

Promoting Inclusive Governance at the Local Level Nepal, 2021



CONTEXT

The participations of women and marginalised groups (WMGs) is crucial in terms of in citizen-state engagement in order to address their needs in decision making, policies and guidelines. The Susasan project adopted a multi-faceted approach that collaborates with the civil society organisations (CSOs), commonly referred as the demand-side and the local government, usually articulated as the supply side. The project team worked rigorously with the CSOs and the local government to develop Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) policies. The key goals of the policies were to assist in increasing the representation of the marginalised groups, escalating the government responsiveness to their needs and ultimately surging the involvement in exercising their democratic rights.



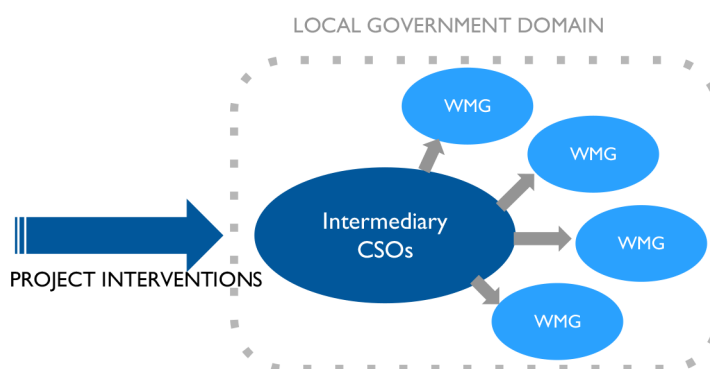
PROJECT APPROACH

- ✓ Training and development of the CSO environment by training of trainers, coaching and mentoring in order to formulate the GESI policies
- ✓ Broadening the understanding and emphasis of GESI in the local government units and coaching them to engage with marginalised groups in the process of policy formulations and other democratic norms

PROJECT DELIVERY APPROACH

Susasan Project

- ✓ Project Management Team
- ✓ National Partners
- ✓ District Project Partners



PROJECT PROCESS



Set clear objectives



Select the right local intermediaries CSOs

GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

The local implementing partners and beneficiaries identified the GESI policy process as the focal point of the project. Partners formed a shared understanding of GESI through dialogue and workshops.

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THE RIPPLE EFFECT

- 1** Policy formulation Training of Trainers(ToTs):The Gender Specialist from CECI conducted three-days long intensive Training of Trainers (ToTs) to the representatives from the key implementing partners during the first year of the project. These participants were instrumental in cascading the key aspects of GESI at the grassroots levels;
- 2** Ripple GESI policy creation: After receiving the training, the implementing partners conducted one-day training for the intermediary CSOs like local women's rights organisations, cooperatives, mothers' groups, etc. The CSOs then reached out to thousands of women and marginalised groups, which helped the process of mainstreaming the essence of GESI at the local level;
- 3** Monitoring the effectiveness of GESI policy implementation:A one day monitoring workshop was conducted during the second year of the project to revise and revisit the GESI action plan. The process also identified the importance of re-orientating the project teams about GESI on a regular basis.

ENGAGEMENT OF WMGs BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The following actions were undertaken by the local governments to help the facilitation uptake for the engagement of the women and marginalised groups in the local governance process.



Identification of policy needs, strategies, and guidelines in the LGs
Memorandum of Understandings between the local partners and the LGs



Formulation of policies, strategies, and guidelines
Technical support from the project teams during the strategy formulation process in a participatory approach.



Awareness buildings on citizen's engagement in policies, strategies, and guidelines
For example: Conducted six ward assemblies for citizen consultations with participations of more than 250 target groups for formulating Agriculture and Livestock Development strategy.

THE SUCCESS STORY

The Kaipal Fresh Vegetable production women farmers' group of Dadeldhura district formulated their GESI policy with the support from the local implementing partner. The new policy enabled the group to unanimously select the chairperson and the treasurer from Dalit community (so called untouchable caste). Although the group was formed in 2005, there was virtually no change in the composition of the executive board members and the incumbents were from the so-called upper caste community. In the community, the number of women leaders were very rare and women leaders were not easily accepted by the local people. Therefore, the newly selected women leaders have contributed in changing the common social misconception that women should remain at home and

women cannot lead. These women have created a special provision of providing a membership discounts to their counterparts belonging to a marginalised group. Moreover, they are actively participating in training, digital literacy sessions and workshops organised by the project with learning outcomes related with the access to technology and information from their local government. Furthermore, women in the community are enjoying more opportunities to understand their rights and they are now able to raise their voice by engaging in public events and participating in Ward assemblies during the local level planning process and budget formulation.

