or forums to organise and empower poor women and marginalized groups, together with the domination by local politics and power have made accessing and benefiting from these resources challenging. For example even if the local groups are strong, ultimately the politics and power decides and authorises on who should be selected or represented or whose skills are recognized etc.
4. The participation of women and men in local development planning, disaster risk management and climate change related activities and decision-making are highly exclusive and gendered. Their gender, political affiliation, geographic location, caste ethnicity, age, economic status, literacy and ability plays a major role on, who participates, where or which level they participate and how they participate.
5. Though the local planning process is required to include participation of and consultation with the various stakeholders including the women, Dalit and indigenous peoples, knowledge, experiences and roles of poor and marginalized women, particularly indigenous and Dalit women are not recognized and taken into account by the local political representatives and planning and decision-making authorities. Their roles and contributions thus remain largely invisible.
6. Disaster response mechanisms often fail to address the specific needs of women, children, marginalized caste groups, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and sexual minorities, leaving them more vulnerable to violence and further marginalization. The

capacity of disaster-related government and frontline workers to effectively incorporate gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) concerns into their recovery, response and rehabilitation efforts is either absent or severely limited. Displacement, disruption of family structures, and the breakdown of community protections create conditions where these vulnerable groups are at an increased risk of sexual violence, exploitation, trafficking, and harassment. Inadequate shelter, sanitation, and security in disaster settings further expose these groups to abuse, while social stigma and discrimination hinder survivors, particularly poor women and highly marginalized groups, from accessing critical support services.

Institutional level findings

7. The planning and decision-making processes seem to be largely controlled by the local politics and power, sidelining the participatory and inclusive processes and structures established and promoted by the government and development agencies.
8. The impact of changing climate together with the transition from the past governance system to the new federal system has brought both opportunities and challenges in women's leadership and empowerment processes. A large number of women have come into leadership positions. However, women's leadership and ability to voice and influence decisions has been affected due to reasons such as decrease in dedicated human resources and sectors/units, one-door policy for development interventions, and near absence of active and organized platforms in the provinces and wards to mobilize and support women.
9. There seem to be awareness among the national and local level institutions about the need to address GESI. However, knowledge and skills on social methods and approaches, dedicated resources and investments on how to integrate GESI in the design and planning cycle is limited.
10. The stakeholders and beneficiaries, particularly in disaster risk related planning, committees and activities are largely considered as a monolithic group, with the notion that disasters and hazards do not discriminate people. The historical exclusion and situational vulnerabilities of the poor women and marginalized groups are not specifically considered, which has made it difficult for them to compete for resources with the advantaged groups.

Recommendations

1. Establish a working definition of the primary stakeholders (women, marginalized and highly groups, and vulnerable groups) for the project area, by contextualizing and categorising according to their different and overlapping exclusions, vulnerabilities, roles/contributions and intersectionality.⁵ For example: Historically Excluded + Situationally Vulnerable +

⁵ Means the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage. Through an awareness of intersectionality and differences or discriminations can be acknowledged and addressed.

Climate Vulnerable = Most/Highly Vulnerable Group.

2. Identify and promote tested women-friendly and climate smart technologies and practices both at household and farm levels, by developing partnership with specialized government and non-governmental institutions/local resource persons, cooperatives, preferably women-led cooperatives to reduce poor and marginalized women's time poverty.
3. Strengthen existing or form new women and marginalized people's groups (e.g. women, IPs and highly marginalized IPs, Dalits, PWDs), and networks at local/community levels, and organize them to participate, practice leadership, market forest/agricultural/eco-tourism products, influence planning and decision-making processes, mobilize both project and local development resources. Ensure systematic and formal linkages of these groups with the local wards and municipalities and DRR/CC related committees' planning structures.
4. Increase poor and marginalized women and men's⁶ income and employability by tapping and linking with those institutions with experience, and with Value Chains (VCs), local cooperatives, particularly women run cooperatives and Micro-enterprises (MEs) that are already tested, established and successful in the Koshi Basin areas (e.g. link with MEDPA⁷ and Agriculture Research Centre (ARC)-Pakhribas and their groups and networks.
5. Ensure timely, transparent/complete, and easy to understand communication and information to the poor women and highly marginalized groups on the project's and local government's financial and technical resources related to development, disasters and climate change.
6. Support the Monitoring Information System (MIS) of the project to capture gender and inclusion outcomes and pilot the same in selected ward(s) to upscale it. GEDSI related challenges and learning should feed back into the project's annual planning and budgeting process, and disseminated through publications and other knowledge-sharing events at international, national, provincial and community levels.
7. Develop a simple working GEDSI in Climate Change strategy or a guideline for the project to ensure systematic integration of GESI in the project cycle and pilot the same in selected ward(s) to upscale it. The working strategy could be based on the findings and recommendations of the three different studies conducted by UNDP for the preparation of the proposal, such as the GESI assessment (2019), Indigenous People's consultation report, baseline study (2020) and the GoN's Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Strategy for different sectors (Forestry, Agriculture, Ministry of Local Development).

⁶ Poor and Marginalized people/ groups should particularly include: historically marginalized groups e.g. Kumals, Majhi, Bote, hill Dalits etc.); situationally vulnerable such as PWD, elderly, pregnant women, economically poor families etc.

⁷ MEDPA (Micro-enterprise Development Programme for Poverty Alleviation) : MEDPA is the government programme under the ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies with the objective of poverty alleviation in Nepal through the micro enterprise development and employment generation. MEDPA mobilizes Micro Enterprise Development Service Providers (MEDSPs) through the outsourcing from private sectors. The enterprise development facilitators (EDF) are the pillar of this programme who provide MED services in the beneficiary's level.

8. Develop a comprehensive capacity building package with adequate financial and human resources/expertise, for the project's staffs and its key and direct partners, both government and CSOs at all three levels (federal, provincial, municipality/ward levels) to enhance GESI integration in the regular planning, implementation and monitoring.

1. Background

A five-year project proposal on 'Protecting Livelihoods and Assets at Risk from Climate Change Induced Flooding in Glacial River Basins of Nepal' is being formulated by UNDP Nepal in collaboration with Ministry of Finance - the National Designated Authority (NDA) for Green Climate Fund (GCF), Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM)/Ministry of Water Resources, Energy and Irrigation. UNDP as an Accredited Entity (AE) and the NDA was officially requested by the Government of Nepal to assist in preparing the project proposal. Department of Forests and Soil Conservation (DoFSC)/Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE), Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) and other relevant ministries and departments are to also provide support in preparing and implementing the project.

In this regard, a project proposal has been submitted to GCF on glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) and flood risk management on protecting livelihoods and assets at risk from climate change induced flooding in glacial river basins of Nepal. A technical team is working under the guidance of UNDP and GCF Project Formulation Guiding Committee, led by Department of Hydrology and Meteorology. Consultations have been carried out with sectoral ministries, CSO, NGOs, Private Sectors, local government, indigenous peoples (IPs), local communities, women groups, youth groups, persons with disabilities and other groups directly affected by glacier/snow related events, flooding and climate induced disasters in the glaciated basins. The detail dam breach modelling of 47 glacial lakes (from Nepal and neighbouring countries) have been also carried out. In addition, two consultations have been conducted on "Indigenous Peoples consultation to understand potential glacial lake outburst floods risks for safeguarding lives and livelihoods (February 2018)" and "NGOs, CSOs, Private Sectors and Government consultation to understand potential glacial lake outburst floods risks for safeguarding lives and livelihoods (March 2018)."

Similarly, Inventory of Glacial Lakes in the Koshi, Gandaki and Karnali River basins of Nepal has been prepared by UNDP with technical support from ICIMOD. The report outlines, out of 47 potentially dangerous glacial lakes (PDGL), 42 lakes are in the Koshi basin, 3 are in the Gandaki basin and 2 are in the Karnali basin. In addition, UNDP has undertaken dam breach modelling of the selected PDGLs in Nepal and developed flood inundation hazards maps showing the likely impacted areas. The project formulation has also developed a risk model, which calculates the socio-economic impact of the glacial flooding for all selected PDGLs.

The detailed scope of the project will vary in each watershed/district/municipality/ward in three basins of Koshi, Gandaki and Karnali. Tentative interventions envisioned are: GLOF Risk Reduction such as Lake Lowering (selected lakes); Monitoring Stations for Hydro-met/climate data/information; Early Warning System; and Community Based Climate Risk-Management Initiatives including flood mitigation/risk reduction and climate resilient livelihood promotion activities.

The GCF recognizes the importance of gender considerations in terms of project impacts and access to climate funding, taking a gender-sensitive approach and encouraging involvement of relevant stakeholders, including vulnerable groups and addressing gender aspects. In this regard, further to the project formulation process UNDP sought inputs of a GESI Expert to ensure that the project has well-articulated gender and inclusion components which build the

gender-responsive adaptation measures, outlines a detailed gender-responsive results-based management and plan to communicate the gender goals and results adequately.

In order to input to the preparation of the gender and inclusion components, assessments were carried out of:

- Overall differential impact of climate change and disaster risks and existing coping mechanisms and adaptive capacity on men and women in general, children, elderly, persons with disabilities, the vulnerable and marginalized groups;
- Impact of the climate resilient development interventions and community-based adaptation measures on the lives and livelihood of men and women and with particular emphasis of most vulnerable and marginalized groups;
- Role of women and marginalized groups in contributing towards gender and inclusion responsive planning and building resilience at the community level; d) policy gaps that need to be addressed to strengthen and foster mainstreaming gender and inclusion into climate and disaster risk management interventions; and
- Of the traditional/indigenous knowledge if any that makes them resilient to the climate change.

2. Approaches and methodology

2.1 Analytical framework

The analytical framework for the assessment took into consideration some of the critical GESI related barriers and opportunities in GLOF and Climate Change identified from literature reviews of various studies in Nepal⁸ and elsewhere, such as in India⁹ and Bhutan¹⁰. Within this context, the following parameters of the analytical frameworks guided the data collection, analysis, report writing, and development of the GESI Action Plan.

A two-pronged approach was adopted to collect and analyze the data.

A. Institutional level (supply side): At the institutional level, the focus was on understanding the capacities (GEDSI-GLOF/CC induced disaster related knowledge, skills), commitments and accountability (budget/plans, policies/strategies, human resources, attitudes etc.) of various CC induced disaster and GLOF risk reduction and management -related institutions viz. government and non-government institutions at federal, district and local levels and local private service providers and local committees.

⁸ Gurung DD, Bisht S (2014). *Women's empowerment at the frontline of adaptation: Emerging issues, adaptive practices, and priorities in Nepal*. ICIMOD Working paper 2014/3. Kathmandu: ICIMOD.

⁹ UNDP India, January 2019. *Gender Action Plan, Funding Proposal, FP084: Enhancing climate resilience of India's coastal communities*, B.21/15.

¹⁰ Choden, Tshering, September 2017. *Gender Assessment, FP050: Bhutan for life, Bhutan, WWF, B.18/04*. Green Climate Fund.

B. Community level (demand side): At the community level, the focus was on assessing the engagement/participation, access to, and control over resources and decision-making of women and men of diverse socio-economic groups. Their engagement (or non-engagement) and access were assessed in five livelihoods dimensions viz. social capital, financial capital, human capital, physical capital, and natural capital. The analysis also included an assessment of the material conditions¹¹ and social positions¹² of different groups of women and men to generate their GESI/CC induced disaster such as GLOF related needs, priorities and as well as their capacities to deal with the impacts of climate change, hazards and disasters. The community level assessment included categorization and disaggregation of the community based on their gender, including considerations of intersecting categories of identity such as their social status, caste, ethnicity, marital status, age, disability, geographical locations etc.). These categorisation and disaggregation of the community were analysed from two dimensions, viz. a) historical discrimination/exclusion; and b) situational vulnerability. Women and men who are impacted from both these dimensions were considered the most vulnerable. See Table 1 below.

