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**National Review on the Implementation of the
Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)
and the Outcomes of the Twenty-Third Special
Session of the General Assembly (2000)**

Government of Nepal
Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare

Acronyms

BPfA	Beijing Platform for Action
CA	Constituent Assembly
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
HDI	Human Development Indicators
HIV/AIDS	Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)
PMTCT	Pregnant Mother to Child Transmission
FPTP	First Past The Post
MoWCSW	Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare
FY	Fiscal Year
NPA	National Plan of Action
WCO	Women and Children Office
NPC	National Planning Commission
NWC	National Women Commission
GFP	Gender Focal Points
DDC	District Development Committee
MoFALD	Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development
VDC	Village Development Committee
CSWC	Commission on Status of Women
SSRD	School Sector Reform Plan
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
WDO	Women Development Offices
GBV	Gender Based Violence
UN	United Nation
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting
NCCHT	National Committee on Control of Human Trafficking

SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SAIEVAC	South Asian Initiatives to End Violence Against Children
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
GoN	Government of Nepal
DWC	Department of Women and Children
WDP	Women Development Program
ECED	Early Childhood Education and Development
TEVT	Technical Education and Vocational Training
NER	Net Enrolment Rate
CTEVT	Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training
SSRP	School Sector Reform Project
SHEP	Secondary Higher Education Project
NHSP	National Health Sector Program
ANC	Ante Natal Care
PNC	Post Natal Care
OPMCM	Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers
TIP	Trafficking in Person
LGCDP	Local Governance and Community Development Program
NGO	Non Government Organization
MoSTE	Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment

Section 1

Overview Analysis of Achievement and Challenges

a) What are the country's three to five major achievements in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly?

Nepal pledged for more gender equality and the empowerment of women since it participated in the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and committed to the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) during 1995. This National Review Report highlights on the results achieved, constrains/challenges, emerging issues and recommendations in relations to the implementation of BPfA.

Overall, Nepal has made fair progress in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women since the adoption of BPfA and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. First and foremost, there is an increasing realization that gender equality is a key component of human development. Furthermore, gender equality has been conceived as an important factor of poverty reduction and such awareness has been reflected not only in codes, laws and rules but also in receptive nature of the government towards various discourses and practices of development.

Similarly, empowerment of women is seen as an essential tool for achieving gender equality. Several policies, action plans and programs have been formulated that have intended to provide equitable opportunities and compensate for women's historical and social disadvantages. Over the years meaningful participation of women in all sectors has been encouraged and gender mainstreaming has been adopted as a key strategy by the government of Nepal.

Measures taken to empower women by increasing their access to various resources have provided constructive results though dimensions of inclusion and exclusion remains to be entirely understood and addressed. Particularly, there has been steady increase in access to education, health, and economic resources. Likewise, participations of women in social, economic and political activities have increased.

Women's access to non-economic resources such as education and health are crucial for human development. Progressing towards gender parity in access to education is a major achievement of the country towards empowerment of women. There has been significant increase in number of girls obtaining primary education and similar upward trends are observed at tertiary levels. Many programmatic interventions have been made to encourage enrollment and retention of girl child along with adult literacy. Likewise, improved status of maternal health and overall increase in the life expectancy of women has also been observed. The government has been committed to make health policies and programs more gender sensitive abiding to the life cycle and rights approach to women's health following ICPD 1994 and ICPD+10.

In recent years, women's access to employment, credit and wealth has increased and there are clear indications that women are participating more in non-agricultural and non-traditional sectors. Women's employment in the service sector has also increased, particularly education. Government's programs

have been directed to increase access of women to credit and management of the earned income and laws have been reformed to ensure women's right to property inheritance. Measures have been taken to ensure better social protection of single women. There has been gradual narrowing of the gap between men and women's access to economic resources of the country.

It is notable that the progress mentioned above has been made in a period that has witnessed armed conflict, and continues to suffer from political transition and instability. Although the political chaos has hampered the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women, it has apparently provided grounds for increased participation of women in that domain. Constitutional measures have been taken to ensure that women constitute at least one-third of the Constituent Assembly. Women's participation in the political domain is strong indicator of empowerment. Nepal is one of the few countries in the world with 30 percent representation in the legislative parliament. This level of participation is unique in South Asia.

The overall trends show that there has been definitive increase in access and participation of women in all spheres of life. The progress has helped to narrow the gap between human development of men and women. However, it is recognized that disparity still remains and much effort is needed to achieve gender equality.

Why are these considered to be the major achievements? Please provide evidence that supports this assessment.

In 2013, Nepal's Inequality-Adjusted Human Development Index Value was 0.304 exhibiting an overall loss of 34.2 percent from the Human Development Index (HDI). That value places Nepal in Low Human Development group. However, progress has been made as the HDI trends¹ show that between 2000 and 2012 population's life expectancy at birth has increased by 7.5 years, mean years of schooling increased by 0.8 years, and expected years of schooling increased by 0.1 years.

Since the mid-90s life expectancy at birth of women has observed a rapid increase. Prior to the start of the new millennia life expectancy of women had been found less than that of men. However, that situation changed as observed for the first time in national census of 2001 when women's life expectancy surpassed that of men and has been rapidly increasing. Life expectancy at birth for women in 2006 was 65.71 years² which has increased to 69 years in 2012 as reported by World Health Organization. The increase in life expectancy can be associated with better access of women to quality health care, information and related services throughout the life cycle.

From mid-1990s onward Nepal has made significant progress in improving maternal health. The maternal mortality ratio has declined from 415 per 100,000 live births in 2005 to 170 in 2013.³ This decline can be attributed to increased access of women to health facilities. A recent demographic health survey found that there has been significant improvement of 24 percent points since 1996 in mothers

¹ As advised in the report, it is agreed that comparing values and ranks with those of previously published report is misleading as the underlying data and methods have changed over time.

² UNDP (2009), 'Nepal Human Development Report 2009: State transformations and human development.' Pp.150 Kathmandu: 2009

³ NPC (2013) Nepal Millennium Development Goals: Progress Report 2013. Pp. 19 Kathmandu: National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal.

receiving antenatal care, five-fold increase in 15 years on women making four or more antenatal care, the percentage of births taking place in a health facility has increased from 18 percent in 2006 to 35 percent in 2011, and 17 percent increase in use of modern contraceptive methods between 1996 and 2011.⁴ Furthermore, the report found that 65 percent of women participate in making decision regarding their own health. These numbers suggest that there has been significant increase in woman having control over their reproductive health. Moreover, it can be implied that woman who are able to control other aspects of life may be more able to make decision about their reproductive health. Women having control over their reproductive health is cornerstone of their empowerment.

The National Estimates of HIV infection in Nepal (2012) found that 33 percent out of the 50,288 infected are female. The status and trend provided by the report shows that although there was sharp increase in number of infected female from 2000 to 2007, there has been gradual decrease since then. The estimated number of new HIV infection among female have decreased from 2,914 in 2000 to 505 in 2011. Additionally, it has been estimated that pregnant women in need of PMTCT services will decrease from 933 to 599 by 2015.

Nepal has made excellent progress in ensuring equal access to education with Net Enrollment Rate at primary level increasing from 64 percent in 1990 to 95.3 percent in 2013.⁵ The increase has also been observed with increasing gender parity. The gender parity index at primary level has increased from 0.93 to 0.99 between 2005 and 2013. The Government's emphasis on early childhood education and development, and pre-primary education has observed continuous increase in enrollment at that level, with Gross Enrollment rate of 73.1 percent for girls and 74.3 percent for boys.

There are also been increase in access at secondary and tertiary level though parity has not been achieved. Ratio of girls to boys in secondary education and tertiary education has increased from 0.70 and 0.28 to 0.99 and 0.71 respectively between 2000 and 2013.⁶ A recent survey⁷ of adolescents and youths in the country showed that 92 percent of boys and 89 percent of girls in the age group of 10-24 were literate. Similarly, Nepal narrowed its adult illiteracy from 54 percent in 2001 to 34.1 percent in 2011⁸ and the overall literacy rate stands at 65.9 percent (male 75.1 percent and female 57.4 percent).⁹

Formal vocational training out of the school system has also been promoted by the government. It was estimated in 2008 that just over a million people in Nepal had received some kind of formal training out of which 47 percent were female.¹⁰

There has been a gradual increase of female wage earners in non-agricultural sector with figures standing at 32 percent in 2004 and 45 percent in 2011.¹¹ Likewise, there has been a rapid increase in

⁴ MoHP, New Era and ICF International (2011) 'Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2011'. Pp. 119-45. Kathmandu: Population Division, Ministry of Health and Population

⁵ NPC (2013) Nepal Millennium Development Goals: Progress Report 2013. Pp. 19 Kathmandu: National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ MoHP (2011) Nepal Adolescent and Youth Survey 2010/11. Kathmandu: Population Division, Ministry of Health and Population.

⁸ MoE (2012) Status Report 2012. Kathmandu: Department of Education, Ministry of Education, Government of Nepal.

⁹ CBS (2011) National Population and Housing Census 2011 Nepal. Kathmandu: Central Bureau of Statistics

¹⁰ CBS (2009) Nepal Labor Force Survey 2008. Kathmandu: Central Bureau of Statistics

¹¹ CBS (2011) National Living Standard Survey 2010/11. Kathmandu: Central Bureau of Statistics

participation of women in non-traditional sectors such as foreign employment. It was reported that there was 30-fold increase in women's share of the total foreign labor force from 0.19 percent in 2007 to 5.96 in 2012.¹² Similar increase has also been observed in education sector where there has been a steady increase in the number of female teachers at all levels. The number of female teachers at all levels of schools increased from 68,859 in 2007/08 to 87,978 in 2012/13. Since the early 2000 the share of women in government and semi-government employment has also increased. As of May 2013, of the total female government employees, 16.88, 58.88, and 24.67 percent were in the gazette positions, non-gazette (supportive, non-decision making) and classless positions respectively.¹³ Women's representation in all gazette classes increased seven-fold between 2001 and 2013, from 2.4 percent, with 0.01, 0.24, 2.0 and 14.62 percent falling in special, first-class, in Gazette second-class and third class categories respectively.

However, it is realized that the increased representation of women in Civil Service is limited to lower positions. There is a huge gender gap at the policy and decision making levels. Achieving parity in these sectors is still a challenge but increased participation does present an encouraging picture for the future.

According to census 2011, altogether 19.71 percent of households reported the ownership of land or house or both in the name of female member of the household which is an increase from 11 percent found in census 2001. Furthermore, the proportion of currently married women who earn cash for their work and decide mainly alone on the use of their cash earning has increased from 31 percent in 2006 to 53 percent in 2011.¹⁴

Women's participation in the political domain is a strong indicator of women's empowerment. In the past twenty years, the country has had major political and legislative transformations. Before 2000, the parliamentary elections saw very few candidacies of women and even less number secured the positions. The turning point was the Constituent Assembly (CA) elections in 2007 that mandated at least 33 percent participation of women. The election results put Nepal as one of the few countries in the world that had more than 30 percent participation in the legislative parliament. In that election, 197 women candidates secured position in the CA with 30 candidates winning through First-past-the-post (FTFP), 161 through the system of proportional representation and 6 were nominated by the cabinet of ministers. Recent election in 2013 also witnessed almost similar results though there was decrease in number of women CA members winning through FTFP system. Currently, the numbers stand at 10 representatives through FTFP and 162 through proportional representation. The candidates to be nominated by the council of ministers are yet to be declared. In both the elections, the total number of CA seats was 601.

Social security schemes are vital for enhancing social equity and justice. The government has been providing social security through various programs to the most vulnerable groups in the country since 1994/95. Major recipients of social security allowances are senior citizens who comprise more than 50

¹² NPC (2013) Nepal Millennium Development Goals: Progress Report 2013. Pp. 33 Kathmandu: National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal.

¹³ NPC (2013) Nepal Millennium Development Goals: Progress Report 2013. Pp. 34 Kathmandu: National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal.

¹⁴ MoHP, New Era and ICF International (2011) 'Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2011'. Pp. 119-45. Kathmandu: Population Division, Ministry of Health and Population

percent of women. A recent assessment of social security program¹⁵ found that allowance distributed under the category of single women was second largest among all the beneficiaries.

The steady increase in numbers of participation and access largely accounts for the efforts that Nepal has made in promoting gender equality and empowerment of women. However, it has been observed that huge gender gaps remain in all sectors marked by disparities among social groups, geographical locations, and inter-generational gaps. Nevertheless, the achievements made hitherto should not be undermined because those are being made in a tumultuous political situation that has lasted for more than a decade.

What has contributed to this success? Describe measures taken in terms of policies and mechanisms to maintain or build on this success?

In Nepal, gender equality and empowerment of women are viewed both as end from a human rights perspective and as a means to reduce poverty. Nepal has become party to various international human rights instruments. It is notable that Nepal established the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW) in 1995 following the adoption of BPfA. The periodic plans – Ninth Plan (1997-2002) and Tenth Plan (2002-2007), then, put priority on gender equality. Particularly, the Tenth Plan was instrumental in recognizing gender equality as one of the pillars of poverty reduction.¹⁶ Subsequent periodic plans: Three Year Interim Plan (FY 2007/08 – 2009/10), Three Year Plan (FY2010/11 -2012/13) and An Approach Paper to The Thirteenth Plan (FY 2013/14 -2015/16) have introduced new programs for women empowerment, focused on establishing and strengthening mechanisms for gender equality, and intensified plans to eliminate all forms of violence against women.

A National Plan of Action (NPA) on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment was formulated in 1997 which was reviewed in 2004 to address the shortcomings of previous NPA. This NPA is guided by the strategic framework adopted in the BPfA and twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Furthermore, gender mainstreaming has been taken as a key strategy to ensure participation of women in all sectors. Guided by principles of inclusion and strategy of mainstreaming, measures have been taken to create new mechanisms and strengthen the existing ones.

Various mechanisms at national and local level have been established to address gender equality. At national level, MoWCSW is responsible for all issues concerning women in the country. The ministry hosts Department of Women and Children and extends its services in all the 75 districts through Women and Children Offices (WCO).

National Planning Commission (NPC) that coordinates in formulating plans and policies consists of Gender Equality and Environment Section under Social Development Division. This Section works to mainstream gender equality and empowerment of women through sectoral ministries.

National Women Commission (NWC) was established in 2002 to protect, promote, and safeguard the interest and rights of women and upholding justice through overall development of women. Similarly, the Ministry of Finance has Gender Responsive Budget Committee to look into gender issues in

¹⁵ NPC (2012) Assessment of Social Security Allowance Program in Nepal, Pp.7. Kathmandu: National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal.

¹⁶ NPC (2003) Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. Kathmandu: National Planning Commission

development programs, budgeting and their implementation. Moreover, all the ministries and their departments have Gender Focal Points (GFPs).

Women and Children Service Directorate has been established by the Nepal Police to provide accessibility to justice for women and children. The Directorate extends its services in all the 75 districts through 240 Women and Children Service Centers.

At district level, Women and Children Office (WCO) is the focal agency to address issues of women, children, senior citizens and persons with disabilities. In all the districts, WCOs host the Gender Mainstreaming Coordination Committee which is tasked with formulating local level policies, monitoring and coordinating gender related activities. Besides that, the District Development Committees (DDC) – extension of Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) – has Social Development Division to address the issues of gender and social inclusion. Moreover, women’s participation has been made mandatory in the district level planning and program executions.

At the community level, Village Development Committees (VDC) hosts and affiliates various committees and groups dedicated to empowerment of women. The VDC is responsible for ensuring the participation of women and girl child in various activities of local development. The VDC is required to include 20 percent representation of women in all its development committees. A recent provision also requires Community Forestry User Committees to have 50 percent women members.

A policy of affirmative action was introduced in the Three Year Interim Plan (2007/08 – 2009/10) that intended for balanced development of disadvantaged groups in the country and to provide access to those who do not have access to the public services. The plan has been successful in encouraging women to join civil services as steady increase has been observed in that sector. Furthermore, the positive discrimination and reservation policies have been successful in increasing participation of women in politics and public services.

The following ministries have formulated policies to ensure gender equality and empowerment of women:

Ministry	Plans and Policies	Remarks
Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Plan of Action on Eliminating All Forms Violence Against Women, 2004 • National Plan of Action for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, 2004 • National Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Trafficking in Women and Children, 2012 • Plan of Action for Implementation of 57th Session of Commission on Status of Women (CSW), 2013 	
Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Plan of Action for Controlling Gender Based Violence and Promoting Gender Empowerment, 2012 	

Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Action Plan on Implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 (2011/12 – 2015/16) 	
Ministry of Information and Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Technology Policy 2011 	The policy document has focused to accord increasing the access to information technology of women and other deprived communities living in remote areas
Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Policy 2011 	The policy has prioritized the participation of women in implementation of climate adaptation and climate change related programs
Ministry of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Sector Reform Plan (SSRP) 2009-2015, • Human Resource Development for Ministry of Education: Training Policy, 2062 B.S • National Center for Education Development: Training Policy, 2063 • Non-formal Education Policies, 2063 • Nepal Technical and Vocational Training and Skill Development Policy 2007 	
Ministry of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second Long Term Health Plan 1997 – 2017 • Nepal Health Sector Program – Implementation Plan 2004-2009 • Strategic Plan for Human Resources for Health, 2003 	
Ministry of Labor and Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foreign Employment Policy, 2011 	
Ministry of Agriculture Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture Development Strategy, 2013 	
Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Policy, 2009 	
Ministry of Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women Entrepreneurship Development Fund procedural Guideline, 2013 	

b) What are the country's three to five major challenges in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly?

The unstable political situation of Nepal is a major challenge in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The armed insurgency that lasted from 1996-2006 adversely affected situation of women in the country. Since then Nepal has been experiencing a major political transition.

Although the period of political transition has been a fertile ground for debates, discussion and production of knowledge to address the rights of women, it has also impeded the implementation of various programs and interventions. A recent report¹⁷ noted that the prolonged political transition adversely affected the budgeting process, in terms of preparation and release of the budget itself, which adversely influenced nearly all government plans and programs important to enhancing gender equality and women empowerment.

Also, diminished accountability of the government institutions and mechanisms has been observed in a state of political uncertainty. Thus redressing the plight of the vulnerable effectively and efficiently is very difficult in this situation.

Another challenge is the financial and human resource gap experienced by the institutional mechanisms established for ensuring gender equality. The existing institutional mechanisms suffer from limited infrastructure, development programs and budget allocation, and the organization structure is inadequate. Furthermore, enhancing the capabilities of the existing human resource is a big challenge. Subsequently, the effectiveness of the existing mechanisms is weakened with all the deficiencies.

Feudal mentality, patriarchal ideology and practices prevail in the country, and are big obstacles for the implementation of plan and policies aimed at attaining gender equality. Due to lack of awareness, discriminatory practices against women exist in the society and violence against women threatens to demean the achievements made hitherto.

Why are these considered to be the major challenges?

Since the end of the civil war, maintaining peace and formulating the new constitution has been the major priority of the state. Until and unless that situation is resolved, the issues of women remain in danger of being oblivious from the mainstream politics and policy makers. Furthermore, implementation of plans and policies, and monitoring is difficult in situation of political instability and lack of democratic candidates. For example, lack of elected members in the local state bodies since 1999 has hampered the realization of ensuring women's participation in such mechanisms though the government has a policy of reservation.

Moreover, lack of stable government affects the effectiveness and efficiency of the mechanisms established to address the issues of women in the country. In absence of good governance and rule of law, the GBV cases are not handled properly by law enforcement agencies.

¹⁷ NPC (2013) Nepal Millennium Development Goals: Progress Report 2013. Pp. 34 Kathmandu: National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal.

The resource gap, both financial and human, is a key challenge in promoting gender equality and empowerment of women in the country. The state's gender machinery, i.e., Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW), lacks sufficient financial and human resources. The annual budget of the ministry is miniscule in proportion of the responsibilities that it needs to carry out the assigned responsibilities. The annual budget of the ministry was just 0.22 percent of the total budget in FY 2012/2013.

Similarly, the total number of staff under the ministry is only 1,040 (including Ministry, Department and 75 District Women and Children Offices). This number is inadequate to respond and address the issues of women in the country. Women and Children Offices (WCOs) in the districts suffer much from such resource gap. The Women Development Officers and their subordinates are overloaded with work as they respond to the needs of four targeted groups- women, children, people with disabilities and senior citizens.

Another major challenge is the long history of patriarchal ideologies and practices embedded in the social-cultural structures of the society. The reflections of such challenges are visible in the discriminatory practices against women that prevail in the country time since immemorial. In social and cultural settings, traditional practices such as child marriage, dowry, enforced nun hood, blaming as witchcraft, *chhaupadi* (discrimination during menstruation which prevails mainly in the mid and far-western region of Nepal) are still in practice, and which have adverse effect on the lives of women and girls.

In economic sphere, the works of women are still not valued – most often relegated to work for no monetary remuneration or low paying jobs. As one survey¹⁸ found 74.8 percent of unpaid family labor force is female showing glaring disparity in the economic amenities received by male and female.

Though access and participation is increasing, women comprise only 15 percent of the government and semi-government workforce. Moreover, the proportion of women in decision making level is even lower.

Additionally, various research and reports show that majority of the women in Nepal are engaged in agriculture and only few have skilled manual jobs. It has also been observed that women are less likely to be engaged in professional, technical and managerial fields than men. Furthermore, women lag behind men in educational attainment, literacy and exposure to mass media.

The achievements made in increasing access to education are marked by significant gender disparities across the development regions, ecological belts and urban/rural residence. It has also been observed that as the education levels increases, the number of women with comparable educational degrees decreases. Unequal access to education are observed as boys and men are provided better opportunities while girls and women are bounded by social obligation of marriage and expectation of bearing and rearing children.

¹⁸ CBS (2009) Nepal Labor Force Survey 2008. Kathmandu: Central Bureau of Statistics

Describe the strategy(ies) that is (are) in place to address the challenges?

The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare is in the process of formulating more comprehensive 'Gender Policy' with the support from UN Women and making efforts to prevent, mitigate and overcome the GBV problems in the country. Likewise, the formulation of new laws is in process in order to safeguard the women and girls from sexual harassment at the work place and from traditional harmful practices.

Similarly, persistent efforts are being made through the National Women Commission by lobbying to the members of Constituent Assembly for giving priority to gender friendly provision while writing the new constitution.