Table 1: Analytical Framework - Two Pronged Approach

A. Institutional Level	B. Community Level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity – e.g. GESI integration in climate change induced disaster such as GLOF risk reduction and management related knowledge and skills. • Institutional Commitments for GESI – e.g. GESI related provisions in - policies, strategies, guidelines, human resources/expertise, budget. • Accountability for GESI – e.g. GESI in planning and M&E with specific change related indicators etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ¹³Historically excluded + Situational vulnerability + Climate Vulnerable = Most/Highly Vulnerable group • Engagement/Participation or non-participation/engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Which level (federal, district and local levels/household levels – particularly roles and responsibilities in decision-making, leadership, planning, household work/decisions etc.). - Which areas/types (e.g. valuable, non-valuable/or voluntary – livelihoods activities; technical). - Needs and priorities. • Access to and control over resources/ decision-making: Who have or do not have access and control (particularly focusing on vulnerable and marginalized women and men across different socio-economic groups):

¹¹ **Material Conditions** are the conditions and needs related to the roles women and men play in society. Examples of activities that address the material conditions include reducing household workload of women; increasing income from forest products; improving technical knowledge and skills in forest management; etc. Material conditions do not address the subordinate position of women in the society.

¹² **Social Positions** are the needs that question the traditional roles that women and men play in society. It is a response to the inequalities in decision-making position and long-term benefits (Moser, C: 1989). Activities that address and enhance the social positions include improving access to productive/valuable forest resources; taking up leadership roles by women and vulnerable groups, acquiring equal opportunities in forest employment, gaining rights to participate in decisions about forest management etc.

¹³ Historical excluded – based on gender, caste, ethnicity, LGBT language or location that is transmitted from generations; Situational Vulnerability – these groups can be vulnerable but not necessarily excluded – based on age (elderly), PWD, HIV, Children, earthquake affected etc.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Networks, groups, representations etc. (Social Capital). - Access to finance/financial institutions, groups, grants/seed money etc. (Financial Capital). - Trainings (technical and social), information etc. (Human Capital). - Communication, equipment, infrastructure etc. (Physical Capital). - Agriculture, community based forestry mgt. resources etc. (Natural Capital). - Needs and priorities. • CC and DRR-related Local knowledge and Capacities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indigenous/traditional knowledge of women and men to be resilient to CC induced hazards/ disaster.
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2.2 Data collection and analysis methods

Consultative and participatory approaches were used to engage a wide and inclusive¹⁴ range of cross-sectoral constituencies and stakeholders at federal, district and local levels. The assessments combined several participatory methods, such as activity profile, access and control profile, and elements of the 9-box framework for institutional analysis etc. to capture the community and institutional level GESI/ GEDSI-related gaps and opportunities.

9 Box - Organizational framework

TECHNICAL DIMENSION	<i>Policies and Actions</i>	<i>Tasks and Responsibilities</i>	<i>Expertise</i>
	The guiding policy/ Acts and its operationalization in action plans, strategies/approaches, and M&E systems for gender and climate change induced disaster risk reduction and management.	The way people are positioned and the way tasks and responsibilities are allocated and related to each other through procedures, information and coordinating systems for gender and climate change induced disaster risk reduction and management	The number of staff and the requirements and conditions to allow them to work, such as job description, appraisal, facilities, training etc. gender and climate change induced disaster risk reduction and management

¹⁴ Inclusive: Attention was given in selecting interviewees from: a) different socio-economic groups of women and men at the community level (project area) and different geographical locations; b) at the institutional level, women and men from concerned govt., non-governmental sectors and agencies at federal, district and local levels and local private service providers and local committees will be interviewed.

POLITICAL DIMENSION	<i>Policy Influence</i> The way and extent management, people from within the organization and people from outside the organization influence policy and the running of the organization	<i>Decision Making</i> The patterns of formal and informal decision making processes. The way diversity and conflicts are dealt with.	<i>Room for Innovation</i> The space and incentives provided to staff to give shape to their work, such as rewards, career possibilities, variety in working styles
CULTURAL DIMENSION	<i>Norms/Values</i> The symbols, rituals and traditions. The norms and values underlying the running of the organization and the behaviour of the staff. The social and economic standards set	<i>Cooperation</i> The way the work relations between staff and with outsiders are organized, such as working in teams, networking. The norms and values underlying these arrangements	<i>Attitudes</i> The way staff feels and thinks about their work, the working environment and about other (categories of) employees. The extent to which staff stereotype other staff. The extent to which staff identifies him/herself with the culture of the organization

The field site for data collection was in the Koshi river basin area. The main reasons for selecting and proposing the Koshi river basin was because as per the ICIMOD study out of 47 PDGLs, 42 lakes were in the Koshi glacial lakes; the proposed project's all the three key interventions (Livelihoods, Early Warning System and Monitoring Stations) were concentrated in the Koshi basin; and other GCF accredited entities such as the IUCN were not located in Koshi basin but in the Gandaki river basin and UNDP project can avoid duplication. The specific sites for data collection within the Koshi basin were selected in consultation with UNDP and its government partners. The two main criteria for selecting the sites within the Koshi river basin were: 1) Up to 100 kilometres downstream from the critical glacial lakes and other critical areas down-stream; and 2) Highly vulnerable (critical) areas with high population density where it is possible to capture information from diverse groups of people that are critically affected.

2.3 Desk reviews

Desk reviews of various documents were carried out, which broadly included the following.

- Concept Note (submitted to GCF);
- GESI strategies of various related ministries;
- Government of Nepal's Climate Change Policy 2019;
- Approved GCF-Gender Assessment and Action Plans of other countries such as India, Bhutan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Tajikistan, Cambodia, Kenya, Guatemala and Zimbabwe.
- Updated Gender Policy and Action Plan (2020 - 2023);
- Gender Policy for Green Climate Fund (Annex XIII);
- GCF/UN-Women's practical manual to support the integration of gender equality in climate change interventions and climate finance;

- Nepal Disaster Report 2019
- Other GESI-related assessment and mainstreaming reports, studies to identify good practices and lessons learned as well as to identify organizations, partners and stakeholders (government, CSOs, NGOs, and private sector organizations) that have supported socially inclusive and gender-responsive national policy processes, consultations and engagement efforts.

For details see the References section.

2.4 Field Data Collection

Following steps were followed to conduct the field data collection.

- **Preparatory/consultative meetings** were held with UNDP CO-Nepal, their government partners, UNDP Asia Regional Office and with the proposal development team members (through Skype and face-to face meetings). This resulted in agreement on the analytical framework, methods, key activities and timelines for the fieldwork, and to identify fieldwork sites and stakeholders for federal, district and local level institutions and community level interviews.
- **Data collection** was done through key informant interviews (KIIs), Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and observations with key GLOF/CC/DRR-related personnel/members, partners and community people (government, NGOs, federations/networks/groups, diverse community people) at federal, district and local community levels. See **Annex 1** for the checklist used. A total of 30 KIIs/ IDIs were conducted. Gender equality and social inclusion disaggregated data of the KIIs/ IDIs were: 19 (63%) male; 11 (37%) female; 11 (37%) Brahman/ Chettri; 3 (50%) Dalits, 15 (50%) Janajati; and 1 (3%) Others. And in the FGDs and sharing workshops the participants were 208. Of the total male was 97 (46%) and female 111 (54%). Social inclusion wise – Brahman/Chettri were 44 (21%); Dalit 31 (15%); Janajati 100 (48%); and Others 6 (3%). See **Annex 2A** for the number of KIIs/DDIs and **Annex 2B1** for aggregated and disaggregated data on FGDs and **Annex 2B2** for the complete list of people consulted. Women organisations and organisations representing women included in the data collection at the national, district and local levels were:
 1. HIMAWANTI – national and district level
 2. Simale FUG – local municipality level
 3. Khandbar District Forest Office – local level
 4. Makalu Rural Municipality – local ward level
 5. Arund Rural Municipality – local ward level
 6. Pakhribash Agriculture Research Center - district level
 7. ICIMOD, RUPANTARAN, Practical Action, IUCN, FECOFUN, Forest Action – national level
 8. DNPWC, DHM, DoFSC, MoFE, MoFAGA – national level (these are government organization and as per the constitution – GESI is a key component).

See **Annex 2A**, **Annex 2B1** and **2B2** for details.

- **Federal level:** Interviews and workshops with GLOF/CC/DRR-related key members/personnel from GoN, viz. GCF Project Formulation Technical-Advisory Committee ” members from DHM, MoFE, DNPWC, DoFSC, UNDP and UNDP Projects with their respective gender focal points; IPs, Women and Dalit-related networks and federations;

concerned I/NGOs. **See Annex 2A and 2B2.**

- **District level:** Interviews/workshops with GLOF/CC/DRR-related key members/personnel from government and non-government agencies from the districts, including local government officials from concerned line agencies/sectors local representatives (women and men), federations and networks of women, Dalits, youth, IP/Adivasi-Janajati; Sectoral networks (e.g. Forestry, Agriculture; Water; energy etc.). **See Annex 2B1 and 2B2.**
- **Community level:** Field level consultations were carried out with women and men from diverse groups (caste/ethnicity, marital status, disability, geographical location etc.). Efforts were made to interview women and men who are either non-members of the local groups or do not participate in any of the committee meetings and initiatives. **See Annex 2B1 and 2B2.**

Methods of data collection were as follows. **See Annex 2A, 2B1 and 2B2.**

- **National/Federal level:** National level interviews and two participatory workshops were conducted after the fieldwork, after sharing highlights from the field analysis, to generate additional information and recommendations for the GESI Action Plan.
- **KIIs and DDIs** were conducted with selected individuals that represented various interest groups (based on gender, caste-ethnicity, marital status, disability, geographic locations, different positions/levels in the committees/groups etc.). The purpose of these interviews was to conduct “deep-dives” that would focus on generating clearer understanding of the specific gaps and opportunities of the different groups of women and men which otherwise may not be revealed in a group setting.
- **FGDs** were conducted with different stakeholder interest groups based on gender, caste/ethnicity, marital status, disability, geographic location (within the village). Women’s groups, community forestry group, youth groups, mixed groups (men and women of all age groups, castes/ethnicity) were also consulted. Different participatory tools, such as the Situation Analysis, which includes an Activity Profile, Access and Control Profile, and Influencing Factors were used to facilitate the discussions.
- **Participatory observations** were conducted by the consultant by either staying in the respective villages or by spending substantial amount of time in the villages during the fieldwork.

2.5 Data analysis, drafting and report finalization

The consultant developed the final GESI assessment report based on the analysis of the information and knowledge stemming from the desk reviews, field data collections, workshops and other consultations. The finalization of the report was based on the following deliverables.

- 1) **First Draft Report:** A detailed draft report was drafted for reviews by the consultant.
- 2) **Participatory GESI-Action Plan development workshop:** One-day workshop was conducted with the concerned UNDP staffs, government, and non-governmental partners (30

participants. See Annex 2B2 Page 37. The main purpose of the workshop was to develop a draft GESI Action Plan based on the key problems and opportunities generated from the field assessments and other consultations.

- 3) Second Draft Report:** A second draft report incorporated and addressed comments received from the UNDP Nepal, UNDP Regional Office, and government partners.
- 4) Validation Workshop:** A validation workshop will be organized with UNDP and key government partners and other organizations and stakeholders working on GESI/Climate Change Induced Disasters. The purpose of the workshop will be to share the draft GESI assessment report and the action plan and obtain comments and inputs to finalize these reports.
- 5) Finalization of the Report and GESI Action Plan:** After the validation workshop the second draft report was revised based on the feedback received.

3. Findings from desk reviews

3.1. Status of women in Nepal

With the Human Development Index (HDI) ranking of 147, Nepal falls in middle human development group, with the Gender Development Index value of 0.897. The HDI of women is 0.549. Life expectancy of women at birth is 71.9 years. Estimated gross national income per capita of women is US\$ 2113.¹⁵

According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, Government of Nepal¹⁶, of the total national population of 26,494,504 women's population was 51.5% in the national census 2011.

Socio-economic wise, the female literacy rate in 2011 was 57.4 % and it increased to 62% in 2014. Of the economically active population 45.5% were women in 2011. In total in formal and informal sectors 78.5% of women were employed. In agriculture and non-agriculture sectors respectively 84.3% and 15.7% women were employed. Health wise, according to the demographic health survey 2016¹⁷, percentage of women who were pregnant when they were 18 years old was 5.8%. Contraceptive prevalence rate and unmet need for family planning were respectively 52.6% and 23.7% respectively. Access to antenatal care (more than four visits) increased from 59.5% in 2014 to 69.4% in 2016. There has been only slight increase in institutional delivery from 55.2% in 2014 to 57.4 in 2016. Gender violence cases reported in 15-sample service centres indicated increase from 1308 in 2012 to 6,230 in 2015. Similarly, of the 280 cases of reported human trafficking 87.1% were women.¹⁸

As far as socio-political empowerment of Nepal women is concerned women headed 27.4% households in 2011. However, households by women ownership on fixed assets such as house and land was only 10.8%.¹⁹ In other words, percentage of women without ownership of house and land was 80.1%. In 2015 percentage of women in National Planning commission was 12.5%; in Public Service Commission was 14.3%; in National Election Commission was 33.3%; and in the Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority it was 14.3%. Overall women participation in civil service was 11.8% and in gazetted positions only 9%.²⁰

According to UN Women as of February 2019, in Nepal 32.7% of parliament seats are held by women. However, work still needs to be done in Nepal to achieve gender equality. The proportion of women aged 20-24 years old who were married or in union before age 18 is 39.5%. The adolescent birth rate is 88.2 per 1000 population as of 2015, up from 71 per 1000 population in 2013. In 2016, 11% of women aged 15-49 years reported that they had been subject to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months. Moreover, women of

¹⁵ UNDP Human Development Reports, 2019, Gender Development Index Data (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-development-index-gdi>)

¹⁶ Women in Nepal, Statistical Highlights 2018, Central Bureau of Statistics, Government of Nepal, 2018 (<https://cbs.gov.np/gender-statistics-booklet-2018/>)

¹⁷ Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2016, Ministry of Health and Population, GoN (https://www.dropbox.com/s/27q3i7c5221o47j/2016%20Nepal%20DHS%20Key%20Findings_Nepali.pdf?dl=0)

¹⁸ Women in Nepal, Statistical Highlights 2018, Central Bureau of Statistics, Government of Nepal, 2018 (<https://cbs.gov.np/gender-statistics-booklet-2018/>)

¹⁹ Ibid

²⁰ Ibid

reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) often face barriers with respect to their sexual and reproductive health and rights: despite progress, the proportion of women who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods in 2014 year stood at 56%. In Nepal, only 31.5% of indicators needed to monitor the SDGs from a gender perspective are available, with gaps in key areas such as Unpaid Care and Domestic Work, Key Labor Market indicators such as Gender Pay Gap and Skills in Information and Communication Technology (ICT). In addition, many areas such as gender and poverty, women's access to assets including land, physical and sexual harassment, and gender and the environment currently lack comparable methodologies for comprehensive and periodic monitoring. Addressing these gender data gaps is a prerequisite for understanding the situation of women and girls in Nepal and for achieving the gender-related SDGs commitments.²¹

3.2 Gender and inclusion disaggregated data on climate change induced disaster

There is a dearth of quantitative data on vulnerabilities to climate change and its impacts on climate change induced disasters. However, qualitative studies like the National Climate Change Impact Survey 2016²² has reported that households are observing different climate induced disasters including flooding, landslides, drought, hailstorm, and disease/insects in last 25 years. About 99% of the survey respondents observed the ascending incidences of drought in the last 25 years, followed by disease/insects (97.69%), landslide (78.12%), and inundation (51.47%). The survey further showed that households were observing impacts of different types of disasters in last 25 years. The results depicted that 38.3% households were impacted by dry wind wave followed by landslides (35.2%), fire (in settlements) (31.8%), and flood (31.7%).²³

To understand and assess the differential gender and social group impacts of the Climate Change Induced Disasters such as GLOF, with the dearth of direct data on the impact of climate change induced disasters, it can be best discussed in terms of the data available from other disasters, such as the recent 2015 Earthquake in Nepal. Further, the impact of climate change in Nepal or vulnerabilities to climate change can be most coherently discussed in terms of the data available on disasters like floods and landslides, that are related to and caused by climate change induced disasters like GLOF.²⁴

Floods and landslides that occur every year cause highest loss of human lives and properties in Nepal after fire. According to official data available in 2017-2018 disaster and loss of human lives related to GLOF indicate that after fire, floods and landslides cause the highest loss of lives

²¹ <https://data.unwomen.org/country/nepal>

²² The National Climate Change Impact Survey 2016, A Statistical Report, Central Bureau of Statistics, Government of Nepal, April 2017 (http://old.cbs.gov.np/image/data/2017/National%20Climate%20Change%20Impact%20Survey%202016%20Report_final.pdf)

²³ The National Climate Change Impact Survey 2016, A Statistical Report, Central Bureau of Statistics, Government of Nepal, April 2017 (http://old.cbs.gov.np/image/data/2017/National%20Climate%20Change%20Impact%20Survey%202016%20Report_final.pdf)

²⁴ It is however to be noted that climate change is not always the cause of GLOF. In a recent paper published by Alton Byers et al in 2019, a GLOF in Barun Valley in Nepal in 2017 was induced by a rockfall. For details see <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10346-018-1079-9>

in Nepal.²⁵ See the figures below. Assessments and studies carried out in terms of earthquakes and floods in Nepal indicate that women were among the most vulnerable of those affected by Nepal's earthquake, lack of gender sensitivity in post-disaster relief, improved understanding of the existing flood early warning systems in Nepal, and needs to make early warning systems more effective and responsive to the needs of vulnerable groups, and poor and highly marginalized women in particular. In the case of differential impacts of floods or landslides socially, though there is a lack of disaggregated data, after women and children, studies have indicated and as National Federation of Disabled - Nepal (NFDN) also claims that people with disabilities are the most vulnerable in disasters including CC induced disasters like GLOF.

Damage and losses of disaster incidents										
S.No.	Incident	No. of Incidents	Dead *			Injured	Affected Family	Houses Destroyed		Estimated Losses (NPR)
			Male	Female	Total			Partial	Complete	
1	Flood	418	128	55	183	61	16196	14424	286	60,944,400
2	Landslide	483	96	65	161	182	1083	149	328	191,662,000
3	Lightning	432	87	72	160	551	618	23	14	14,687,000
4	Fire	3973	74	76	150	557	6027	549	3234	6,422,638,013
5	Cold Wave	48	26	22	48	0	48	0	0	-
6	High Altitude	45	37	4	41	6	46	0	0	-
7	Heavy Rainfall	342	8	22	30	84	538	193	252	89,415,160
8	Animal Terror	141	14	8	22	69	280	136	8	4,390,150
9	Wind storm	254	7	12	19	84	1527	763	301	51,447,998
10	Boat Capsize	10	9	7	16	9	27	0	0	-
11	Epidemic	22	11	4	15	1881	420	0	0	-
12	Snake Bite	18	7	7	14	5	18	0	0	-
13	Snow Storm	2	10	0	10	0	10	0	0	-
14	Avalanche	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	-
15	Hailstone	3	0	0	0	0	127	2	0	457,000
16	Other	189	54	45	99	150	289	69	10	3,181,599
		6381	569	399	968	3639	27255	16308	4433	6,838,823,320

Source: NEOC, MoHA 2017 and 2018

Source: Nepal Disaster Report 2019, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Nepal, June 2019

It is only after the Nepal Earthquake 2015 trends in disaggregating disaster loss data gender and inclusion wise is observed. Post 2015 Earthquake the Government of Nepal reported that of the 8,891 people who died 55% were women (0.01%, 2011 national population). UN Women estimated in the 14 most affected districts it included approximately 2,710,239 women (50.5% of population) 327,000 female-headed households (26.5% of households), 40,000 women with disabilities, 163,000 women over the age of 65 years (6% of female population), 764,000 girls aged 14 or under (28% of female population), and 795,000 women and girls who were illiterate (29% of female population). The Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) also recognized that women are among the most vulnerable of those affected by Nepal's earthquake.

Besides the post earthquake GESI disaggregated data provided by Common Feedback Project and UN agencies like UNFPA and UN Women, there are hardly any qualitative or quantitative study that can provide data or evidences with regard to GLOF and its differential impacts on gender and social group wise in Nepal.

²⁵ Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Nepal, June 2019. Nepal Disaster Report 2019.

One of the three studies in preparation of the GCF project commissioned to ICIMOD by UNDP has produced an inventory of the PDGL with estimates based on the population census of 2011 which estimates that the number of people likely to be affected by a potential GLOF varies between 10,000 in Sun Koshi and 19,000 in Dudh Koshi. The remaining population could suffer a loss of environmental resources and service infrastructure. The maximum number who could be indirectly affected through infrastructural damage and loss of goods and services ranges from 51,000 for Tama Koshi to 62,500 for Sun Koshi. Gender wise household and population downstream the Koshi river valley (basins include Tamor, Arun, Dudh Koshi, Tama Koshi, and Sun Koshi) that could be affected includes a total of 14,744 households; of 62,493 population, which 29,968 are male (48%) and 32,524 are female (52%).²⁶

3.3 Disaster, gender and inclusion

According to a joint study by London School of Economics and Political Science, University of Essex and Max-Planck Institute of Economics on disasters and gender, disasters lower women's life expectancy more than men's according to data from 141 countries affected by disaster between 1981 and 2002. Women, boys and girls are 14 times more likely than men to die during a disaster.²⁷ It is to be noted in the context of Nepal also, during the 2008 Koshi floods in Eastern Nepal, 18% of the affected populations were Dalits and the community focus group discussions found that children, women, elderly and the ultra poor were most affected by the flood and in immediate need of assistance.²⁸

Following a disaster, it is more likely that women will be victims of domestic and sexual violence; many even avoid using shelters for fear of being sexually assaulted. There is enough evidence that in any disasters, disproportionately large numbers of women particularly from poor and socially excluded groups are affected more severely relative to men. Worldwide, it has generally been established that when gender issues are not addressed fully and sufficiently in both development and disaster contexts, they perpetuate and in many cases augment existing gender-based inequities. Women are particularly exposed to disaster risks — they are likely to suffer higher rates of mortality, morbidity and post-disaster ruin to their livelihoods. Several underlying factors exacerbate women's vulnerability to the impacts of disasters, including limited livelihood options, restricted access to education and basic services and discriminatory social, cultural and legal practices. However, women are also key agents of change. Their unique knowledge is essential to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of disaster adaptation. Hence, their full and effective participation is essential.²⁹

Besides women/girls, persons with disabilities (PWDs) are also more vulnerable in CC Induced

²⁶ ICIMOD Report submitted to UNDP, May 2018

²⁷ London School of Economics and Political Science, University of Essex and Max-Planck Institute of Economics - The Gendered Nature of Natural Disasters: The Impact of Catastrophic Events on the Gender Gap in Life Expectancy, 1981–2002. (http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/3040/1/Gendered_nature_of_natural_disasters_%28LSERO%29.pdf)

²⁸ The Multi-Agency Flood Impact Assessment Koshi River Flood – Nepal IASC Emergency Preparedness and Response Cluster System, September 2008, Preliminary Results (<http://neksap.org.np/uploaded/resources/Publications-and-Research/Reports/Multi%20Agency%20Flood%20Impact%20Assessmenet,%20Koshi%20River%20Flood%20Nepal.pdf>)

²⁹ Ibid

disasters (such as GLOF) due to their impairment, existing barriers and their socio-economic situation. On the other hand, disasters create impairments, disability. PWDs tend to be invisible in disasters. Aid often focuses on people that became impaired through the disaster, neglecting people already impaired previous to it. Not including PWDs in DRR means putting new barriers for them and not letting them participate in development processes.³⁰ Disaster risk reduction needs to address the underlying factors causing gender-based vulnerability and exposure to disasters, such as economic or poverty, social, cultural and political exclusion (intersectionality). Women must be empowered to meaningfully participate in decision-making processes related to disaster risk reduction across scales and sectors.³¹

An ICIMOD Working Paper³² published in 2014 identifies there is a lack of gender sensitivity in post-disaster relief. In the study, Koshi Victim Society, Saptari district, Koshi basin area in Nepal, an organization working on disaster relief and rehabilitation, had drawn attention to the post-disaster risks for women. With the disruption of social support networks and displacement, women in post-disaster scenarios are vulnerable to rape and other forms of violence and can even be forced into sex work. They can also suffer from nutritional deficiencies. In post-disaster relief work, the practical and medical needs of women including pregnant and lactating women, such as for safe toilets, a clean environment, access to health services, and accessible food distribution systems, are often ignored.