The Ministry of Finance is putting priority to gender responsive budget both at the national and local levels. And, the Ministry of Education has incorporated GBV issues in the school curriculum.

c) What setbacks/reversals in progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women have been experiences since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (if different from those already identified in b)

Gender Based Violence (GBV) poses as the biggest threat against the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women in Nepal. All forms of violence have been found in different levels of society. Especially, incidences of domestic violence have been found in significant number as one-third of ever-married women age 15-49 have reported ever having experienced emotional, physical, or sexual violence from their spouse, and twelve percent of women age 15-49 reported having experienced sexual violence at least once in their lifetime.¹⁹ More upsetting revelation is the study's conclusion that only few abused women are accessing services catered to victims by the government. Most of victims had relied on their own family or friends/neighbor for any sort of care after the incident. Additionally, the data provided by the Office of Attorney General shows that only 4 cases out of 1800 cases recorded by Nepal Police as 'Domestic Violence' were lodged to the court.

It is also critical to note that very few studies have been carried out by the government on this regard and there is a severe lack of data. However, available data of the government and studies carried out by non-government organizations show a grim picture. Number of cases reported within the police system show increasing incidences of domestic violence, rape, and trafficking against women. The total number of recorded gender-based violence cases between 2009 and 2012 has increased from 1774 to 3340.²⁰

Human trafficking, especially of female, is a grave socio-economic problem in Nepal. Initially, cross-border trafficking of girls to India for sexual exploitation took precedence over all debates and issues. The problem, over the years, has magnified with changing dynamics of human trafficking vis-à-vis changing socio-economic and political situation in Nepal. Many new forms of trafficking have emerged such as trafficking of young girls and women in the domestic sex industry operating under the ambit of

¹⁹ MoHP, New Era and ICF International (2011) 'Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2011'. Pp. 233. Kathmandu: Population Division, Ministry of Health and Population

²⁰ Police Headquarter, Nepal Police cited in UCL and CREPHA (2013) *Tracking case of Gender Based Violence in Nepal: Individual, institutional, legal and policy analysis*

entertainment sector, trafficking under the pretext of foreign labor, trafficking of children to circus, and more alarmingly the numbers of destinations have increased from just India. Moreover, clandestine and dynamic nature of the crime along with lack of reliable statistical data has magnified the challenges to combat human trafficking.

What were the major factors that caused the setbacks?

The ten year long insurgency that enveloped the country from 1996 was a major factor disrupting the development initiatives. The insurgency raised social issues of gender discrimination and its elimination as a main agenda which has been a major basis for political negotiations in the current transition period. However, the period of insurgents also saw gross violations of human rights and criminal activities. Much of the violations were targeted against women. Though no authoritative study is found until now on the toll of conflict on women, there have been many reported incidences of abduction, forced labor, forced combatants, military sex slaves, and physical assault. Women were vulnerable to attacks from both the state and the rebels. It was surveyed that about 40 percent of the insurgents were women.²¹

It is obvious that the period of insurgency had negative impacts on the health of many women and hampered the access to education. Furthermore, issues of destruction and displacement was witnessed during the conflict and has not been addressed completely hitherto.

Economic situation of the country has exacerbated because of the conflict and ongoing political instability. The impacts of which have been observed in migration of youths to foreign countries for employment. Much of the economy is dependent on remittance sent from foreign migrants. In the Fiscal Year 2009, the remittance received through official channels amounted to 22 percent of the country's GDP²². As the numbers of women in foreign employment have increased, there have also been rise in the official and unofficial reports of their exploitation.

Another factor that is persistent in the incidences of GBV is the harmful traditional practices such as *Deuki* (offering young girls to temples for ceremonial purposes), *Jhuma* (enforced nunhood), *Chaupadi* (menstrual seclusion) and *boksi* (accusations of witch-craft). Patriarchal values compounded with such harmful practices have been the structural problem of the Nepalese society.

What mitigation measures or other actions, if any, have been implemented to counter the setbacks?

The government of Nepal has provided legal and policy response to mitigate the issues of GBV. The Domestic Violence (Offence and Punishment) Act, 2009 and Regulation, 2010 was passed to mitigate domestic violence by providing a response system in case of rights violation. Similarly, Gender Violence Elimination Fund (Operation) Rules, 2010 provides measures and fund to assist the GBV victims.

Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act, 2007 and Regulations, 2008 have expanded the scope of combating human trafficking and provided measure to compensate the victims.

²¹ National Commission on Women (2003) survey cited in UNFPA (2007) *Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women in Nepal*. Kathmandu: Nepal

²² Migration and Development (2012), http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPROSPECTS/Resources/334934-1110315015165/MigrationAndDevelopmentBrief13.pdf?cid=ISG_E_WBWeeklyUpdate_NL

At policy level, National Plan of Action (NPA) on CEDAW, NPA on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, 2004 and NPA against Gender Based Violence, 2010 has been implemented along with recurring emphasis of equality and empowerment of women in periodic plans.

d) What have been the main constitutional, legislative and/or legal developments in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women?

The Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007 safeguards the different rights of the women as fundamental rights. Article 20 guarantees right of women as a fundamental rights as per which no discrimination of any kind shall be made against the women by virtue or sex, and no women shall be subjected to physical mental or any other kind of violence and such act is punishable by law. Similar arrangement is made in regards to children by Article 22(3). Rights to freedom, equality, social justice, and against exploitation are also guaranteed to all citizens of Nepal.

General Code (*Muluki Ain*), 2020 (1963 A.D) has been amended repeatedly to provide timely provisions to the needs and protection of women in Nepal. In recent years, the 11th amendment of the General Code (*Muluki Ain*), 2020 aimed to eliminate gender discriminatory laws, especially against the discriminatory legal provisions against women's property rights. These changes were made through the Act for the Amendment of Some Nepal Acts to maintain Gender Equality 2006 which rectified the discriminatory legal provisions regarding partition share of property, women's exclusive property, and chapter on intestate property. The General Code (*Muluki Ain*) also illegalizes and makes punishable child marriage and polygamy.

Social Practices (Reform) Act, 2033 (1976 AD) seeks to eliminate harmful social practices such as dowry by restricting to compel bride for any amenities in connection with or after marriage. Similarly, Some Public (Crime and Punishment) Act, 2027 (1970) prohibits to insult women in public, or threat, scold, tease, or to commit any undue act.

The Labor Act, 2048 (1991 AD) has been formulated considering to provide special arrangements working women and allows the engagement of female in the works similar to the males.

The Police Act, 2012 (1955 AD) obligates police to treat women and children with full respect and due politeness.

The Local Self-Governance Act, 2055 (1998 AD) confers to local state bodies as a duty to carry out activities regarding the protection of orphan children, helpless women, aged and old, disabled and incapacitated persons in line with the national policy and to carry out or cause to be carries out acts regarding the wiping out of social ill-practices and the protection of girls and women and to carry out, or cause to be carried out, program relating to the interests and welfare of the women and children and acts relating to the control or immoral profession and trade.

According to National Women Commission Act, 2063, the Commission has been established as a statutory body to keep vigilance on GBV and investigate and recommend the cases to law enforcement agencies.

Special laws to address domestic violence and human trafficking have been mentioned in the preceding question.

What laws and/or regulations remain in place (or have been introduced) that could have adverse effects on promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in the country?

Nepal is in a process of writing a new constitution that aims to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. In the meantime, various 65 laws have been identified as having adverse effects on promoting gender equality and empowerment of women. Although discriminatory provisions of some acts had been amended by the Act for the Amendment of Some Nepal Acts to maintain Gender Equality 2006, same amount of efforts are necessary to amend the discriminatory provisions of other remaining laws relating to access and control of women on property, citizenship and so on.

e) What is the approximate share of the national budget that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women?

Altogether 21.75 percent of the national budget is gender-sensitive and it is expected that gender-responsive budget items will have comprised 25 percent of the total budget by 2015/2016.²³ The total annual budget of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare was NRs. 920 million, or 0.22 percent of the total budget, during the fiscal year 2012/13.

Describe efforts to increase and track national planning and budgetary allocations related to achieving gender equality and empowerment of women, in preparation of development plans and budgets at national, regional/provincial and local level.

The government of Nepal started Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) practice from fiscal year 2007/08 by developing GRB guidelines to score development indicators. A GRB Committee has been formed which is led by the Ministry of Finance.

Programs scoring 50 percent marks or more are classified as 'directly responsive', those scoring 20 to 50 percent 'indirectly responsive' and those scoring less than 20 percent as 'neutral'. It is also mandated that all programs/projects costing more than NRs. 50 million conduct a gender audit. Over the years the allocations to directly and indirectly gender responsive programs demonstrate increasing trend. The table below shows the degree of gender responsiveness of the total expenditure allocations in the budget (donor and government contributions) between 2007/08 – 2013/14²⁴.

²³ NPC (2013) *An Approach Paper To The Thirteenth Plan*. Kathmandu: National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal.

²⁴ Ministry of Finance, <http://www.mof.gov.np/en/gender-responsive-budget-76.html>

S. N.	Fiscal Year	Direct Responsive		Indirect Responsive		Neutral		Total	
		NRs (billion)	%	NRs (billion)	%	NRs (billion)	%	NRs (billion)	%
1	2007/2008	19.09	11.30	56.03	33.16	93.87	55.54	168.99	100%
2	2008/2009	32.91	13.94	83.58	35.41	119.53	50.64	236.02	100%
3	2009/2010	49.46	17.30	104.16	36.43	132.32	46.27	285.94	100%
4	2010/2011	60.61	17.94	112.65	36.30	154.64	45.76	327.90	100%
5	2011/2012	73.33	19.05	176.21	45.78	135.35	35.17	384.89	100%
6	2012/2013	87.07	21.51	178.63	44.13	139.11	34.36	404.81	100%
7	2013/2014	112.5	21.75	227.3	43.94	177.4	34.31	517.20	100%

f) What mechanisms are in place for regular dialogue between Government and civil society? If mechanisms are in place, briefly describe them.

Various mechanisms have been formed at national and local levels for regular dialogue between the government and the civil society on different issues of gender equality and empowerment of women. At national level the committees are hosted by the ministry and are inclusive of various stakeholders from civil society. One such mechanism is the National Committee on Control of Human Trafficking (NCCHT). The mechanism is hosted within the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare and has been conferred the responsibility to address the issues of trafficking in person with active participation from relevant stakeholders in the society. The district chapter of NCCHT has also been formed in different districts of Nepal.

Similarly, autonomous bodies such as Nepal Women Commission, Central Child Welfare Board, and Nepal Human Rights Commission have been established to maintain regular dialogue between the government and the civil society.

At district level, extensions of national mechanism have been created for the same purpose. Additionally, various sub-committees under the Village Development Committees have been formed that demand the participation of girls and women in development plans.

Do non-governmental organizations, including civil society organizations, women's organizations, academia, faith-based organizations, the private sector and other actors participate formally in the mechanisms established to monitor and implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action?

The scope of work of mechanisms mentioned in the preceding question fathom the various points of consideration mentioned by the BPfA. Members from civil societies, Non-Government Organizations, and academia actively participate in such mechanisms and provide impetus to the efforts made at complying towards various international laws ratified by the government.

g) What main in-country, bilateral, sub-regional, and/or regional cooperation is the country engaged in to support sharing of knowledge and experiences in the monitoring and implementation of the

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly?

There is the mandatory arrangement of quarterly meeting of Gender Focal Persons of all Government Ministries to review on the progress achieved and problem faced regarding the implementation of gender policies and programs of respective ministries in line with National Plan of Action on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment.