In another Flood Early Warning Systems in Nepal study from gendered perspective by ICIMOD,³³ it found that it had improved understanding of the existing flood early warning systems in Nepal. It suggested ways to make early warning systems more effective and responsive to the needs of vulnerable groups, and women in particular. In view of the diversity of development issues and livelihood challenges that communities face on a day-to-day basis, the study suggested it is important to tune early warning systems according to the local context. Early warning system infrastructure at the local level should be developed with the active involvement of local men and women as part of the development process. Early warning systems should be seen as a social and development activity rather than an exclusive domain of engineers and technicians.

This simplification and democratization of early warning systems requires bridging the gap between technical departments and communities, building local capacity, recognizing the stake of the local community in contributing to and benefiting from early warning systems processes, and most importantly creating multiple uses of early warning systems technology and not just for a 'one time disaster'. The early warning systems should be used with advanced applications to disseminate key messages that will also be useful for local livelihood needs, such as daily weather trends to support crop related decisions, market related decisions, and storage and transport related decisions.

Further, it is important to recognize that women play an active role in family livelihood security and efforts must be made to involve women and men equally in creating and receiving early

³⁰ Mainstreaming Disability into Disaster Risk Reduction, A Training Manual, Nepal 2009, Handicap International and European Commission Humanitarian Aid (ECHO)

³¹ UNDP, Gender and Climate Change, Capacity Development Series, Disaster risk reduction, Training Module 3

³² ICIMOD Working Paper 2014/3, Women's Empowerment at the Frontline of Adaptation: Emerging issues, adaptive practices, and priorities in Nepal (http://lib.icimod.org/record/29811/files/WE_14.pdf)

³³ Flood Early Warning Systems in Nepal, A Gendered Perspective, ICIMOD Working Paper, 2014/4 (http://lib.icimod.org/record/29959/files/Flood_EWS.pdf)

warnings and alerts. Women should be involved in local early warning system infrastructure management teams and be provided with mobile phones or portable radios to receive early warning messages.³⁴

In this regard GESI should be ensured in all the people-centered four pillars of the early warning system processes, viz, (i) Risk Knowledge; (ii) Monitoring and Warning Service; (iii) Dissemination and Communication; and (iv) Response Capability.³⁵

3.4 Importance of gender and inclusion in disaster

The importance of integrating GESI in climate change induced disaster is recognized nationally and internationally.

International agreements/ treaty/ commitments, such as Sendai Framework for DRR 2015 - 2030 (SFDRR), Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals all uphold the importance of GESI in CC and DRR. The UN SFDRR under Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction, specifically mentions “Empowering women and persons with disabilities to publicly lead and promote gender equitable and universally accessible response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction approaches is key.”³⁶

Aligned to the international context, nationally in Nepal importance of GESI is mentioned in disaster, climate change related national plans and policies in Nepal, such as National Climate Change Policy 2019, National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) to Climate Change Policy 2019 and Local Government Operational Act 2017. Most of the directly disaster related plans and policies in Nepal such as the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management (NSDRM) 2008, Guidelines: Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan (DPRP) 2011, Local Disaster Risk Management Planning Guidelines 2012, District Disaster Management Planning Guidelines 2012 and National Disaster Response Framework 2013 (updated 2019) also mentions the need for integration of GESI in disaster management. See Annex 3 for list of samples of international and national policies from GESI perspectives related to climate change and disasters.

However, there is limited understanding and analysis of what the linkages are between GESI and climate change induced disaster and how to integrate GESI in disaster and climate risk management (DRM).

³⁴ Ibid

³⁵ <https://www.preventionweb.net/publications/view/42369>

³⁶ SFDRR 2015-2030 (https://www.preventionweb.net/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf)

3.5 National gender and inclusion policies/plans/DRM reports

Regarding national gender and inclusion policies and practices in general for Nepal, the Constitution of Nepal, 2015, guarantees a right-based approach regarding gender equality and inclusion. The constitution stipulates a non-discrimination principle that reinforces the equality of all citizens before the law. Special provisions are made for the protection, empowerment or advancement of economically poor, socially or culturally backward social groups. Women are guaranteed the right to participate in all state mechanisms. Dalits have specific rights for participation in all bodies of the state on the basis of proportional inclusion; there is free education with scholarships from primary to higher education with special provisions for health and social security.

In ensuring the constitutional rights, the *Civil Service Act 2007* has legalized the principle of positive discrimination by ensuring reservation for certain sections of the community in the civil service. In the 14th Three Year Plan (2016/17-2018/19), the GoN emphasized the meaningful participation of all citizens for Nepal's inclusive development and aims to improve the human development and empowerment index of those who have been economically and socially left behind. The Budget for 2018/19 incorporates issues regarding gender, poverty and marginalization under objectives and priorities. The federal government had allocated Rs. 135.51 billion (about US\$ 1.18 billion) as an equalization grant to the province and local levels to spend on human development indicators. Provisions for capital, skill and entrepreneurship trainings have been ensured for small businesses and self-employment activities in proprietorship of women. The 15th Three Year Plan (2019/20-2023/24), recently released, acknowledges that though progress has been made since the last plan, inequality and exclusion have not been eradicated. Not much progress has happened in terms of female participation, and women managed cooperatives. The strategy for long-term vision mentions that criteria for socially progressive economic arrangements will be made to ensure women, Dalits, and other marginalized groups have all the required protection and rights.

Numerous GoN policies and guidelines recognize the need to address GESI issues programmatically and institutionally in order to achieve sector objectives. All these sectoral GESI strategies and guidelines emphasize participation of women, Dalits, Adivasi/Janajatis, Madhesis, Muslims, PWDs and excluded communities in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of sectoral policies, plans and programs. They recognize the need to identify the specific barriers faced by women, the poor, the vulnerable and the excluded in the sector concerned. All these guidelines demand disaggregated data and evidence.

Regarding legislations or guidelines to promote GESI in local governance bodies the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA) governs local bodies, including the municipalities and has developed a GESI policy in 2010 that provides directives for incorporating GESI into the functions of local bodies. Social development units or community development sections of the municipalities are responsible for facilitating GESI mainstreaming in planning, budgeting, and monitoring. Similarly, the Disadvantaged Group (DAG) mapping at the ward level helps identify poverty pockets and settlements by using the set criteria.

The legal framework for local governance elaborated in the *Local Governance Operational Act 2017*, requires local bodies to prepare periodic plans – prioritizing women, marginalized groups, poor and children through participatory planning processes – and describe mandatory provisions for the participation of women, children and disadvantaged groups in the planning

and budgeting process. The *local governance regulation* ensures 20% women and at least one Dalit member representation in ward level elected bodies. The *Minimum Conditions and Performance Measures (MCPM) 2009* require municipalities to adopt a participatory and inclusive planning including pro-poor budgets to ensure the flow of central grant. Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) (since 2007/08) requires all line ministries to follow the guideline and prepare gender responsive budgets. As a result, the percentage of the total government budget that was gender responsive was 21% in FY 2015/16.

Recently promulgated Government of Nepal's National Policy For Disaster Risk Reduction 2018³⁷ regarding gender equality and inclusion ensures access, representation and meaningful participation of women, children, senior citizen, people with disabilities and the people from economically and socially marginalized communities in all steps and structures of disaster risk reduction based on inclusive disaster management concept. Further, as per the concept of disaster sensitivity, public physical infrastructure (government offices, educational institutions, health institutions, community buildings and shelters etc.) will be made senior citizen, gender, persons with disability and children friendly. It further provisions an inclusive mechanism to establish at federal, provincial and local levels effective monitoring and evaluation of the activities related to disaster risk reduction and management.

3.6 GCF gender frameworks and policies

The GCF has a standard framework for developing a gender equality and inclusion component of a country project and action plan. The GCF project formulation is required to align to the Fund's gender frameworks, policies and action plans. In this regard the GCF's Gender Policy and Action Plan (March 2015) states that:

- Women, as well as men significantly contribute to combating climate change. Shifting the paradigm towards low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways, which is the Fund's mandate, requires a large number of individual and collective decisions by women and men. A gender-sensitive approach is therefore part of a paradigm shift;
- Climate change impacts women and men differently, to the detriment of women, and existing gender inequalities are likely to be exacerbated by climate change; and
- Gender inequality, exacerbated by climate change, is linked, as are other development areas, to vulnerability and risks. The greater vulnerability of women to climate change stems from gender norms and discrimination that result in the imbalanced division of labour, lower incomes, and lesser livelihood opportunities; less access and control over land and other productive assets; fewer legal rights; lesser mobility and lesser political and professional representation.

The GCF's commitment to gender equality centres on gender-responsive country programs 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

³⁷ Available online at <http://drrportal.gov.np/uploads/document/1476.pdf>

gender in the project cycle. Finally, it means measuring the outcomes and impacts of project activities on women 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.³⁸

3.7 Reports on consultations for project formulation

In line with the GCF environmental and social policy that elaborates the commitment of GCF to integrate environmental and social issues into its decision-making and outcomes, and as part of engagement of various stakeholders during project formulation, Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN) undertook a detail Indigenous Peoples' engagement study. The study identified that the underlying impact of climate change and the issues and concerns of indigenous people (IPs) across the sectors includes impacts of climate change on agriculture, water resources, other natural resources. IPs in the proposed project areas still practice subsistence farming. Agriculture is the lifeline for their livelihoods. Unfortunately, indigenous peoples are encountering challenges in continuing their traditional livelihoods and practices. Their ways of farming and cultivation is facing problems posed by the growing changes in climatic conditions.

In forest and biodiversity, indigenous peoples are nature worshippers. Indigenous peoples' livelihood and their cosmo-vision are intrinsically embedded with forests, flora and fauna, and with the whole ecosystem they live in. Their interrelationship with forests and biodiversity at large goes beyond sustenance of their lives and livelihood to a more emotional, cultural and essential unified accord with nature. The intensity of changing environment, including climate change, natural calamities are threatening indigenous peoples' lands and forests among other natural resources.

Regarding impact of climate change on water resources, for indigenous people water is sacred. It is vital to life, essential to agriculture and a valuable energy source. Indigenous peoples value water as an important element and property of life. Water is considered not only for its consumptive value and its use in general, but it means more than a natural resource. Indigenous people's relationship with water and its resources are crucial to cultural vitality and resilience. Indigenous peoples believe the calamities related to water, such as flood and GLOF are related with the God/Ancestors. Over the years, with changes in climatic condition, indigenous peoples are facing water scarcity in their villages; apart from their traditional sources such as stone spouts, springs, wells and ponds, their rivers and streams are also drying up. It is important to note that indigenous peoples have their own ways and practices of identifying natural hazards. It is important to respect and utilize the knowledge of indigenous peoples to enhance or least gain acceptance of any project intervention in IP's areas.³⁹

Consultation with the NGOs/CSOs, Private Sectors and Government informed that the stakeholders are aware of the issues on climate change induced disasters such as and GLOF, but have uneven potential risks from the GLOF; stakeholders have willingness to contribute, ensuring the sustainability of the interventions; stakeholders need capacity development program; and stakeholders need scientific knowledge, instrumentation and monitoring,

³⁸ https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/194568/Guidelines_-_GCF_Toolkit_Mainstreaming_Gender.pdf/860d1d03-877d-4c64-9a49-c0160c794ca7

³⁹ Indigenous Peoples consultation to understand potential glacial lake outbursts floods risks for safeguarding lives and livelihood, Final Report submitted to UNDP-Nepal, February 26, 2018, NEFIN

structural design (e.g., EWS), and institutional arrangements for addressing the potential risks of GLOFs and safeguarding the lives and livelihoods.⁴⁰

⁴⁰ NGOs/CSOs, Private Sectors and Government Consultation to Understand Potential Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Risks for Safeguarding Lives and Livelihoods, Final Report submitted to UNDP-Nepal, Youth Alliance for Environment, March 2018

4. Findings from fieldwork

4.1 Community level findings

1. Who are the most vulnerable to Climate Change Induced Disasters and hazards?

Poor Tarai and Hill Dalits who are both historically excluded and situationally vulnerable are the most affected by climate change induced disasters and hazards and considered to be the most excluded and vulnerable people followed by the poor and highly marginalized indigenous groups, particularly living along the river beds and drought prone areas (Adivasi/Janajatis) such as Majhi, Kumal, Botes, etc.