The Social Division of SAARC Secretariat coordinates women, children and youth issues of SARRC Countries. The Secretariat of South Asia Initiatives to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC) as an apex body of SAARC has been established in Kathmandu to coordinate the initiatives relating to child rights and child protection which also covers the girl child issues.

ESCAP is the regional forum that Nepal is getting opportunity to share its achievements in different occasions. UN Women is supporting the Government of Nepal in this regard.

What results have been achieved through such efforts and what lessons have been learnt?

The national level efforts to build the network of Gender Focal Persons have created awareness among sectoral ministries. As a consequence many ministries such as Health, Education, Forest, Agriculture, Science and Technology have put their efforts to create a separate section to deal with Gender Equality. Most importantly, the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development has created GESI Section in the Ministry and prepared the GESI Guideline to emphasize and materialize the Gender equality and Social inclusion practices in the local level planning and programming practices.

What is the perceived value of the cooperation?

The regional and international cooperation and collaboration has provided exposure opportunities for law and policy makers, decision makers, watchdog organization and other civil society organizations to many international forums and cross learning from advanced and other newly developed countries. The advancement in their knowledge and change in attitude has being reflected in improvement of national policy, law, programs, judicial decisions and executions.

In what ways could cooperation be improved to strengthen sharing of knowledge and experiences in implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action?

There is the need for building a network of policy and decision makers, activists, academia, and development partners. As a think-tank the network can take stock and review on the national policies, plan of actions and other activities relevant to BPfA.

h) How, and to what extent, have the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) overall, and in particular the gender-related MDGs, facilitated or strengthened the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action?

Nepal has committed and strived to achieve minimum level of education, health, and poverty reduction for all by setting MDGs. It has set targets particularly to address the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women. The targets set have aimed at increasing gender parity in education and

improving safe motherhood along with other overarching goals. Hence, MDGs have reinforced the commitments made in BPfA.

However, structural issues such as GBV that have emerged as a major threat were not foreseen by the MDGs. The increase in women's mobility for employment has also exposed them to new risks that are yet to be comprehensively understood. Hence, the need to protect girls and women from risk and harm has not been adequately addressed by the MDGs.

Section 2

Progress in the implementation of the critical areas of concern

- i) What is the status of progress in each of the twelve critical areas of concern and their strategic objectives, and relevant sections of the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly? Please provide concrete supporting evidence, including statistical data and other relevant sources.*

The following table summarizes the progressive achieved during the reporting period with regard to the twelve critical areas of concern.

National Review on the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the Outcomes of the Twenty-Third Special Session of the General Assembly (2000)

Major Findings in the Twelve Critical Areas of Concern

Critical Areas of Concern	Strategic Objectives	Status since 2009	Source/Data
A. Women and Poverty	Review, adopt and maintain macroeconomic policies and development strategies that address the needs and efforts of women in poverty	1. Two periodic plans have been formulated. Both of them have focused on poverty reduction through gender equality, empowerment of women and inclusion of socially disadvantaged groups. Though no data on poverty status of women was found, overall decline in population below the national poverty line has been observed. The total percentage of population below national poverty line has declined from 25.4 percent in 2007 to 23.8 percent in 2013 and is likely to be reduced to 21 percent by 2015.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Government of Nepal's Three Year Plan 2010/11 - 2012/13 and <i>Approach Paper to the Thirteenth Plan 2012/13 – 2014/15</i>. ➤ GoN, National Planning Commission and United Nations Country Team Nepal, <i>Nepal Millennium Development Goals Progress Report 2013</i>.
		2. The GoN started Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) practice from fiscal year 2007/08 by developing GRB guidelines to score development indicators. The indicators of the gender sensitivity of different activities/expenditure line include participation of women in decision making roles and program planning; capacity building; benefit sharing; increased access to employment and income earning opportunities; and reduction in women's workload. Over the years the allocations of GRB to directly and indirectly gender responsive programs demonstrate increasing trend, which will subsequently decrease the poverty of women.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ministry of Finance, http://www.mof.gov.np/en/gender-responsive-budget-76.html
		3. Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) has developed 'Resource Mobilization and Management Guideline, 2069 (2012)' and implemented it at the local level for effective utilization of resources for citizen, especially by focusing on women, children and socially excluded target groups. Accordingly, a minimum of 10 percent for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Resource Mobilization and Management Guideline 2069 and Annual and Periodic Plan of Local Bodies.

		<p>programs and projects directly beneficial to the women of all nationalities shall be made in order to invest in programs/projects directly beneficial to the targeted groups from the capital budget of the District Development Fund. Thus, mainstreaming of women issues in periodic and annual plans and programs of local bodies to address the real need of women has been in practice.</p> <p>4. MoFALD has also approved Local Bodies Gender Responsive Budgeting and Auditing Guideline 2068 for mainstreaming gender in all planning, implementation and monitoring process of local bodies (DDCs, VDCs and Municipalities).</p>	<p>➤ Local Bodies Gender Responsive Budgeting and Auditing Guideline 2068.</p>
		<p>5. Department of Women and Children has implemented a focused program named "Women against Poverty" in order to reduce poverty of women members who have formed their groups in selected VDCs. The beneficiaries are mostly economically poor and socially excluded groups. Under this program they are provided with social mobilization and skill/vocational training, entrepreneurship development, exposure visits.</p>	<p>➤ GoN, Department of Women and Children, Women Development Program: <i>Annual Progress Report 2069/070 (2012/2013)</i>.</p>
		<p>6. Various ministries (such as Education, Health and Population, Agricultural development, Forest and Soil Conservation, Youth and Sports, Science, Technology and Environment etc.) are applying 'Sector Wise Assistance Approach (SWAp) with elaborated GESI strategy and action plans in their respective program interventions in order to increase women's participation in socio-economic development. The government has taken a transformational strategy to development which substitutes the transactional strategy by focusing on organizing people into groups and supporting them to mobilize resources for their own benefits.</p>	<p>➤ Government of Nepal's <i>Three Year Plan 2010/11 - 2012/13 and Approach Paper to the Thirteenth Plan 2012/13 – 2014/15</i>.</p>
		<p>7. Ministry of Agriculture Development has formulated a long term Agricultural Development Strategy, 2013. The strategy focuses on the involvement of women in agricultural production. Regularly conducted agricultural programs through District Development Offices and Livestock Services Offices in groups help raise the income of women so as to</p>	<p>➤ Annual Report of Ministry of Agricultural Development.</p>

		minimize the poverty level of women.	
	Revise laws and administrative practices to ensure women's equal rights and access to economic resources	<p>8. The government has continuously pursued women's equal rights and access to economic resources by implementing the affirmative action policy which was adopted since 2007 in order to ensure women's participation in all social, political and economic spheres.</p> <p>9. Civil Service Act, 2007 was amended whereby 33 percent of the 45 percent of 'reserved open competition' is set aside for women. Similar provisions have also been made in national security forces (i.e., Nepal Army, Nepal Police and Armed Police Force), public enterprises and universities.</p> <p>10. GoN has exempted 25 percent of registration fee for women while purchasing the land under the ownership of women. This policy and rule have contributed to increase the women's ownership on landed property.</p>	
	Provide women with access to savings and credit mechanisms and institutions	<p>11. In addition to a separate Cooperatives Department, GoN has established a new ministry named Ministry of Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation in 2012 to promote cooperative movement and alleviate poverty from the country. The ministry is also working to promote women participation through the cooperatives. The ministry has formulated National Policy on Cooperatives in 2012 in order to enhance multi-dimensional and dynamic development of the cooperative sector. The Office of Cooperatives has been expanded to 38 districts.</p> <p>12. 30 thousand cooperatives have been formed out of which 13 percent consists of only women members. A total number of cooperative members have reached 4.4 million out of which 44 percent are women, and women occupy 22 percent in management boards. Cooperatives have 3 percent contribution towards national GDP.</p>	➤ GoN, Ministry of Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation
		13. Department of Women and Children (DWC) under MoWCSW is implementing Women Development Program (WDP). It was initiated	➤ GoN, Department of Women and Children, Women Development

		during the late 1980s. Currently, WDP has been successful to grow to all 75 districts to cover 22,421 wards of 3636 ²⁵ Village Development Committees and by forming 132,928 women groups with 807,976 rural women as members. Under the program, a total of 1568 Women Cooperatives have been registered and 200 Women Cooperative are in due course. The Women's Cooperative have been successful in accumulating NRs. 2270 million in savings and mobilized NRs. 2180 million credits through the cooperatives. The target groups are deprived women who are above the age of 20 years: (a) those that had never been to school or those who had not attended SLC exam, and (b) those that are economically deprived due to having insufficient land or other income for the whole year.	Program: Annual Progress Report 2069/070 (2012/2013).
	Develop gender-based methodologies and conduct research to address feminization of poverty	<p>14. Though government initiated studies are few in number, the research conducted by different ministries dedicate separate chapters to understand the various dimensions of feminization of poverty. Nepal Demographic Health Survey 2011 conducted by Ministry of Health and Population included two separate chapters 'Women's Empowerment and Demographic and Health' and 'Domestic Violence'. Further analysis on the data set was done by the ministry in 2013 entitled 'Women's Empowerment and Spousal Violence in Relation to Health Outcomes in Nepal'.</p> <p>15. Yearly Flash Reports published by the Ministry of Education also presents gender disaggregated data.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ GoN, Ministry of Health and Population, Nepal Demographic Health Survey 2011. ➤ GoN, Ministry of Education, Flash Report 2011.
B. Education and training of women	Ensure equal access to education	16. School Sector Reform Plan (SSRP) a seven year strategic plan has been implemented since FY 2009/10 to achieve the goals of National Plan of Action for Education for All 2001 -2015. The SSRP aims to: i) expand access and equity; ii) improve quality and relevance and; iii) strengthen the institutional capacity of the entire school education system to improve system performance. The SSRP contains:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ GoN, Ministry of Education School Sector Reform Plan 2009-2015. ➤ GoN, Department of Education, School Sector Reform Programme (SSRP), Second Higher Education Project (SHEP), Community School

²⁵ Very recently GoN has decided to increase the number of Municipalities from 58 to 172. Therefore, the total number of VDCs has been reduced to 3363 from 3915.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Early Childhood Education and Development (ECED) ▪ Ensuring access to school education, basic and secondary ▪ Literacy and Continuous Education ▪ Improving Quality in Education Teacher Education and Development ▪ Capacity Development ▪ School Management and Monitoring ▪ Incentive and support ▪ PCF Non-salary grant ▪ Capital Expenditure ▪ TEVT Soft-skills ▪ Second Higher Education Program <p>17. Gross enrollment rate in ECED have increased from 70 percent in 2009/10 to 73.7 percent (73.1 percent for girls and 74.3 percent for boys). Subsequently, percentage of new entrants in Grade 1 with ECED experience has also increased and this has been observed to contribute in reduction of repetition, dropout and retention rates.</p> <p>18. As mentioned earlier in the report, Nepal has made significant progress in increasing access of girls and women as shown by increasing gender parity at all levels. Various activities have been conducted to achieve that, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School Outreach Program ▪ Establishing and operating Flexible Schooling Program ▪ Operating non-formal schools ▪ Providing free text books in basic level ▪ Scholarships to girls and needy children ▪ Construction of new child-friendly structures and separate toilet for girls ▪ Community Learning Centers for continuing education and fulfilling learning needs <p>19. The table below shows that gender parity has been achieved in school level education:</p>	<p>Capacity Development Program, Education for All, All Shishu Vikash Karyakram: Status Report 2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ GoN, Department of Education, Flash I Report 2069 (2012-2013). ➤ GoN, Department of Education, School Level Educational Statistics of Nepal: Consolidated Report 2011 (2068). ➤ GoN, National Planning Commission and United Nations Country Team Nepal, Nepal Millennium Development Goals Progress Report 2013.
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Year	2008				2012/2013			
	NER			GPI	NER			GPI
	Level	Girls	boys	Total		Girls	boys	Total
Primary	90.4	93.2	91.1	0.97	94.7	95.9	95.3	0.99
Lower Secondary	56.6	58.0	57.3	0.98	71.8	72.6	72.5	0.99
Secondary 9- 10	35.0	37.8	36.4	0.92	54.0	54.6	54.3	0.99
Higher Secondary (11-12)					10.6	10.2	10.4	1.04

20. Second Higher Education Project (2007-2014) has been initiated since 2007. One of the objectives of this project is to improve access to academically qualified under-privileged students, including girls, dalit, and educationally disadvantaged indigenous nationalities to higher education through financial assistance and enhanced capacity of higher secondary schools. The project components are: reform grants, student financial assistance, higher education, strengthening system capacity.