- **Terai and Hill Dalits:** Majority of Hill and Terai Dalits residing in remote areas and degraded lands have been historically discriminated in terms of access to resources such as education, employment and other socio-economical opportunities and services, making them socially, economically, politically and culturally the most discriminated. As compared to the Hill Dalits, Tarai Dalits (e.g. Sardar-Bantar, Khang-Khatwe; Chamar, Dom, Musahar,) are considered to be the most discriminated and vulnerable. These multiple layers of discrimination have affected both their material conditions and social status in society hindering them from accessing resources, understanding the values of participating in community initiatives and networking. Due to their limited physical and social assets climate change and disaster risks have further exacerbated their conditions thus increasing their vulnerabilities.

“When the Koshi barrage was flooded, help came from the government and several organisations. Truckloads of soaps, mattresses and foods were provided. The agencies handed over these supplies to the village leaders for distribution, but these leaders distributed these supplies only after few days and rationed it. I have a large family and had asked for 5 mattresses but was given only 2. Similarly they budgeted and requested for 75 feet deep tube well for us but constructed only a 25 feet deep well.” - A single woman, Sardar community, Kushaha, Ward No.4, Koshi Tappu (Downstream community)

- **Poor and highly marginalized Adivasi Janajatis (Indigenous Peoples):** Similar to the Hill and Tarai Dalits, poor and highly marginalized Adivasi Janajatis, such as Majhis, Kumals, Botes etc. living near and along the river banks, in landslide, flood and drought prone areas, seemed to be highly affected by the changing climate and disaster risks. These groups were found to be living in clusters usually in the outskirts or far from the main villages, making it difficult for them to participate and easily access disaster and development resources and opportunities.

“Water availability both for drinking and pottery is our biggest problem and it has become very severe since the past 8-9 years. Our village brought the water source from the neighboring village, but we could not get this water as we live far from the main village and it requires extra costs and labour.” - A Kumal man, Hattuwagadi 6, Bhojpur

- **Poor Adivasi Janajatis (Indigenous Peoples) from the hill and mountain areas,** particularly living in disaster prone and remote areas such as the Rais, Bhotas etc. due to the geographical remoteness, these groups were found to be isolated from the development interventions, networks, and opportunities. Most of the interventions such as trainings,

information, infrastructure development etc. were centered on the ward headquarters and they could not participate nor access it easily.

- **Women:** As compared to men, women across all social and economic groups seem to be more excluded from accessing climate change and development resources and opportunities. However, the degree of exclusion and vulnerability is highest among the poor single women, Tarai Dalit women (as described above) living in remote and disaster prone areas followed by Hill Dalit women (e.g. Gandarvas), poor and marginalized indigenous women (Rais), single women and poor women from advantaged caste groups (Chettri, Brahmins).
- **Single women, elderly, persons with disability and pregnant and lactating women:** These groups, particularly women have problems related to getting timely and complete information, participation and access to resources. Mechanisms or platforms to understand and discuss their special needs and contributions are almost non-existent. Hence, they usually tend to get excluded from participating in meetings, consultations, trainings, and group memberships, such as the ward level planning and budgeting meetings, trainings or exposure visits etc.

2. Women's "Time Poverty" is still not recognized as a critical issue and addressed in the context of development and climate change.

- The changing climate and increases in the magnitude and frequency of natural disasters has caused problems in water availability, agriculture, forest resources and increased male outmigration. This has substantially increased poor and marginalized women's already high household workload, food security and loss of income. The progress made by women in terms of their material conditions (well-being) and social positions or status (leadership, decision-making) in society also seemed to be declining. Due to the shortage of labour force, situation of single women is even more critical.
- **Water scarcity has hit poor and marginalized women the hardest:** The increasingly unpredictable rainfall patterns, which are more intense and shorter in duration, and the long periods of droughts have resulted in drying of wells and small springs. Water scarcity has become a serious problem. This has increased women's time needed for managing water for household use, irrigation and conserving water sources.

"Since the past 11-12 years, availability of water has been one of the most pressing issues for us women. The spring water in our ward has dried and the 'bulldozer roads' and earthquake has made it worse. Forty-five households in our ward collected around 18.5 hundred thousand rupees (approximately USD 1700) and gave 100 days of labour from each household to buy and bring the piped water from the neighbouring village. We did not get any support from the ward office. This piped water is still not adequate to irrigate our farms and for household use. The Kumal (marginalized IPs) and some Dalit households living in the periphery of the main village could not be included in this scheme as it takes additional resources to join the pipes to their houses. Besides they cannot afford to pay for the water." - Chandrakala Rai, Hattwagadi 6, Bhojpur

- **Hardening of soil in farms has doubled women's farm work:** In agriculture too the soil quality is becoming degraded and hardened, making it difficult to break and fertilise. The

hardened soils have doubled the time for ploughing, requiring more labour, water and manure, making women work for longer hours in the hot sun.

“The long spells of hot weather make the soil very hard and requires additional breaking even after ploughing to make it suitable for sowing. In our village we have a system of compensating the ploughing services either by paying in cash or by providing double the number of days of labour to the plougher, which is usually done by women. This means our workload is further increased. These soils also need more water, manure and long hours of physical labour in the hot sun to break the soil and carry the manure to the field.” - Ram Maya Rai, Hattuwagadi 6, Pipal Dada, Bhojpur

- **Increase and emergence of aggressive pests and further increasing women's time poverty and food insecurity:** Farming of vegetables, crops and horticulture has become very challenging due to the emergence of new and aggressive varieties of weeds and pests. It has affected farms and storage, increasing women's workload, as they are the ones responsible for these tasks. Since these new and aggressive varieties of pests and weeds (mainly large snails, soil larvae, white moths or butterflies etc.) are outside the realms of traditional knowledge, their local methods and approaches are not effective in addressing the problem. Women were found to be using their hands to sprinkle the strong chemical herbicides and did not have knowledge about the dangers of using it.
- The unpredictable weather patterns have caused huge loss in farming. In Hattuwagadi this year 85% of their maize got destroyed with untimely rainfall followed by drought after the plantations. This resulted in having maize with no seeds and increase in seeking loans to buy food.
- **Decrease in forest products due to droughts, forest fires causing increased workloads of women:** Long spells of dry weather and increase in invasive species have degraded the quality of forests causing frequent forest fires, and reduction in the yield of fodder, fuel wood and important non-timber forest products (NTFPs). This has also contributed in increasing women's time in collection of the forest products, as these are almost exclusively women's traditional work.
- **Male outmigration:** The trend of male outmigration seemed to have increased due to the decrease in agricultural production and food insecurity, also increasing women's workload, mental stress and risk of physical violence. Male outmigration has also caused young wives to leave the village to the nearby cities to educate their children leaving behind elderly parents and further increasing the workloads for the women who are left behind.
- **Decrease in women's mobility and engagement in income generating, community activities and decision-making processes:** Due to increased workload, women's mobility, participation in community initiatives, committees, decision-making processes, and accessing timely and complete information has decreased. Even if the opportunities are in their doorsteps, they do not have the time and interests to grab these opportunities. As traditionally, the caring or household work has been exclusively women's work, even for women in position such as elected ward members, Community Forestry Executive members, Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHV) etc. are required to finish their household duties and only then can they participate.

3. Poor and highly marginalized women and men particularly living in geographically remote and disaster prone areas⁴¹, mainly between 25 to 50 kilometres from the glacial lakes have limited access, and benefits the least from development and climate change related resources and opportunities.

- **Near absence of platforms and invited spaces⁴² for reaching, mobilizing and engaging women and marginalized groups:** The poor outreach mechanisms, exclusive and centralized planning systems, the near absence of functional platforms or forums to organise and empower poor women and marginalized groups, together with the domination by local politics and power have made accessing and benefiting from these resources challenging. For example even if the local groups are strong, ultimately the politics and power decides and authorises on who should be selected or represented or whose skills are recognized etc. For example women's groups, farmers groups, ward citizen forum, CBOs, NGOs etc., particularly in the hilly areas (25 to 50 kilometres away from the glacial lakes) has made it difficult for these groups to organize and collectively voice their opinions, advices, and make demands. The absence of these dedicated gender related platforms and institutions such as the Women's Development Office, wards social mobilizers are felt by the women elected members and staffs of the wards and rural municipalities.

"Our women used to get a lot of support from the Women Development Office and social mobilizers to help organise, plan, make demands etc. However, due to their absence, women have not been able to organise themselves and hence we miss out on mobilizing resources and funds. In the first year women did not submit proposals to spend the small budget (NRs. 800,000) dedicated for gender issues and in the end the budget got shifted to other budget heads. Similarly, last year too we did not receive any proposal. I feel presence of a separate local level institutions and social mobilizers dedicated for gender and social issues is very important."
- Women ward member, Num, Ward 5, Makalu Rural Municipality

- The poor roads, scattered nature of the settlements, and limited human resources and budgets have forced these local level development organisations to limit its outreach around the ward or municipality headquarters. This automatically excludes the poor and the marginalized people living in remote areas from receiving timely and complete information, participating in meetings and training opportunities, representing in local level decision making committees etc. Even if they participate, they are unable to fully reap the benefits.

For example, computer training for youths (2 months) and tailoring training (3 months) for Dalit women were organised by the ward office in Num, in its headquarters of Ward 5, Makalu Rural Municipality. The training opportunities were for all the wards, however due to the long duration of the training, the participants from outside the Num bazar (ward headquarters) could not participate. They could not afford the time and costs of leaving their village to stay in Num bazar. Further, most of the women and girls from the remote and distant wards had not

⁴¹ Highly vulnerable villages and cluster areas:

⁴² **Invited Spaces:** Forums/user groups/women groups/Dalits groups etc. for organising and mobilizing women and marginalized groups to engage participate and benefit from development resources and opportunities.

received information about these trainings and neither were they consulted during the planning of the activities for them.

- Majority of the saving and credit groups, cooperatives and micro-finance institutions seem to be regularly meeting but these meetings are strictly limited to transacting money for saving and loans. However, in areas where the external agencies are active, cooperatives were found to be contributing to the local livelihoods and income generative activities. Further, the unclear steps and mechanisms of the local governments and institutions to engage women's and marginalized communities and address their needs, interests and priorities in designing and planning climate change and disaster risk reduction related plans and programs, have made inclusion even more challenging.

4. The participation of women and men in local development planning, disaster risk management and climate change related activities and decision-making are highly exclusive and gendered.

- The gender, political affiliation, geographic location, caste ethnicity, age, economic status, literacy and ability of the local women and men plays a major role on, who participates, where or which level they participate and how they participate. The types and quality of participation can be categorised as follows (also, see Table 3):
- Majority of poor and highly marginalized women, particularly from remote and disaster-prone locations are not members of local interest groups or decision-making bodies or committees and are isolated. This is mainly due to women's time poverty and their historical discrimination that makes them invisible when it comes to resource distribution and benefit sharing. They also do not have the confidence and networks to mobilize these resources. These categories of women together with the poor and marginalized men (elderly, Dalits, marginalized indigenous men – Kumals, Botes, Mahjis etc.) are mostly engaged in community activities that entails voluntary participation or consultations or labour contribution.
- Women in the leadership positions are members of key committees, but they are usually engaged and responsible for women-centred programmes, and committees e.g. health, agriculture (seeds distribution), conflict resolution – violence against women etc. They do not have substantial roles in their ward's main planning processes. All these women-centred activities do not require large financial transactions. Further, in most cases strong women leaders were found to be excluded from key technical and local development related committees and from planning and decision-making process as they were perceived as a threat to the local power centres. A trend of selecting or nominating women with limited exposure and experience in leadership was observed, making their participation mere token with no influence in the planning processes and decisions.
- Mostly *Advantaged Men*⁴³ are engaged in the activities and committees related to large and small infrastructure development and technical activities. Only very few women

⁴³ Advantaged Men: in the context of Koshi Basin, they are mostly men in leadership position affiliated to political parties in power, who are usually literate, economically rich, from higher caste groups (Chettri Brahmins) or dominant indigenous peoples (such as Rais and Chaudharies).

leaders were found to be engaged in these domains. During the entire fieldwork, only one women ward vice-chair from Num, Makalu was actively engaged in the ward's planning processes.