Eradicate illiteracy among women

21. Literacy and continuous education has helped to reduce the illiteracy among women with focus on adult literacy, women literacy and functional literacy programs. For example, 2700 women literacy classes were run in FY 2011/12 reaching out to 55,000 female beneficiaries. The overall literacy rate for women/girls and men/boys aged 5 years and above are 57.4% and 75.1% respectively. The data on literacy available for age group 5-24 is presented in the following table.

Literacy rate (%)	Male	Female	Combined
5 years & above	75.1	57.4	65.9
6 years & above	76.0	57.7	66.5
15 years & above	71.7	48.8	59.6
15 to 24 years	89.9	80.2	84.7

22. The government's strong commitment to free and compulsory primary education is one of the important strategies to promote literacy among

- GoN, Central Bureau of Statistics, Population and Housing Census 2011.
- GoN, National Planning Commission and United Nations Country Team Nepal, Nepal Millennium Development Goals Progress Report 2013.
- 'Kamlari' is system whereby girls and young women particularly from tharu community of Dang, Banke, Bardiya, Surkhet, Kailali and Kanchanpur districts of Mid and Far western region of Nepal are sold by their parents into

women and girls. It has been stated that almost all population in the age group 10-14 years is literate. Welcome to school Campaigns, scholarship for girls, child grants, mid-day meals, employment, and special scholarship for 'Kamlari' have increased Net Enrolment Rate (NER) in schools which ultimately contributed towards increasing literacy among women and girls. Various Non-formal Education Programmes are also contributing to increase literacy among women and girls.

indentured servitude under contract for certain periods with richer, higher-caste buyers, generally from outside their villages. In 2006, the Supreme Court of Nepal affirmed that this practice known as Kamlari is illegal and the Government of Nepal has already abolished this practice.

Improve women's access to vocational training, science and technology and continuing education

23. Technical education and vocational training has also been emphasized in the SSRP. The ministry and Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) have also collaborated with various private sector organizations and development partners to implement different programs of the SSRP.

Gender-disaggregated data on TEVT				
Agencies	2009		2010	
	Female	Total	Female	Total
Government Agencies	7105 (48%)	17262	15424 (57.6%)	32403
Bilateral & Multilateral	10209(57%)	17900	8502 (44.9%)	18922
Private	3339 (18.1%)	18433	3186 (18.5%)	17145
Total	20653(38.5%)	53595	27112 (39.5%)	68470

The CTEVT has started to keep gender disaggregated data of participants of training programs, which is positive development.

24. The Ministry of Education has initiated the Enhanced Vocational Education and Training (EVENT) project in 2011 with the aim to provide technical and vocational education and training to approximately 75,000 Nepali youth out of which 30 percent would be women. It has encouraged participation of women to non-traditional trade and has planned to produce 5000 women. The EVENT project has already trained 21,159 youths out of which 30 percent are women.

- CTEVT, A Profile of Technical and Vocational Education Providers 2013.
- *A profile of National Vocational Training Providers 2011*, CTEVT Research and Information Division, 2011

Develop non-discriminatory education and training	<p>25. The Government of Nepal is committed for non-discriminatory education and training. As mentioned above various measures have been taken specially to promote girls education and training, as well as to increase female literacy.</p> <p>26. The Curriculum Development Center of the Ministry of Education has reviews the Secondary Education Curriculum in 2007 with the aim to banish negative gender stereotype in education.</p> <p>27. MoE has developed a Gender Mainstreaming Strategy (2006), based on which Strategic Implementation Plan for gender Equality in Girls' Education (SIPGEGE) has been formulated covering the period 2005-2015</p> <p>28. In 2010, National Center of Education Development has produced New Gender Awareness module with the help of Gender Focal for Master Trainers involved in the Teachers' Professional Development module.</p> <p>29. A Gender Equity Network (GEN) is in place at national level, with the overall aims of building the collective effort for gender equality in education and ensuring quality education for all children without discrimination. Guidelines for establishing District GENs were disseminated to all 75 districts in 2010.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ GoN, Department of Education, School Sector Reform Programme (SSRP), Second Higher Education Project (SHEP), Community School Capacity Development Programme, Education for All, All Shishu Vikash Karyakram: Status Report 2011. ➤ <i>Report on Inclusiveness in School Curriculum Report 2010</i>, Curriculum Development Center, Ministry of Education ➤ Terry, G., & Thapa, N. (2012). <i>Gender audit of Nepal's school sector reform programme</i>. Kathmandu: DFID Human Development Resource Centre.
Allocate sufficient resources for and monitor the implementation of educational reforms	<p>30. Improvements in quality have been observed by focusing on four basic elements: teachers, textbooks/instructional materials, the learning environment and the school management. Quality of education can be deemed to be improving as repetition rate in grade 1 and 5 have been steadily declining.</p> <p>31. School monitoring and evaluation is a key component of the SSRP and various mechanisms from local level schools and communities to institutions in district, regional and central level. Monitoring has also been emphasized through strengthening of School Management Committees.</p>	
Promote lifelong education and training for girls	<p>32. The out of school adolescent girls are provided with life skill education and training through women organizations under Women Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Women Development Program: Operative Guidelines 2070/071 (2013/2014)</i>, Department of

	and women	<p>Program run by Department of Women and Children.</p> <p>33. The Non-formal Education center of the Ministry of Education is responsible for providing Non-formal Education programs. The programs focus on: i) basic literacy, particularly targeting women and other disadvantaged groups; ii) post literacy that gives continuity to the education of targeted groups; iii) open and alternative education that link targeted groups to formal education; iv) skill training and income generation program; and vi) establishment of community learning centers.</p>	Women and Children, Government of Nepal
C. Women and Health	Increase women's access throughout the life-cycle to appropriate, affordable and quality health care, information and related services	<p>34. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Section has recently been established in Population Division of Ministry of Health and Population for mainstreaming gender issues in health related policies, laws, strategies and programs.</p> <p>35. Nepal Health Sector Plan – Implementation Plan – II (NHSP-IP II) 2010-15 focuses on improving the health service delivery, by giving due attention to women's access to appropriate, affordable and quality health care services. NHSP-IP II prioritizes reaching the unreached and has strong focus on gender and social inclusion. The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) program has been implemented through the country to improve the hygiene and sanitation status.</p>	<p>➤ <i>Nepal Health Sector Plan – II (NHSP-IP II) 2010-15</i>, Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal</p> <p>➤ <i>Nepal Demographic Health Survey 2011</i>, Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal</p>
	Strengthen preventive programs that promote women's health	<p>36. Maternal and reproductive health of women has been promoted by implementing guidelines regarding uterine prolapsed, safe abortion, safe motherhood, and human resources for delivery. Antenatal Incentive Program was launched in 2011 providing NRs. 400 to mother who complete four antenatal care visits in health facilities. Safe Motherhood Program has been launched to promote institutional delivery inter alia ante-natal care (ANC), post-natal care (PNC) and family planning services.</p>	
	Undertake gender-sensitive initiative that address sexually transmitted	<p>37. Nepal Demographic Health Survey was conducted and published in 2011 and has been widely disseminated to the policy makers and public. Nepal HIV Investment Plan 2014-2016 has been formulated to address the health needs among female sex workers and prevent new infection along with</p>	

	diseases, HIV/AIDS, and sexual and reproductive health issues	care for the victims. Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS programs are being carried out in all districts.	
D. Violence against women	Take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women	<p>38. GoN has taken several policy and legal measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women. Several discriminatory provisions had been amended in various laws including General Code 2020. Domestic Violence (Offence and Punishment) Act and Regulation had been formulated in 2009 and 2010 respectively. National Plan of Action against Gender Based Violence 2010 was implemented. To increase the awareness against GBV GoN announced the year 2010 as a year against gender-based violence. Successively, the OPMCM has formulated 5-year National Plan of Action on Gender Based Violence Reduction and Gender Empowerment in 2011. 17 district level Service Centers and 84 Community level Service centers for victims of gender based violence were established in 17 selected districts including. Hospital based one-stop crisis management centers were introduced in 15 selected districts in addition to one in Kathmandu based Maternity Hospital to provide integrated services to GBV victims and survivors.</p> <p>39. The MoWCSW has published and initiated meetings, trainings, seminar and workshops to disseminate widely on laws, National Plan of Action, minimum standards for care and protection of victims/survivors and Standard operating procedures on GBV and anti-human trafficking.</p> <p>40. Nepal Police has established 240 Women and Children Service Centers in 75 districts to deal with GBV cases.</p> <p>41. Under the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Developments local bodies are executing action plan on violence against women and organizing orientation programs at the local levels.</p> <p>42. Department of Women and Children is implementing Integrated Development Program of Women Organizations for eliminating Gender based Violence and under this program district level Women and children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>National Plan of Action on Gender Based Violence Reduction and Gender Empowerment in 2011</i> Office of Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, Government of Nepal ➤ <i>Women Development Programme: Operative Guidelines 2070/071 (2013/2014)</i>, Department of Women and Children, Government of Nepal

		<p>Offices are forming Ward level Watch Groups in selected VDC of 75 districts to raise awareness against GBV and increase access to justice for GBV victims and survivors.</p>	
	<p>Study the causes and consequences of violence against women and the effectiveness of preventive measures</p>	<p>43. A comprehensive study on GBV is yet to be conducted in Nepal. However, for the first time a separate chapter was dedicated in Nepal Demographic Health Survey 2011 to understand the prevalence and causes of violence. Further analysis of the 2011 Nepal Demographic Health Survey was carried out on Women's Empowerment and Spousal Violence in Relation to Health Outcomes in Nepal.</p> <p>44. Some CSOs have initiated program specific studies in some districts on prevalence, causes and consequences of GBV which cannot be considered as national level study.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2011</i>, Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal ➤ <i>Women's Empowerment and Spousal Violence in Relation to Health Outcomes in Nepal: Further analysis of the 2011 Nepal Demographic Health Survey 2013</i>, Ministry of Health and Population,, Government of Nepal
	<p>Eliminate trafficking in women and assist victims of violence due to prostitution and trafficking</p>	<p>45. Following the formulation of 'Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act 2007 and Regulation 2008, Government of Nepal established 8 Rehabilitation Centers for trafficked victims in 8 selected districts during 2009 and 2010. Nepal prepared 10-year National Plan of Action to combat against Trafficking in Persons, especially trafficking in women and children in 2011. National Minimum Standards and Standard Operating Procedures for shelter homes and care givers for victims of trafficking have been developed. Standard Operating Procedures for Investigation, Prosecution and Adjudication, Rescue and Raid Guideline, Victim/Witness Protection Policy is in preparation stage. GoN, Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare has started preparing a public report on the government's anti-trafficking efforts since 2013..</p> <p>46. According to the TIP Report 2014 of US Government, Nepal is making significant efforts to comply with minimum standards to eliminate trafficking. The Report mentions that GoN made improvements in its efforts to prevent trafficking; created a new investigative body to pursue trafficking cases, suspended manpower agencies and orientation centers for malpractice, and funded and participated in a range of awareness-raising activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>National Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Trafficking in Women and Children 2012</i>, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal. ➤ <i>Nation Report on Trafficking in Persons, 2014</i>, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal ➤ US Government TIP Report 2014.