"Women like us, who can speak, make demands and question the forums are not the preferred lot by the local governments and their technical committees (such as road, irrigation, electricity). We are side lined and obviously our issues and proposals receive least or no priority. If you assess, it's the same all over the region except in some exceptional cases." - A women leader, Khadbari, Sankhuwasabha

- Decision-making still remains men's domain. Advantaged men occupy almost all key leadership positions, and likewise decisions related to local level planning and disaster risk reduction are also made by them.

"It is really sad to say that most of the current elected or nominated women members⁴⁴ and women leaders at the local levels are mere rubber stamps to the decisions made and the need to turn this problem into an opportunity is crucial." - Member, HIMAWANTI,⁴⁵ Central Committee

Table 2: Quality of Participation and Engagement (Who is engaged where and how?)*

Daily engagement at Household/ Farm levels:	Community Activities (Voluntary labour):	Community Activities – (Gender, Social related):	Community Activities: (Infrastructure; technical related):	Decision-Making; Leadership:
Example: Farm, forest, water, energy management etc.	Example: Clearing for water pipe construction; plantation; cleaning springs and water sources etc.	Example: Representation in committees; meetings; consultations; training/orientations; exposure visits etc. (health, agriculture, conflict resolution, plantation etc.)	Example: Representation in committees; Meetings, consultations, training/orientation, visits etc. (Construction - road, hydro-electricity, irrigation, school/halls etc.	Example: Ward/municipal level planning, implementation ; monitoring etc. Disaster Risk Reduction related Committees and decisions etc.
Mostly poor and marginalized women living in remote location and usually not members of local	Women – mostly who do not hold Leadership position;	Mostly Women in leadership position and residing close to the Ward or	Advantaged Men ⁴⁶ in leadership positions, in ward and technical committees and	Advantaged Men in leadership positions, in ward and

⁴⁴ The results of Local Election 2017 show that women won as deputies instead of mayors and chairpersons. Only 2% of the mayor and chair positions out of the total 753 went to the women, while 91% of the deputy positions went to women. (<https://www.recordnepal.com/wire/features/data-reveals-local-elections-a-disaster-for-gender-equality/>)

⁴⁵ HIMAWANTI: Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association – active in 45 districts of Nepal.

⁴⁶ Advantaged Men: in the context of Koshi Basin, they are mostly men in leadership position affiliated to political parties in power, who are usually literate, economically rich, from higher caste groups (Chettris/Brahmins) or dominant indigenous peoples (such as Rais and Chaudharys)

committees or groups. (e.g. mostly poor Dalits, Kumals, Majhi's, Botes, Sardars, Rais, Bhotes, Chettri Brahmins etc.).		Municipality HQs and with more wealth and discretionary time (having alternative energy technologies such LPG gas stoves; pressure cookers etc.).	those mostly affiliated with political parties	technical committees and those mostly affiliated with political parties
Poor and marginalized men, mostly elderly men in high hills living in remote locations and who are usually not members of committees or groups.	Poor and marginalized women and men (Hill and Tarai Dalits, Botes, Kumals, Majhi's, elderly men particularly Rais in the high hills).	Women from remote areas in leadership positions, more wealthy, literate and mostly affiliated to political parties	Few Women in leadership position and residing close to the Ward or Municipality HQs;	Negligible women in leadership position and affiliated to political parties.

* Based on the field consultations and FGDs (September 2019)

- **Women from poor and marginalized groups fail to recognize the value of participating in community development activities, local committees and decision-making forums both due to their historical discrimination and situational vulnerabilities caused by the changing climate and disasters which have further alienated them.** Thus, even if they are specifically included and invited to participate they do not understand the value of participation, cannot articulate their needs and demands, and thus cannot fully engage and benefit from the resources and opportunities provided to them. Development agencies find it challenging to plan and implement specific programs for these groups.

"Last fiscal year our ward had solar light distribution program for which we had allocated NRs.10,000 loan to be paid in instalments. We had specifically made provisions for the Dalits and went to their houses to invite them for the meeting and orientation program. Except for one, none of them came for the meeting. This is not the first time, they never participate in other meetings too. They are uncooperative, lazy, disinterested and need constant follow-up if we do any programs for them. They don't want to change." - Male Ward Member, Facksinda (Besi), Ward 5, Makalu Rural Municipality

5. Knowledge, experiences and roles of poor and highly marginalized women, particularly indigenous and Tarai Dalit women are not recognized and their contributions remain largely invisible.

- Poor and highly marginalized women, particularly the indigenous women from the mountain and high hills such as the Rais, Bhotes, Botes, Majhi's, Kumals and Dalit women from the Koshi Tappu areas such as the Sardars, Bantars, Khatwes, Musharas are highly dependent on the natural resources and have good knowledge and experience of managing it. However, their indigenous and traditional knowledge and experiences and their roles in climate change and natural disaster management are not recognized and their contributions largely remain invisible in local policy making,

planning and financing. Their experiences are seldom used to draw knowledge of local situation and ecology. Hence, they are unable to fully engage in, benefit from, and contribute in more meaningful, recognized and paid activities and opportunities.

“During the devastating Koshi flood in 2008 we had to move our cattle and grains to a safer place. Our cultural group⁴⁷ got together and made boats out of banana trees and large water drums tied under the beds. This saved many lives and assets of our people. It took 2-3 days for the external agencies to get the boats from India and the cities and we were the last ones to receive it. Likewise, we have several traditional knowledge on the use of medicinal plants, homemade remedies, for diarrhoea, warding off snakes, headaches etc. which are very useful during monsoon and flooding. However, we are never consulted or asked for our support. They don’t trust us and use other members of the community when it comes to collecting information for distribution of goods and services.” - Sardar Women (Tari Dalit) from Koshi Tappu

4.2 Institutional level findings

6. The planning and decision-making processes seem to be largely controlled by the local politics and power, side lining the participatory and inclusive processes and structures established and promoted by the government and development agencies.

- Local politics and power structures⁴⁸ play a major role in deciding which groups or institutions, leaders or individuals should be given authority and recognition to decide on who or where to invest in, in what manner, inform, govern on how and who to select for resource distribution etc. This trend isolates the poor and highly marginalized women and men who are not part of these networks and their needs, interests and priorities do not get space and priority in the planning and decision-making, particularly during disasters where they tend to get excluded. In the majority of the cases in the Koshi basin areas, ward chairperson and secretary largely make the prioritization of issues, demand collection and decisions for the ward’s annual planning. Among the 5 key members in the ward committee, the other two members who are elected and nominated from the women and Dalits quota do not have much say or power to influence decisions. The local government’s seven step planning process, which provides spaces for the local people to participate, is also not systematically and effectively followed. See Table 4 for the trends in ward level budget allocation.

“We do inform the whole village to gather for the tole (cluster) level planning meetings but only few people participate, mostly elite men. It is very difficult to convince the poor women and Dalits to participate. They do not submit their demands and we end up planning for them. And later, they also cannot develop proposals for implementing their approved plans. Last year their budget got frozen and we had to spend this budget for Teej celebration.”
- Tole committee member, Kumal Goan, Tumlingtar

⁴⁷ Musahars, Sarder, Bantars, Khatwes (Tarai Dalits) community organises themselves in groups to collect funds from the village (usually from rich people) to use it for praying and during disasters. These groups seem to get together during disasters and to help each other and use their traditional knowledge to do so.

⁴⁸ Power Structures: power structures in the local context are mainly – politics and political networks (ruling party), caste/ethnicity (who is the dominant caste/ethnic group), gender (men and women from which groups) wealth, networks, education etc.

“The biggest challenge is implementing the resettlement and rehabilitation programmes for the displaced from landslides. Although we knew the households which need land for rehabilitation, in the last landslide in Pepuwa village, several people with houses in Num bazar and Tarai registered their names for resettling in school dada near Num bazar. Since they have political affiliations and connections, we cannot easily remove them.”

- Village social worker, Num Bazar, Makalu

Table 3: Trends of Allocation and Use of Ward Level Annual Budget 2018-2019 fiscal year

Name of the Ward	Budget planned by ward (NRs)	Budget approved (for development) (NRs)	Budget for Infrastructure	Budget for Gender issues	Use of the Gender Budget
Num, Ward 5, Makalu	Around 39 million	Around 2 million	Around 70%	Around 1% (Separate budget from Municipality for empowerment/social issues)	Gender Budget used for Teej celebration; Social/empowerment budget used for computer and tailoring training
Silicho, Tamku, Ward 3, Makalu	Around 32 Million	Around 1.8 million	Around 60%	Around 1%	Women could not submit the proposal as there are no active women's groups/platforms. Ultimately the budget got frozen and was used for Teej celebration
Jarayotar, Bhojpur	Around 30 Million	Around 1.5 million	Around 60%	Around 1.5%	
Kumal Goan, Tumlingtar, Khadbari Municipality	Around 33 Million	Around 1.5 million	Around 70%	Around 2% from ward budget and NRs. 25,00000. (Municipality budget).	Last fiscal year budget got frozen in both wards, as no demand was made for gender activities
Hattiwagadi, Bhojpur	Around 30 million	Around 2 million	Around 60%	Around 2%	

Source: Field interviews and assessments 2019

7. The impact of changing climate together with the transition from the past governance system to the new federal system has brought both opportunities and challenges in women's leadership and empowerment processes. A large number of women have come

into leadership positions. But due to reasons such as decrease in dedicated human resources and sectors, one-door policy for development interventions, and near absence of active and organized platforms in the province and ward to mobilize and support women, it has affected women's leadership and ability to voice and influence decisions.

- In the previous governance system, at the village development committee levels (VDCs), there were about 45 members to run a VDC. However, in the new federal system, a ward is almost of the same size as VDC, which has only 5 key members, of which 2 are from the women and *Dalit*⁴⁹ quotas. These 2 members have very little role and say in the planning and decision processes. Hence, the chairperson and his two-team members control the whole planning cycle. Further, at the ward level, all the external interventions and interactions by the communities to the outside agencies or sectors have to be made through the ward members. This one-door policy has largely affected women and marginalized groups from practicing their leadership to mobilize and access resources and services. The merging of district level line agencies with the local government has also largely affected women leaders and groups from directly contacting and mobilizing the technical agencies for support and services.

"Nowadays its difficult to get even a packet of seeds and information on new pests directly from agriculture office. We have to go through ward members to get their support. Our ward members are usually busy handling large projects and do not find it important to deal with our small problems and demands. Before when there were line agencies at the DDC (District Development Committees) it was easy for us. Our farmers group could directly visit these offices (referring to DADO) to get services." - Women member, Farmers Group, Jarayotar, Bhojpur

8. There seem to be awareness among the national and local level institutions about the need to address gender equality and inclusion of GESI. However, knowledge and skills or capacity on how to integrate in the design and planning cycle is limited.

- Knowledge and skills on participatory methods and approaches, gender and social analysis, planning and gender integration of the national and provincial institutions such as the climate change and disaster risk reduction related sectoral ministries, provincial and local level authorities and disaster committees, field research centers (e.g. PARC⁵⁰) and local CSOs are very limited. Investments in the form of dedicated human resources; budget and GESI capacity building seem to be a non-priority. This gap has contributed in promoting elite capture of the development and disaster related resources and opportunities.
- For example, the agricultural research centers in the field with heavy focus on extension services, do not have dedicated staffs with expertise on gender and social analysis to ensure that the agricultural technologies, extension services etc. are GESI responsive. In PARC, the criteria for selection of demonstration sites and caretaker-farmers to test and promote improved technologies, varietal seeds, fruit trees, livestock etc. are: based on interest of farmers (voluntary); farming experience; risk bearers; influential; willingness to participate in trainings and meetings; having land to test etc. Poor women and

⁴⁹ Dalits: Dalit is the term used to identify the group of people who are unlawfully being considered lower class or untouchable. They account for million or 12.82% of total population of Nepal.