E. Women and armed conflict	Increase the participation of women in conflict resolution at decision-making levels and protect women living in situations of armed and other conflicts or under foreign occupation	<p>47. National Action Plan on Implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 was formulated and is in practice since 2011. Since Nepal is in transition phase after the end of the conflict, this action plan aims at increasing participation of women post-conflict period.</p> <p>48. Local Peace Committees have been formulated in all the 75 districts. According to the terms and conditions of Local Peace committees one-third of the total members should be women. At present, these committees consist of nearly 28 percent women members.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ National Action Plan on Implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820. ➤ Terms and Conditions of Local Peace Committees 2065 (2009). ➤ <i>Training Report on GESI Resource Book 2069 and 2070 (2012 and 2013)</i>, Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development, Government of Nepal.
	Promote non-violent forms of conflict resolution and reduce the incidence of human rights abuse in conflict situations	<p>49. National Action Plan on Implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 has presented clear objective to promote the protection of women and girls' rights and prevention of the violation of these rights in pre-conflict, during conflict, and post conflict situations</p>	
	Promote women's contribution to fostering a culture of peace	<p>50. As provisioned in the Terms and Conditions of Local Peace Committees, 2009 Local Peace Committees are working to foster the culture of peace through women members. In each LPC two conflict victim women are involved.</p> <p>51. Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development has developed GESI Resource Book to promote women's participation in local level training program, particularly in implementing National Action Plan on Implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and 1820.</p>	

F. Women and economy	Promote women's economic rights and independence including access to employment, appropriate working conditions and control over economic resources	<p>52. Policy and laws have been formulated to promote women's employment in public sector. The percent of women in civil service has increased to 14 percent over the time.</p> <p>53. The rebate on land registration fee by 25 percent to women has increased the ownership of women in landed property.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Department of Personnel Records, Ministry of General Administration, Government of Nepal ➤ <i>Population and Housing Census 2011</i>, Central Bureau of Statistics, Government of Nepal
	Facilitate women's equal access to resources, employment, markets, and trade	<p>54. Various ministries like Industry, and Forest and Soil conservation have introduced GESI Policy to promote women's equal access to economic and natural resources.</p> <p>55. Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation has made provision of forming Community Forest User Groups must having minimum 50 % women members of which one should compulsorily be the Chair or Secretary. Similarly, two of the thirteen members of Buffer Zone Users Committee should be women.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Gender and Social Inclusion Strategy of Forest Sector 2065 (2008)</i>, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal ➤ <i>Conservation Guideline for Community Forest Development Program 2065 (2008)</i>, Ministry of Forest and Soil, Government of Nepal. ➤ <i>Buffer Zone Management Directives, 2056 (2000)</i> Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation Guideline, Government of Nepal
	Provide business services, training and access to markets, information and technology, particularly to	<p>56. The government is also focusing on skills training and entrepreneurship development for women.</p> <p>57. Under the Women Development Program executed by Department of Women and Children, the district level Women and Children Offices are providing skill training and entrepreneurship development specially focusing on women. Likewise the district level cottage small industry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Council for Technical Education and Vocational training and other institutions established in the private sectors are also promoting women's skill trainings and entrepreneurship development. ➤ <i>Women Development Program:</i>

	low income women	<p>offices/development committees are also promoting skill development training by focusing on women participants.</p> <p>58. GoN has promoted to form women's entrepreneur group by providing 10 million rupees in the last fiscal year.</p>	<p><i>Operative Guidelines 2070/071 (2013/2014)</i>, Department of Women and Children, Government of Nepal</p> <p>➤ <i>Economic Survey 2070 (2013)</i>, Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal.</p>
	Strengthen women's economic capacity and commercial networks	<p>59. GoN through various sectoral programs is promoting women entrepreneurship, access to micro credit and commercial markets. Cooperatives have been formed to link the informal sector with the formal sector. As stated above the proportion of women's involvement is in increasing trend.</p>	<p>➤ <i>Women Development Program: Operative Guidelines 2070/071 (2013/2014)</i>, Department of Women and Children, Government of Nepal.</p> <p>➤ <i>Economic Survey 2070 (2013)</i>, Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal.</p>
	Eliminate occupational segregation and all forms of employment discrimination	<p>60. Nepal law eliminates all forms of discrimination relating to women's employment. There is no occupational segregation as such in policy and law.</p>	
	Promote harmonization of work and family responsibilities for women and men	<p>61. GoN is supporting day care centers, early childhood education and development and parental skills in order to promote harmonization of work and family responsibilities for women and men.</p>	
G. Women in power and decision making	Take measures to ensure women's equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision-making	<p>62. Nepal has taken affirmative policy to ensure women's equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision making at all levels. Women Constituent Assembly members are active participants in all the committees of Constituent Assembly and a Women Child and Social Welfare Committee has been under the Legislative Parliament Committee. Except the Constituent Assembly, the number of women in the decision making hierarchy in the state mechanism is very low. The following table depicts the number of women in decision making level:</p>	

			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>#</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>a) Women national parliamentarians:</td> <td>172</td> <td>29.91</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b) Women national ministers:</td> <td>3</td> <td>12.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c) Women judges:</td> <td>11</td> <td>3.36</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		#	%	a) Women national parliamentarians:	172	29.91	b) Women national ministers:	3	12.5	c) Women judges:	11	3.36	
	#	%														
a) Women national parliamentarians:	172	29.91														
b) Women national ministers:	3	12.5														
c) Women judges:	11	3.36														
	Increase women's capacity to participate in decision making and leadership	63. Efforts are being made through various government and non-government organizations to enhance the capacity of women to participate in decision making and leadership. Women Development Program implemented by Department of Women and Children is imparting leadership training to grass root level women. Local bodies and NGOs are also providing such training to the women participants at all levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Women Development Program: Operative Guidelines 2070/071 (2013/2014)</i>, Department of Women and Children, Government of Nepal. ➤ <i>Management Guideline 2069, GESI Policy and Social Mobilization Guideline</i>, Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development, Government of Nepal. ➤ Reports of Various NGOs 													
H. Institutional mechanism for the advancement of women	<p>Create and strengthen national machineries and other governmental bodies</p> <p>Integrate gender perspectives in legislation, public policies, programs and projects.</p>	64. In September 1995 immediately after the Beijing Conference, Ministry of Women, and Social Welfare was established as national machinery for the advance of women. In 2001 Children was also included the Ministry was renamed as Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare. The Women Development Division under the then Ministry of Local Development was upgraded to Department of Women Development (which is now renamed as Department of Women and Children), and transferred to MoWCSW for a more consolidated efforts in gender equality and women empowerment. Very recently, MoWCSW has formed a high level Gender Coordination Committee to be chaired by the Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare by comprising of secretaries of sectoral ministries and head of development partners. MoWCSW has also formed high level thematic committees on GBV, Human Trafficking and Single Women to be chaired by the Secretary of the ministry with the representatives from line ministries and civil society organizations. The ministry has created three separate sections to deal with gender mainstreaming, GBV, and Human Trafficking issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Women Development Program: Operative Guidelines 2070/071 (2013/2014)</i>, Department of Women and Children, Government of Nepal. ➤ <i>Management Guideline 2069, GESI Policy and Social Mobilization Guideline</i>, Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development, Government of Nepal. 													

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| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none">65. Under the DWC District Women and Children Offices are established in all 75 districts. All temporary women staff of District WCO has been recruited as permanent staffs by reforming Civil Service laws. In 2013, WCOs in 23 districts have been upgraded to be headed by Gazetted Class II Women Development Officers.66. National Women Commission was establish as a statutory watchdog organization on 7 March 2002 to monitor women's human rights issues, to make policy recommendations to the government, to handle complaints on GBV.67. In 2007, Ministry of Finance formed Gender Responsive Budget Committee.68. In each Ministry Gender Focal Points/Persons have been nominated and quarterly meetings of GFPs are being regularly organized by MoWCSW.69. The Social Development Division and Gender Equality and Environment Division within the National Planning Commission are in place to reflect gender and social inclusion subjects in plans and policies.70. The Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development has established Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Section to reflect the gender concerns in the local planning process. Local Governance and Community Development Program (LGCDP) was executed by Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development in 2008 and is currently in its second phase from 2013/14. Gender equality and social inclusion is one of the 22 sectors identified for investment. MoFALD has promulgated Socail Mobilization Guideline 2010, Resource Mobilization and Management Guideline 2012, and GESI Policy 2010. Accordingly, inclusive structures have been created at the local level. For example in all wards of VDCs/Municipalities more than 35,000 Ward Citizen Forums have been formed with 33% women's active participation. Local bodies (DDC, VDC and Municipalities) also form various thematic committees with sufficient number of women members. | |
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	Generate and disseminate gender-disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation	71. MoWCSW is working to establish gender disaggregated data according to the framework under SAARC Gender Info Base (SGIB). Accordingly, some secondary data has been accumulated and uploaded.	➤ SGIB
I. Human rights of Women	Promote and protect the human rights of women, through the full implementation of all human rights instruments, especially the CEDAW	72. Nepal is implementing National Plan of Action on CEDAW since 2004. Three Year Human Rights National Plan of Action was implemented from 2010/11 – 2012/2013 which had made significant provisions for the rights of women and children. 73. NWC, established as a statutory body on 7 March 2002, entertains complaints mainly from two sources: (a) Written complaint registered in the Office of NWC, and (b) Media reporting and information from other sources. First of all NWC ascertains whether the issue reported is within its jurisdiction. If the reported cases are out of its jurisdiction, NWC refers them to relevant agencies, and if the cases are within its jurisdiction, then it starts investigating the cases by contacting the victim and other parties. If necessary it provides psychosocial counseling and legal assistance to the victims. After that the cases are referred to police and other law enforcement agencies for necessary legal action.	➤ <i>National Plan of Action on CEDAW 2004</i> , Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal
	Ensure equality and non-discrimination under the law and in practice	74. Equality and non-discrimination to women has been guaranteed by the Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007. During 2007 discriminatory provisions of many national laws had been amended. Furthermore, continuous efforts are being made to amend discriminatory provisions of various laws. Some Nepal Law Amendment Bill has been tabled in the legislative parliament to amend 32 laws.	
	Achieve legal literacy	75. The Ministry of Law, Justice, Constituent Assembly and Parliamentary Affairs have conducted Legal Awareness Programs in 90 VDCs of 63 districts started from 2012 under Nepal Peace Trust Fund Project. More than	

		12,000 people have been benefited from this program. Legal Aid Act 2054 and the Regulations 2055 are operative in all 75 districts.	
J. Women and the media	<p>Increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision making in and through the media and new technologies of communication</p> <p>Promote a balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media</p>	<p>76. Information Technology Policy was endorsed in 2011 by Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment with key priority to increase access of women and other deprived communities living in remote areas to information technology.</p> <p>77. Nepal Journalist Association has a provision of reservation of 3 women members out of 29 total executive board members.</p> <p>78. Women journalists' organization like 'Sancharika Samuha' is promoting the participation of women in the media by providing free of cost residential basic journalism training and feature writing training for those who have completed +2 levels and above.</p>	➤ <i>Technology and Environment, Information Technology Policy 2011, Ministry of Science, Government of Nepal</i>
K. Women and environment	<p>Involve women actively in environmental decision making at all levels</p> <p>Integrate gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programs for sustainable development</p> <p>Strengthen or establish mechanism at</p>	<p>79. Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MoSTE) has endorsed National Indoor Air Quality Standard and Implementation Guideline in 2009. The Guideline has set 'Matters to considered by the stakeholders' in suing improved cooking stoves, using energy for lighting purposes, setting adequate ventilation systems, selecting and using fuels, maintaining cooking and heating equipment regularly, improving personal behaviors inside the house and etc. which ultimately promote gender friendly environment in the household. In order to improve the indoor air quality MoSTE has given priority to the women's participation in developing and implementing energy programs in the backdrop of issues related to health and environment.</p> <p>80. The MoSTE has also adopted Climate Change Policy in 2011. The policy has prioritized the participation of women in implementation of climate adaptation and climate change related programs. National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) and Local Adaptation Program of Action (LAPA)</p>	

	the national, regional, and international levels to assess the impact of development and environmental policies on women	<p>have also been implemented for enhancing and promoting green job for male and female in conservation and social development.</p> <p>81. The MoSTE has also drafted 'Climate Change and Gender Strategy and Action Plan', which is in a process of endorsement by the Cabinet.</p> <p>82. The Government of Nepal Ministry of Agriculture has developed long term 'Agriculture Development Strategy' whereby 'Gender Mainstreaming' has been considered as one of the key strategy.</p> <p>83. Community forestry is another key sector that has promoted leadership and management capability of Rural women that has not only availed opportunity of seasonal employment but also provided services such as health, education and carbon trading which ultimately is contributing to the participation of women in the conservation of environment.</p>	
L. The girl child	Eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child	84. The Interim constitution and national legal provisions have guaranteed equal treatment for all. GoN is continuously seeking sectoral interventions to eliminate all forms of discriminations against women and girl child.	➤ The Interim Constitution of Nepal 2007
	Eliminate negative cultural attitudes and practices against girls	85. GoN has abolished Chhaupadi, Kamlari and Deuki systems which were practices against girls. Child marriage is banned by the law.	➤ General Code 1963
	Promote and protect the rights of the girl-child and increase awareness of her needs and potential	<p>86. Women Development Program implemented in all districts has special focus on girl child for their life skill development.</p> <p>87. Ministry of Education is implementing 'Choose the future' program by specially targeting the girls.</p> <p>88. Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development has developed Child Friendly Local Governance guideline and strategy for the local bodies, according to which the local bodies are implementing CFLG program as well as mainstreaming children's issues in integrated planning of local</p>	➤ <i>Child Friendly Local Governance Guideline and Strategy 2068 (2011)</i> Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development, Government of Nepal

		bodies. 89. Village Child Protection Committees are at place to promote the welfare and protect the children including girl child.	
Eliminate discrimination against girls in education, skills development and training		90. School Sector Reform Program has promoted the enrollment and retention of girl child in the schools. Similarly girls are promoted in skill training.	➤ <i>School Sector Reform Programme (SSRP) 2011</i> , Department of Education, Government of Nepal
Eliminate discrimination against girls in health and nutrition		91. Nepal has developed Multi-sector Nutritional Plan 2013-2017 by targeting teen aged girls, pregnant women and breast feeding mothers of low income groups, which is now in implementation.	➤ <i>Multi-sector Nutritional Plan 2013-2017</i> , National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal
Eliminate the economic exploitation of child labor and protect young girls at work		92. By law of the country, child labor is illegal. District Child Welfare Board is continuously working in all districts to rescue and rehabilitate the child labor specially focusing on girl child. CROs have been recruited to assist the DCWB and WCO in strengthening child protection system.	
Eradicate violence against the girl-child		93. Nepal has become the member of South Asia Initiative for Ending Violence against Children (SAIEVAC), an apex body of SAARC. The Secretariat is established in Nepal. Being the active member of the body Nepal is implementing projects to eradicate all forms of violence against children including girls. 94. The women organizations under the Women Development Programme of District Women and Children Offices have formed Watch Groups. They are working as surveillance group against any kinds of violence against women and girl child. 95. In many districts Village level Committees on Controlling Human Trafficking (VCCHT) has been formed to prevent suppress the trafficking in	

		women and girls.	
	Promote the girl-child's awareness of participation in social, economic and political life	96. 17,864 community level and school level child clubs/ networks have been established all over the country. In these clubs 46.7 percent members are girl child. These clubs are dedicated to raise awareness on rights of the children. They are campaigning against child marriage, trafficking in children, child labor, abuse, neglect and exploitation against children.	➤ <i>The State of Children of Nepal, 2013</i> , Central Child Welfare Board

Section 3: Data and statistics

All the relevant data and statistics with sources have been mentioned in corresponding sections and questions mentioned above in the report.

Section 4: Emerging priorities

a) What are the key priorities for action over the next three to five years for accelerating implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and subsequent intergovernmental agreements for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women at the national level?

The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare is in the process of developing a ten-year strategic plan to streamline the responsibilities of the ministry. In the strategic plan MoWCSW has underlined following priority strategies and actions in order to promote Gender Equality, to control GBV and to combat trafficking in persons:

Priority 1: Ensure implementation and monitoring of existing laws to protect and promote the rights of women of all categories: Raise awareness about women's rights enshrined in existing laws through women's groups; Extend the programs on legal aid and legal literacy to all women in VDCs; Coordinate with MoE to revise the school curricula and make textbooks gender sensitive and mainstream gender issues in terms of policies and practices in the long run; Set up monitoring mechanisms on a quarterly basis at the district level by mobilizing the local bodies and communities; Explore and initiate partnership with national media at the district level, for wider dissemination of existing laws to protect and promote women's rights, at least once a week. Dissemination will include the steps to be taken by the state as per the latest recommendations of the CEDAW committee.

Priority 2 Ensure clarity of roles and responsibilities of MoWCSW, NWC, DoWC/ DoW and the WCOs/ WEOs at the district level: Conduct a mapping of the roles and responsibilities of various structures within the broader organizational structure of MoWCSW, and revise and realign them ensuring non-duplication in the activities proposed/conducted by the different machineries: MoWCSW, NWC, DoWC/ DoW and the WCOs/ WEOs at the district level; Organize sharing of achievements every quarter among MoWCSW, NWC and DoWC/ DoW at the national level; Organize sharing of achievements and challenges of the WCOs/ WEOs in all five-development regions on a half-yearly basis and at the national level annually.

Priority 3 Strengthen the capacity of various institutions and their structures so that they can provide necessary services to ensure the rights of women: Conduct yearly Gender Audit and organize orientation/training to relevant staff at the district level to ensure the protection and promotion of women's rights; Conduct the monitoring of the services provided to women at the district level by WCOs/WEOs, on a half-yearly basis; Conduct training on existing laws on women's rights to police, judiciary, lawyers, officials of the local development office and WCOs/WEOs on a half yearly basis; Set up a coordination committee (CC) at the district level that includes all the local stakeholders who will

meet every six months to review the past six-month's performance and explore possibilities of how the local stakeholders can provide efficient and effective services pertaining to ensuring the rights of women. The CCs must also explore ways to fulfill the recommendations of the CEDAW committee; Encourage and facilitate in ensuring equal participation of men and women (in proportion to their population) in all government structures and institutions.

Priority 4 Protect and promote the rights of women, including single women, women with disability, Dalit women and women from marginalized communities: Engage with the concerned stakeholders such as MoHA to provide citizenship in the name of mother and make this information public by announcing/disseminating it through national media; Establish a database system at the district level to document the number of such citizenships issued in the name of the mother; Set up a ministerial level coordination committee (CC) chaired by the Minister for MoWCSW to annually coordinate with related ministries in taking into account the recommendations of any studies/research and to lobby with related ministries for changes and formulation of laws that ensure non-discrimination among women of any categories through annual meetings; Organize annual consultation/reflection meetings to map the achievements and challenges related to the rights of women including those who are disadvantaged and marginalized; Hold annual consultation meetings with academic institutions and Universities to conduct research on the persistent problems faced by women from disadvantaged communities such as single women, women with disability, women in minority and Dalit women, among others, in relation to their rights that are preserved in the existing laws and initiate in translating the recommendations from such research into action.

Priority 5 Enhance meaningful participation of women of all categories in the development process and every step of the governance framework for strengthening gender mainstreaming: Facilitate in undertaking annual GESI Audit as well as formulation and implementation of policy and action plans based on this audit in all ministries; Organize coordination meetings every quarter with the GESI focal persons to facilitate in the formulation and implementation of GESI policy in their respective ministries; Set up an annual reward system (GESI focal person and team provided with exposure visits outside the country, in partnership with funding agencies) to encourage those who implement the GESI policy; Provide training to GESI focal person/team to build their capacity in mainstreaming gender in all development processes; Take stock of achievements that have taken place on a half-yearly basis and make comparison among the ministries to create an encouraging environment for gender mainstreaming; Build a database system to document the detailed activities that are conducted at the district level through various development partners. Ensure that duplication of work does not take place; Set up a monitoring and review system based on the database of the district level activities and conduct half yearly monitoring to ensure effective delivery of services.

Priority 6 Empower women by providing necessary training around skills, leadership and capacity development that enhance their entrepreneurship skills: Facilitate and coordinate to effectively implement the 'Operating Guidelines for Women Development Program 2011/12'; Collaborate with funding agencies/development partners and the private sector to provide training related to skill, leadership, and saving and credit and/or commercial banking system to build the capacity of all women and enhance their entrepreneurship development; Explore through WCOs/ WEOs in establishing

innovative, economically viable and sustainable income generating activities and enterprises mobilizing savings and credit cooperatives (SCC) so as to employ increasing number of women with diverse background to ensure their economic empowerment; Annually review the on-going programs that are aimed at economically empowering the women of all categories and share the learning from the review with concerned stakeholders and address emerging issues by organizing a national conference; Organize through WCOs/ WEOs at least one leadership and entrepreneurship development program for women mobilizing SCC in all five development regions, twice a year.

Priority 7 Continue to implement the National Action Plan (NAP) on CEDAW, BPFA and UNSCRs 1325 and 1820: Take stock of the NAP on CEDAW, BPFA and UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 and revise these plans as relevant on a yearly basis; Widely disseminate all NAPs through the district level CCs; Collaborate with all national and international development partners to effectively implement all NAPs both at the national and district level; Monitor the programs conducted through all NAPs on a half yearly basis; Disseminate the monitoring reports through national media tools to make the stakeholders aware of the progress.