⁵⁰ PARC: Pakhribas Agriculture Research Center

marginalized groups do not fall in these criteria and hence majority of the caretaker-farmers are advantaged men.

- The poor investments on developing appropriate and GESI responsive extension materials and approaches have also largely affected in making these services ineffective, particularly for poor indigenous people. The uses of technical and non-local language in delivering the extension services seem to be an issue for them.

“Three years ago there was a meeting on forest management and the participants were mostly women as most of the men in our village are abroad. Most of us could not understand what sir (resource person) was trying to tell us. From the posters he showed us, we assumed that the meeting was on forest management.” - Rai woman (IP), Besi, Packsinda 5, Makalu

- Besides the issues related to capacities, the local level institutions do not have structures and mechanisms for integrating GESI in their planning cycle, making it difficult for them to find spaces to plan and implement. Before federal local level administrative structure there used to be a separate women development office (WDO) with dedicated staffs and planning system and budget at the local district level. The WDO is now merged with the municipality with only one staff and the separated planning process for gender related activities are not a priority.

9. The stakeholders and beneficiaries, particularly in climate /disaster risk reduction/management related planning, committees and activities are largely considered as a monolithic group. The historical exclusion of the poor women and highly marginalized groups are not specifically considered, which has made it difficult for them to compete for resources with the advantaged groups.

- The local level disaster risk management committees and district disaster management committees largely do not categorize its stakeholders from gender, age, ethnicity, socio-economic and geographical diversity perspectives during disasters. This has contributed in excluding the poor, socially and geographically marginalized women and men from disaster response, and rehabilitation support.

“Disaster do not discriminate between the rich and the poor and hence we do not have special provisions for the poor and marginalized during landslide rescue and response. The door is always open for all.” - Member, District Disaster Management Committee, Khadbari, Sankhuwasabha

5. Key Recommendations

- 1. Establish a working definition of the primary stakeholders (women, marginalized, highly marginalized and vulnerable groups) for the project area, by contextualizing and categorising according to their different and overlapping exclusions, vulnerabilities, roles and contributions and intersectionality from the following perspectives:**
 - Historical/Structural Exclusion – against certain groups based on gender, caste, ethnicity, language or location e.g. Dalits, particularly from remote rural areas, Tarai Dalits such as Sardars, Doms, Musahars etc.; marginalized ethnic/indigenous peoples such as the Botes, Majhi's, Kumals living along the river beds; Rai's Bhotes from remote and disaster and drought prone locations etc.
 - Situational Vulnerabilities due to climate change and disaster risks – particularly women and residing in disaster prone, remote and climate affected locations and who are disabled, elderly, children and single women.
 - Economically poor households (ranging from food security for 3 months to 6 months/year).
 - Women and men (Contributors) who are directly engaged in the day to day management of the farms, and natural resources, but whose contributions and knowledge largely remain invisible.
- 2. Identify and promote tested women-friendly and climate smart technologies and practices both at household and farm levels by developing partnership with specialized government and non-governmental institutions/local resource persons to reduce poor and marginalized women's time poverty.**
 - The focus of the technologies and practices could be on water recharge and management, for e.g. recharge spring water, micro-irrigation, multiple-use water system, solar pumps etc. promoted by agencies such as DoFSC, Helvetas, ICIMOD, iDE, WWF/KCAP etc.; appropriate cooking energy (e.g. GEF/SGP, CRT, Practical Action, PEEDA); women-friendly farming technologies; fodder improvement; pest and weeds/invasive species management, storage of agricultural products, mini power tillers, climate resilient vegetable and crop seeds and varieties for income generation; development of commercial pockets etc. (e.g. Rural Municipalities/Wards, ARC-Pakhribas/NARC, LIBIRD, CEAPRED, RRN, iDE etc.);
- 3. Strengthen existing or form new women and marginalized people's groups (e.g. Women, IPs, Dalits) and networks at local level, and organize them to participate, practice leadership, market forest/ agricultural/ tourism products, influence planning and decision-making processes, mobilize both project and local development resources. Ensure systematic and formal linkages of these groups with the local wards and municipalities and DRR/CC related committees' planning structures.**
 - Ensure that poor and marginalized women and men who are not included nor part of any committees are the main members of these groups. Identify local women leaders and champions, particularly from among the marginalized groups, and provide them with leadership and advocacy training and regular mentorship/coaching.

- Ensure that the GESI related groups and networks allow both women and men to learn about GESI and the importance of women and marginalized group's engagement in DRR and Climate Change related decision-making and access to financial and technical resources to improve their livelihoods.
 - Develop technical knowledge and skills of women and marginalized groups to ensure their meaningful engagement and to be able to implement community based GLOF, EWS etc.
 - Ensure that local government's budgets are also allocated for GESI related activities including GESI responsive infrastructures such as safe houses for shelter during disasters; meeting halls etc.
- 4. Increase poor and marginalized women and men's income and employability by tapping and linking with those institutions with experience, and with Value Chains (VCs) and Micro-enterprises (MEs) that are already tested, established and successful in the Koshi Basin areas.**
- For example, poultry, livestock, horticulture, vegetable seeds, crops etc. promoted by ARC-Pakhribas could be supported by the project through the provision of seed money or facilitating to lease public/private farming land; support agro-tourism (organic), eco-friendly homestays; link them with micro-finance organisations and cooperatives, learn from MEDEPA, USAID's KISAN-II , Hariyo Ban Project etc.
- 5. Ensure timely, transparent/complete, and easy to understand communication and information to the poor women and marginalized groups on the project's and local government's financial and technical resources.**
- For example, information related to opportunities such as training, planning meeting; technical information (subsidies, loans, business/entrepreneurial skills, CC induced DRR, EWS, agriculture related etc.).
- 6. Support the Monitoring Information System (MIS) of the project to capture gendered outcomes and pilot the same in selected ward(s)/municipality to upscale it. Gender-related challenges and learning should feed back into the project's annual planning process, and disseminated through publications and other knowledge-sharing events at national and community levels.**
- For example, by developing a knowledge management strategic plan on GESI and Climate Change Induced Disasters and Hazards, which can be tied with the Project's knowledge management/communication efforts as well as to monitoring and evaluation processes.
- 7. Develop a simple working GESI in Climate Change induced disaster risk reduction and management strategy or a guideline for the project to ensure systematic integration of GESI in the project cycle and pilot the same in selected wards/municipality to upscale it.**
- The working strategy could be based on the findings and recommendations of the various studies conducted by UNDP for the preparation of the proposal, such as GESI Assessment (2019), Indigenous People's consultation report, baseline study (2020) and the GoN's GESI Strategy for different sectors (Forestry, Agriculture, Ministry of Local Development). The

Working GESI strategy/guideline could include the following:

- Develop a working definition of the local community and primary stakeholders in the context of disasters and climate change (as explained in Recommendation 1 above). This definition should be used to identify and include representatives of the primary stakeholders/vulnerable groups in designing, planning, implementation and monitoring/reporting and benefit sharing for all project related programs and activities. Select interested/potential wards or municipality to pilot it.
- Designate mandatory quota for women and the marginalized groups. For example, at least 50% women and 30% marginalized groups (marginalized Indigenous peoples; poor Dalits) for their inclusion across all project activities, for example in key decision-making, membership, consultation and awareness raising, technicians, local resource persons, recipients of resources- climate change induced DRR, agriculture, infrastructure development related equipment, training, materials, funds etc.)
- Systematically integrate GESI in operations and project cycle. The Working GESI strategy/guideline should provide a clear direction and resources to systematically integrate GESI in all stages of the project cycle management (design, planning, implementation and M&E).
- The project's and its partners' senior management and project supervisors should be held accountable. Terms of Reference (ToR) and appraisal systems should incorporate responsibilities for social and gender results in planning and delivery. Designation of GESI focal points, staffs etc.
- Provision to ensure "Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC" in decision-making. The FPIC is to establish bottom-up participation and consultation of indigenous population prior to the beginning of development on ancestral land or using resources within the indigenous population's territory. Indigenous people have a special connection to their land and resources, and they inhabit 20% of the earth's surface. These areas are environmentally rich in both renewable and non-renewable resources. The collective ownership style of most indigenous peoples conflicts with the modern global market and its continuous need for resources and land. To protect indigenous peoples rights, international human rights law has created processes and standards to safeguard their way of life and to encourage participation in the decision-making process.
- Use of local languages in extension, communication, and information and respect of customary laws and practices.

8. Develop a capacity building package with adequate resources, for the project's staffs and its key and direct partners to enhance GESI integration.

- Strengthen knowledge and skills of local level resource persons, technicians and managers of both government and non-governmental institutions (e.g. Municipalities, Wards, civil society organizations, local resource persons, media) to develop, implement, and monitor GESI responsive local plans.

- The focus of the capacity development package should be on strengthening their:
 - a) participatory skills and methods; GESI analysis; vulnerability assessment from GESI perspectives; planning and M&E; understanding the linkages between GESI and DRR/Climate Change; b) leadership, Organizational Assessment (including accountability, creating enabling environment and cooperation for GESI issues); etc.
- Develop and implement gender and social inclusion responsive materials, approaches and methods.

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Appendices

Annex 1: Checklist for data collection

Guiding Questions for Institutional Level Data Collection (for federal, district and local levels)
<p>GESI related structures and analysis capacities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the existing gender capacities of the institution? (GESI/GLOF/CC analysis skills; knowledge and skills on participatory methods and approaches etc.) Is there a policy/strategy/guideline on GESI? If not, is there any interest/attempt to develop a GESI policy? Does it use the findings of the gender research and assessments? Is gender expertise and capacity building budgeted for? <p>Commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are any changes made to make the M&E system more gender-friendly in terms of gender differentiation and in terms of operation? Do indicators exist to assess gender inequality and impact? Has gender been made a critical factor in the selection of activities and consultation processes? Are women and the marginalized groups consulted, and/or are their needs known and taken into account? What evidence is there of a commitment to the gender policy or gender mainstreaming program within the organization (management, different levels, board)? What kind of changes can be observed? Do you feel that the organization cooperates in promoting gender within the organization? Is so how?

Guiding Questions for Community Level Data Collection	
Material Condition Related Questions – household and community levels	Social Position Related Questions - household and community levels
<p>Definition of marginalized groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who are considered the marginalized groups from the CC/GLOF perspectives? And why? <p>Engagement and participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What kind of GESI/CC/GLOF related knowledge, skills and capacities do different groups of women and men have in the community? (Who does what? How? Where?; Who are the group members? Who are not included in the groups? Why? What are the GESI/CC/GLOF related needs and priorities of the different groups of women and men in the community? <p>Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the GESI/CC/GLOF related resources⁵¹ in the community? What are the external GESI/CC/GLOF related interventions/resources in the community? Who has access to these resources? How? Who does not? Why? <p>Benefit sharing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who benefits the most from the forest- related resources and interventions and how? Who benefits the least and why? 	<p>Participation in decision-making; representation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who are included in the decision-making processes and how (e.g. in Local government planning; LDRMP, LAPA, CAPA etc.)? Who controls decisions? How? Where? Why? Who leads? Who decides? Who influences decisions? What are the GESI/CC/GLOF related needs and priorities of the different groups of women and men in the community? <p>Access to social position related resources/information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who knows what? Why? Who knows very little, and why?

⁵¹ Resources include – social, financial, human, physical and natural capitals.