Gender Based Violence

Priority 1 Ensure effective implementation of policies and enforcement of existing laws related to GBV at the national and district level Sensitize the educational institutions in understanding the problems manifested by GBV by incorporating this subject in the syllabus and encouraging students to take up research on GBV issues; Continue to sensitize women, men and key members of the community on the root causes of GBV and work with men and boys, in particular, to end it; Mobilize women's groups and youth clubs and create an environment to declare 'a zero tolerance to GBV' in districts through WCOs/WEOs on a regular basis; Continue to conduct gender sensitization programs such as '*Sasu Buhari*' and '*Sama Bikas*' programs; Continue to engage with religious leaders and community social leaders by providing training/workshops to discuss the root causes of GBV, including domestic violence, and ways to address them at the local level; Organize talk/interaction programs through WCOs/ WEOs in local academic institutions on the problems and challenges in addressing all forms of GBV at the district level; Review and investigate the different forms of GBV at the district level and develop mechanisms to address them in the forthcoming plans; Conduct research in collaboration with local academic institutions on the root causes of GBV at the district level and explore possible solutions to end all forms of GBV at the district level.

Priority 2 Strengthen and expand GBV Information Management System (GBVIMS) to document VAW cases: Collaborate with local development partners as well as EDPs to set up a database on the nature of GBV at the village level (those that occur at home, at the workplace and in public), further consolidating such information; Decentralize the system of collecting data at the district level, in coordination with local development partners, police and the court to consolidate the GBVIMS; Update the GBVIMS on a quarterly basis; Widely disseminate GBVIMS through electronic as well as print media tools.

Priority 3 Initiate a process for formulation and enactment of a law on anti-witch hunting: Organise consultation meetings with political parties and law enforcement agencies, and lobby with parliamentarians as relevant in getting 'Bill against accusations on witch hunting' passed; Initiate the

process of drafting an Anti-Witch Hunting Act involving all concerned stakeholders, ensure its enactment at all levels both in public and private domains, and monitor its effectiveness on a regular basis.

Priority 4 Initiate a process for formulation and enactment of a law on sexual harassment: Initiate the process of revisiting the draft 'Anti-Sexual Harassment Bill' that will include all forms of sexual harassment in public and private spheres and share it with concerned stakeholders for feedback and comments; Organize consultation meetings with political parties and law enforcement agencies, and lobby with parliamentarians as relevant in getting the bill on Anti-Sexual Harassment passed; Initiate the process of drafting an Anti-Sexual Harassment Act involving all concerned stakeholders, ensure its enactment at all levels both in public and private domains, and review its effectiveness on a regular basis.

Priority 5 Ensure the establishment of a fast track court to address the issues of GBV within Appellate courts to begin with and later extending it to all district level courts: Establish a separate 'Women Bench' (*Mahila Ijlas*) to address cases related to GBV within the existing judiciary structures for efficient delivery of service to the victims for until a fast track court is established in all district and appellate courts; Organize consultation meetings with judiciary, lawyers and relevant organizations for the establishment of fast track courts; Conduct a study to explore the possibilities of implementing the fast track courts in a phase-wise manner, in partnership with donors; Prepare a plan of action to establish the fast track courts – in coordination with the judicial community; Disseminate the information regarding the fast track courts and motivate those seeking and/or facilitating in seeking justice to channel their cases through the fast track court; Organize a shared learning workshop once every six months, for local police, lawyers and development partners who are engaged in facilitating the victims of GBV to seek justice by using the fast track courts; Monitor the effectiveness of the fast track courts on a yearly basis and make necessary changes based on the recommendations of the monitoring report.

Priority 6 Establish a system for coordination, monitoring and review of roles and responsibilities of different governmental and non-governmental actors in relation to addressing GBV: Develop and widely share the roles and responsibilities of different government machineries such as MoWCSW, NWC, DoWC and WCOs/WEOs at the district level by using electronic as well as print media to provide clarity on who to approach when seeking justice in cases related to GBV; Organize meetings with relevant stakeholders to ensure a uniform understanding of the issues pertaining to GBV in the district by setting up a coordination mechanism such that all implementing agencies target the VDCs in the district with the same kind of programs and activities; Conduct bi-monthly meetings with representatives of different stakeholders at the district level to share and update on the programs and activities being conducted to end GBV; Establish an effective monitoring system along with a monitoring committee at the district level ensuring adequate representation of local government machineries and civil society groups, hold quarterly meetings to monitor the progress and map out the on-going challenges incurred in providing services to victims of GBV, and take actions as relevant to end GBV; Organise coordination/review meetings with EDPs and relevant stakeholders at the national level twice a year to coordinate, monitor and review programs related to addressing GBV; Coordinate with Ministry of Law, Justice, Constituent Assembly and Parliamentary Affairs (MoLJCAPA) to revise the Domestic Violence Act and ensure its effective implementation; Coordinate with MoLJCAPA, MoHA, MoHP and the

Cabinet to issue an ordinance to release the women imprisoned on charges for illegal abortion since abortion (conditional) has been legalized as per the 11th amendment of the Civil Code.

Priority 7 Continue to reintegrate victims of GBV by providing necessary services, including medical facilities, legal remedies, and income-generating skills and seed money, to empower them: Continue to provide victims of GBV with medical treatment, counseling services, and legal aid; Continue to support in providing income-generating skills that are feasible, linking them with local market and also grant seed money, in collaboration with development partners, private sector organizations and donors; Expand the kind of services provided to victims of GBV and allocate sufficient resources as needed for it; Ensure effective monitoring of shelter homes built for the victims of GBV twice a year to ensure that they are following the government guidelines and that victims of GBV are provided necessary care and support on a timely basis.

Trafficking in Persons

Priority 1 Ensure effective formulation and implementation of programs aimed at preventing those who are vulnerable of being trafficked : Coordinate with the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) and WCOs/WEOs in all districts to establish a national database system for collecting and analyzing data on all aspects of trafficking, including those vulnerable of being trafficked, focusing on variables such as age, sex, caste, educational background, occupation etc.; Formulate guidelines and make use of it for the effectiveness of the data management system and addressing TIPs; Train personnel at the district level to collect data based on the guidelines formulated; Update database every six months both at the district and the national level; Analyse the data and identify trends of trafficking, annually at both the district and national level; Continue the on-going awareness raising and psychosocial counseling programs such as '*Kishori Shiksha Karyakram (Adolescent Girls Program)*' that help combat TIPs and promote new initiatives/campaigns targeted at both those who are vulnerable of being trafficked as well as the traffickers and the recruiting agencies for employment; Continue to provide practical economic skills that support livelihood of victims of trafficking and those vulnerable of being trafficked; Develop job-oriented schemes in coordination with the private sector to provide jobs in the local labor market for young girls and women who are vulnerable of being trafficked.

Priority 2 Ensure effective and efficient implementation and monitoring of HTTCA 2007: Design and implement yearly action plan to implement HTTCA 2007 to ensure that perpetrators are punished and victims are protected, assisted and provided shelter; Initiate the process to ratify the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish TIPs Especially Women and Children 2000 (UN TIP Protocol) in coordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA);_Initiate the process to ratify the United Nations International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families 1990 in coordination with Ministry of Labor and Transport Management (MoLTM); Disseminate the information about the UN TIP Protocol and HTTCA 2007 throughout the country through the WCOs/WEOs;_Annually monitor and review programs aimed at combating trafficking at the national level and make serious efforts to implement the recommendations so as to upgrade the position of Nepal from Tier Two to Tier One category under UN TIP Protocol.

Priority 3 Strengthen the capacity of all the institutions and structures working to combat trafficking:

Organize shared learning workshops aimed at strengthening the capacity of the officials at MoWCSW, DoWC/ DoW, NWC and the WCOs/WEOs, in understanding and addressing the problems related to trafficking, on a half yearly basis; Organize orientation/training programs for personnel working in related government machineries such as MoHA and MoFALD focusing on legal provisions and mechanisms of seeking justice in an environment where victim is protected, on a half yearly basis; Organize yearly orientation/training workshops for criminal justice actors, prosecutors, legal professions, immigration centers, police and social workers in all five development regions; Conduct training to bring uniformity in understanding and addressing the problems of trafficking among all local stakeholders, every six months at the district level; Conduct annual M&E of capacity building programs and implement the recommendations to further enhance the effectiveness of the various structures and institutions working on TIPs.

Priority 4 Support the establishment/continuation of shelter homes for trafficked victims, at least one in each development region, and ensure the strict monitoring of the guidelines formulated for these shelter homes:

Initiate the process of integrating the victims of trafficking with their family through mutual consent and in cases where this is not possible, initiate in creating an environment in which the victims are able to lead/take up a dignified and economically sustained livelihood; Conduct feasibility studies and plan of action for setting up shelter homes in each development region; Monitor the shelter homes and ensure that they are operated under the prescribed guidelines; Ensure that the identity of the victims is protected and that any action such as legal prosecution takes place in a manner that protects their rights.

Priority 5 Coordinate, Cooperate and Collaborate with concerned stakeholders within and across the borders to combat trafficking:

Establish clarity of roles of the various institutions such as MoWCSW, NWC, MoFALD, MoHA, MoLTM and other stakeholders and disseminate information on who to approach in cases of trafficking of women and girls; Map and monitor financial resources allocated/used by the government and other stakeholders annually in addressing trafficking and widely disseminate this information to the concerned stakeholders through print as well as electronic media; Work with community groups, youth leaders and political leaders at the local level in sharing information and seeking support by organizing shared learning platforms once every six months at the district level and once a year at the national level to enhance coordinated efforts to address TIPs; Organize quarterly meetings with stakeholders at the border of countries (Nepal and India), involving participants from the police, public prosecutors, local community organizations for coordination and collaboration on efforts aimed at combating trafficking; Work with diplomatic missions and other stakeholders such as police and immigration officers in the destination countries where migrant workers (particularly women and children) are employed; Ensure that the human rights of migrant women workers are protected and that there are adequate human and financial resources to address the problems faced by migrant women workers.

b) What are your country's priorities and recommendations to strengthen gender equality and the empowerment of women in the current discussions on Sustainable Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda?

The GoN, National Planning Commission has prepared Nepal Status Paper on UN Conference on Sustainable Development 2012 (Rio+20). It has recognized the importance of strengthening and integrating three pillars of sustainable development: (a) Economic Pillar, (b) Social Pillar and (c) Environment Pillar. Nepal has achieved progress in poverty reduction and towards attaining the MDGs. It has adopted social protection measures for disadvantaged groups including single women, women disabilities, poor and *dalit* women. The country is continuously seeking to reduce the distributional disparities through various measures of GESI policies and programs. For improving the quality of people in general and rural women and girls in particular, efforts are being made to reinvigorate rural agriculture and financial sector, universal access to safe and nutritious food, water, health, hygiene and sanitation, education and energy services. The focus on pro-poor and GESI friendly policies has direct implications on Green Enterprises. It also reinforces on sustainable mountain development by guaranteeing access to resources and inviolable property rights of mountain communities especially women, indigenous communities and marginalized groups. Nepal is also committed towards ecosystem conservation by paying attention to its fragile eco-system which is prone to natural and human induced calamities. Therefore, Nepal is placing importance to climate resilient planning with focus on disaster risk management and climate change.