Annex 2: List of People Consulted (KIIs/IDIs, FGDs and consultations)

2A. List of KIIs/IDIs

SN.	Name/ Position	Location	Organisation or Profession	Gender		Social Group			
				M	F	BC	D	J	O
1.	Indra Rai	Num, Simlae, Salbote, Makalu	Simale FUG Member	X				X	
2.	Narmaya Parajuli	Num Besi, Makalu	Single Women		X	X			
3.	Ashbol Rai	Num Besi, Makalu	Poor IP Farmer	X				X	
4.	Santa Bahadur BK	Num Besi, Makalu	Blacksmith	X			X		
5.	Jiban Prasad Dulal	Khadbari	CDO	X		X			
6.	Khil Prasad Sharma	Khadbari	Planning Officer, Khandbari Forest Office	X		X			
7.	Salina Rai	Khadbari	Assistant Forest Officer, Khadbari Forest Office		X			X	
8.	Narbhupal Rai	Tamku, Makalu	Rural Municipality Working Committee Member	X				X	
9.	Ganander Dahal	Arund Rural Municipalit y, Ward Number 6, Jarayatar, Bhojpur	Farmer	X		X			
10.	Sarita Rai	Arund Rural Municipalit y, ward Number 6, Jarayatar, Bhojpur	Women ward member		X			X	
11.	Devi BK	Arund Rural Municipalit y, Ward Number 6, Jarayatar, Bhojpur	Women Dalit ward member		X		X		
12.	Arjun K. Rai	Arund Rural	Farmer	X				X	

		Municipality, Ward Number 6, Jarayatar, Bhojpur							
13.	Phulmaya Rai	Arund Rural Municipality, Ward Number 6, Jarayatar, Bhojpur	Farmer		X			X	
14.	Bishnu Shrestha	Arund Rural Municipality, Ward Number 6, Jarayatar, Bhojpur	Farmer		X			X	
15.	Ritesh Shah	Pakhribash	Livestock Officer, PARC	X					X
16.	Narayan Bhandari	Pakhribash	Site Caretaker/Lead Farmer, PARC, Pakhribash	X		X			
17.	Bal Kumar Rai	Ward Number 6, Hatuwagadi, Ghoretar, Bhojpur	Ward Member	X				X	
18.	Durga Kumar Thapa	Udaipur	Chairperson, Belaka Nagarpalika	X		X			
19.	Ram Chandra Kadel	Kathmandu	Ecologist, DNPWC	X		X			
20.	Prem Kadel	Kathmandu	DDG/ DNPWC	X		X			
21.	Tamdev Chaudhary	Koshi Tappu	Warden, Koshi Tappu	X				X	
22.	Sarju Vaidhya	Kathmandu	DHM	X				X	
23.	Prativa Manandhar	Kathmandu	DHM-Gender Focal Point (GFP)		X			X	
24.	Indira Malapati	Kathmandu	DoFSC/MoEF - GFP		X			X	
25.	Prem Paudel	Koshi Tappu/Kathmandu	DoFSC/MoEF	X		X			

26.	Sindhu Dhungana	Kathmandu	MoEF-Chief- Planning/Gend er Focal Point	X		X			
27.	Rishi Acharya	Kathmandu	MoFAGA	X		X			
28.	Kanti Rajbhandari	Kathmandu	Chair- HIMAWANTI		X			X	
29.	Saanu Taibe	Biratnagar	Member, HIMAWANTI		X			X	
30.	Sita Sunar	Kathmandu	Secretary, HIMAWANTI		X		X		
Total				19 (63%)	11 (37%)	11 (37%)	3 (10%)	15 (50%)	1 (3.3%)

Note: M = Male; F = Female; BC = Bahun/Chettri; D = Dalit; J = Janajati; O = Other

2B. FGDs and sharing workshop

2B1. Aggregated and disaggregated data on FGD participants

SN.	District	FGD Number and Names	FGD Type			No. of Participants Gender Wise		No. of Participants Caste/Ethnic Group			
			Rural Muni	Urban Muni	Orgnisat ion	Male	Female	Brahman /Chettri	Dalits	Janajati	Tarai
1.	Dhankuta	Pakhribash Agricultural Research Centre, Dhankuta	-	-	X	7	1	4	-	1	3
2.	Dhankuta	Pakhribash Municipality	-	X	-	6	6	8	-	4	-
3.	Sunsari	Koshi Rural Municipality (Ward 3)	X	-	-	6	18	3	20	1	-
4.	Sankhuwasabha	Khandbari Municipality, Venus Hotel	-	X	-	12	3	3	1	11	-
5.	Sankhuwasabha	Makalu Rural Municipality (Ward 5) (women), Num, Saraswati Tole	X	-	-	1	13	-	12	2	-
6.	Sankhuwasabha	Khandbari Municipality (Ward 9), Tumlingtar, Kumal Village (mixed Janajati group)	-	X	-	9	12	-	-	21	-
7.	Sankhuwasabha	Makalu Rural Municipality Office, Num Bazaar (mixed)	X	-	-	5	7	3	1	8	-
8.	Sankhuwasabha	Makalu Rural Municipality (Ward 5), Phyksinda Besi (mixed group)	X	-	-	7	11	7	3	8	-
9.	Bhojpur	Hatuwadadhi Rural Municipality (Ward 6) Bhojpur (mixed group)	X	-	-	8	16	-	1	23	-
Total	4	9	3	2	1	61	87	28	38	79	3
Total number of people consulted						148					

2B2. List of participants in FGDs and sharing workshop (separately)

Annex 3: Sample of International and National Policies from GESI Perspectives

International Policies	GESI provisions
The Universal Declaration of Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accords protection to the rights of women prohibits discrimination and accords equality before the law.
The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibits discrimination, promotes equality of women and men's rights and equality before the law.
The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibits discrimination, and calls for equality of women and men regarding the rights recognized by the Covenant.
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW),	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, is often described as an international bill of rights for women. Consisting of a preamble and 30 articles, it defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination.
Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and Beijing +10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects the human rights of women, as defined by international human rights instruments, will only be dead words unless they are fully recognized, protected, applied, and effectively enforced, at national legal and practical levels, in family, civil, criminal, labor and commercial codes, as well as in administrative regulations (Paragraph 218).
Gender and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The human rights of indigenous women are protected by all of the provisions of this UN Declaration, which also calls for particular attention to be paid to their rights and special needs, and calls upon States to take measures to ensure that indigenous women enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.
The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA),	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the first plan to explain, describe and detail the work that is required from all different sectors and actors to reduce disaster losses. It was developed and agreed on with the many partners needed to reduce disaster risk - governments, international agencies, disaster experts and many others - bringing them into a common system of coordination. The HFA outlines five priorities for action, and offers guiding principles and practical means for achieving disaster resilience. Its goal is to substantially reduce disaster losses by 2015 by building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters. This means reducing loss of lives and social,

	economic, and environmental assets when hazards strike.
UN Convention on Rights of People with Disabilities (UNRPD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopted in 2007, aims to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.

National Policies and Strategies	GESI provisions
Disaster Risk and Management Act 2074 (2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have provisions that women at risk of disaster, children, senior citizens, Dalits, marginalized groups and communities, and people with disabilities will be provided with special plans and programmes.
Disaster Risk Reduction National Policy 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access, representation and meaningful participation of women, children, senior citizen, people with disabilities and the people from economically and socially marginalized communities will be ensured in all steps and structures of disaster risk reduction based on inclusive disaster management concept.
Guidelines: Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan (DPRP) 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes gender and cross cutting issues in preparedness and response planning; recognizes the different needs, capacities and contributions of women, girls, men and boys; ensures that the protection and assistance provided in emergencies is planned and implemented; considers the needs and capacities of people with disabilities (PWD), women, and other excluded groups; active participation in planning, implementing and monitoring of the preparedness as well as response activities.
Guidelines: District Disaster Management Plan (DRMP), 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensures participation of women, socially excluded groups, persons with disability in planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting; collection and maintenance of District Profile by sex, age, disability and ethnicity/caste disaggregated data; GESI analyses for District Profile.
Guidelines: Local Disaster Risk Management Planning (LDRMP) 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of LDRMP has been made mandatory for all local government bodies and it aims to institutionalize disaster risk management work and mainstream it into annual programmes at the local level. It ensures participation women, socially excluded groups, persons with disability at all levels of the development of the Local Disaster Risk Management Plan. Mapping and documentation of VDC profile by sex, age, disability and ethnicity/caste disaggregated data.
National Climate Change Policy 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The policy has recognized the need to integrate GESI through its Objectives, "To mainstream GESI into adaptation and mitigation programs", and as inter-thematic area with GESI related 6 key strategies and

	<p>working policies. However, the policy is not informed by the specific problems, challenges and opportunities faced by different groups of women and men in the context of climate change. The differential impacts of climate change (CC) on different groups of women and men are not taken into consideration. Even though the GESI policy (inter-thematic area), mentions about different vulnerable groups⁵² to be addressed, the sectoral policies within it considers the community/citizens as a monolithic groups and does not take into consideration their historical discrimination, situational vulnerabilities, and hence the differential impacts of CC on these groups. There are no GESI Outcomes making it difficult to measure the achievements in the end of the policy.</p>
National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) to Climate Change 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate-induced disasters are one of the themes; GESI as cross-cutting sectors; and gender sensitivity analysis of climate change impacts on NAPA themes. However, the GESI analysis is not fully used to inform the plan and is parked as Annex 5 in the NAPA document.
National Disaster Response Framework (NDRF) 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disaster response activities (61 operational activities from 0 hour – 1 month) include: special protection arrangement at the camps and distribution sites for the protection of women, children, elderly, disable (47 activities), MoWCSW; ensure safe environment for survivors particularly the vulnerable groups, and control gender base violence (54), DWDO; social support to unaccompanied children, disable and elderly, who have lost their supporting family members; and reunion of their lost members or relatives (56), MoWCSW/DWDO; Emergency Response Preparedness; protection plan of the vulnerable groups and gender based violence (28), DWDO.
Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policy of Ministry of Local Development 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have provisions for GESI being mainstreamed in municipalities by trans-formatory social mobilization by creating community level institutional structures like Inclusive Ward Citizen Forums and Integrated Planning Committees supported by Social Mobilization Guidelines and Capacity Development Guidelines of MoFALD; Social Units in Municipalities facilitate GESI mainstreaming in planning, budgeting, and monitoring; Socially Excluded Groups: Women, Dalits, indigenous nationalities, Madhesis, Muslims, Children below the age of 16 years, senior citizens above the age of 60

⁵² Chapter “8.9 GESI, Livelihoods and Good Governance” describes vulnerable groups as: Women, Dalit, indigenous people, Madheshi, Tharu, Muslim, oppressed groups, backward class, minorities, marginalized, farmers, laborer, youths, children, senior citizens, persons with all forms of disability, pregnant women, incapacitated and disadvantaged persons or groups

	years, persons with disability and people living in geographically remote areas
Forest Sector GESI Strategy-2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision "Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation is a gender and social equity sensitive and socially inclusive organization practicing good forest governance to ensure equitable access to, benefits from, and decision making power over forest resources of all stakeholders." Its Outcomes states: Favorable policy environment that is GESI sensitive/responsive conservation; Resource, services and benefits made available to the women, poor and excluded in a transparent and accountable manner; GESI responsive program budget and monitoring system institutionalized in all service delivery in conservation; Rights to equitable access and utilization ensured resources, services and benefits.
Forest Sector Strategy (2016-2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 3 is about inclusive Forest sector organisations and institutions and focuses on increasing participation, competency and leadership of women, indigenous nationalities and other poor and socially excluded groups and individuals. It promote gender equity, inclusive development and economic uplift of the poor, women, dalits, janajatis, adibasi and other marginalised groups of people
Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) 2015 to 2035.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision, objectives, institutional mechanisms of the strategy has identified inclusion as one of the main component and has provisions for integrating GESI. Although the Strategy promotes capital (commercial) intensive mode of agriculture development, its institutional mechanisms, objectives and actions does provision for GESI integration – e.g. emphasis on ensuring farmer’ s participation in planning, decision making, implementation and monitoring; classification of farmers (commercial, subsistence and landless), where the subsistence and landless farmers will be directly benefitted from the programme, <i>“The direct effect is very strong in the case of the ADS measures related to gender, social, and geographical inclusion; land (eg. addressing the issues of tenancy, land leasing, cooperative farming, reversing the trend towards degraded land).”</i>
Fifteen Plan (2076/77-2080/81) Approach Paper.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its strategy states: Gender equity and social inclusion mainstreaming in Forests, biodiversity and watershed management and equitable sharing of benefit and its Working policy states: implementation of GESI strategy (with revision) in community based forest management modalities.