



NEPAL'S ROADMAP FOR

Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies

A SDG 16 Plus Report



GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL

NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

KATHMANDU

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Foreword

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end every form of poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a blueprint of peace and prosperity for people and the planet with a commitment that no one will be left behind.

Among the 17 SDGs, the goal 16 deals with the core issues of peace, justice and strong institutions, and thus is treated as the cornerstone to remaining other goals. The goal is to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and thus provides access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. The SDG goal 16 should not be seen in isolation. It has strong links with other goals, in line with the integrated and indivisible nature of the agenda. In all, 36 targets directly measure an aspect of peace, inclusion, or access to justice, with only a third of these found in SDG 16 which is thus officially called as SDG 16 Plus targets. This SDG 16 Plus progress report shapes Nepal's conceptualization on SDGs 16 Plus corresponding with the achievements made so far on the related goals, targets and indicators. Looking upon the given targets and indicators highlighted under goal 16, both vertical as well as horizontal integrations and relations are inter-connect-

ed without which SDG 16 goals are difficult to achieve.

The Government of Nepal is mainstreaming and localizing the SDGs in all three tiers of government. The periodic plans, medium-term expenditure frameworks, annual budget and programs and sectoral strategies are being aligned with the SDGs and supported by the national monitoring and evaluation guideline. The private sector, cooperatives and civil society have also stepped up for promoting and ensuring the SDGs alignment in all development endeavors. However, there are some challenges specifically on mainstreaming in sub-national levels, resource mobilization, data management, coordination and monitoring and evaluation. Further, the COVID-19 pandemic has been seen as a big challenge in accelerating efforts to achieve the SDGs. Nepal is exploring ways to minimize its worst impacts by implementing the recovery strategy with the help of SDGs.

The National Planning Commission (NPC) would like to extend its appreciation and acknowledgement to all stakeholders both governmental and non-governmental organizations, private sectors, cooperatives, development partners for their contributions to achieve the SDGs. Finally, the NPC also takes this opportunity to call upon all stakeholders to work together to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs for achieving peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

Prof. Dr Puspa Raj Kadel
Vice-Chair



Photo: UNDP Nepal



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Preface

Nepal as a member state of the United Nations (UN) has initiated implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) since 2016. SDGs are the global compact of peace and prosperity for people and the planet with the overarching goal of leaving no one behind. SDGs are ambitious agenda and require efforts from all the relevant stakeholders due to their complexity and interrelatedness. This SDG 16 Plus progress report has been prepared in consultation with the relevant stakeholders, which is one of the landmark documents to reflect Nepal's commitment for the access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

The major contribution of this study is linking SDG 16 with other goals of SDGs and reflecting Nepal's reality, updating the progresses achieved by 2019 and identification of gaps and challenges to strategize the future direction. Further, this report presents an in-depth review of the SDG 16 Plus agenda that includes a thorough review of operating, functioning and progress achievement and gaps on the targets and indicators of the SDG 16 Plus agenda. Similarly, it focuses on the national progress review of the SDG 16 in line with the themes like quality education, gender and reducing inequality, an effort to make a common understanding on the SDG 16 Plus.

The concept of SDG 16 Plus is a recent discourse that is treated as the cornerstone to the remaining other 16 goals. This goal has both vertical as well as horizontal relation, that is, the targets and indicators under this goal are challenging to achieve unless the similar targets and indicators mentioned in other goals are fulfilled. So, the basic concept of SDG 16 Plus is that this goal should not be seen in isolation. SDG 16 Plus extends SDG 16 to reflect that creating peaceful, just and inclusive societies requires simultaneous efforts in other interlinked SDGs. The broader measures of SDG

16 Plus combine the original SDG 16 targets with an additional 24 targets from seven other SDGs, taking the total number of targets to 36.

The basis behind the notion of SDG 16 Plus further lies on the integrated approaches, grounded in broad participation, which build on the mutually reinforcing work of many communities for promoting and protecting all rights which drive the work done by the government in close partnership with stakeholders mainly the civil society and private sectors.

Given the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the SDGs, which has brought an unprecedented situation in the country's socio-economic front challenging the achievements of SDGs including goal 16. Nepal is exploring ways to minimize its multifaceted impacts by implementing recovery strategies.

I believe that this SDG 16 Plus progress report will be helpful to gauge our progress towards peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Further, I am confident that this report will also be supportive to the planners and policy makers in achieving the SDGs targets to further strategize the actions ahead by tackling the challenges pointed in this report. I also trust that this report ultimately will contribute to the Voluntary National Review (VNR) for the Government of Nepal to be undertaken in 2021.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank all the contributors to bring this report in this form and expect their cooperation in the days to come for accelerating the implementation of SDGs.

Min Bahadur Shahi
Member



Photo: Bill Wegener, unsplash.com



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Foreword

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. The 17 SDGs are integrated which means they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.

The SDGs have been well-integrated into Nepal's national development frameworks. Nepal has developed the SDGs Status and Roadmap 2016-2030, SDGs Needs Assessment, Costing and Financing Strategy, and SDGs Localization Guidelines that spell out baselines, targets and implementation and financing strategies for each SDG. Necessary institutional set-ups are also in place for effective implementation.

While all the goals are interconnected, the SDG 16 is significant for post-conflict societies and specifically for Nepal's emerging democratic federation, as it aims 'to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels'.

Peace, stability, human rights and effective governance based on the rule of law are important conduits for sustainable development. SDG 16 targets seeks layers of other targets to meet for which it is necessary to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels. The major contribution of review study is linking SDG 16 with other goals and reflecting Nepal's reality, updating the progress made by 2019 and identification of gaps and challenges and suggest for future strategies. The ratio-

nale behind the idea of SDG 16 Plus further lies in the integrated approaches, grounded in broad participation, which builds on the mutually reinforcing work of many communities for promoting and protecting all rights which drive the work done by the government in close partnership with stakeholders mainly the civil society and private sectors,

This report highlights Nepal's commitment to SDGs, establishes a rationale to justify the need of SDG 16 Plus in Nepal, presents Nepal's roadmap to SDG 16 Plus including constitutional provisions related to goal 5, goal 10 and goal 16, describes the activities carried out and the progress made so far in Nepal and concludes with a future directive mentioning key areas of improvement. I believe that this report is highly useful to the government and other development workers.

Nepal is struggling to fight against present pandemic of COVID-19, which has slowed development momentum and hindering the targeted economic growth of the country. In this alarming situation, we all need to combat to overthrow this by using all of our capacity for shaping our bright future.

Finally, I would like to extend my appreciation to the Steering Committee members, and peer reviewers of this report. I would also like to thank National Planning Commission colleagues, UNDP and all others who directly and indirectly contributed to the preparation of this report.

Kewal Prasad Bhandari
Secretary

Acknowledgement

This 16 Plus progress report is prepared by the National Planning Commission of the Government of Nepal under the leadership of the Vice-Chair, Prof. Dr. Puspa Raj Kadel. This report presents an in-depth review of the SDG 16 Plus agenda that includes a thorough review of operating, functioning and progress achievement and gaps on the targets and indicators of the SDG 16 Plus agenda. It mainly focuses on the national progress review of the SDG 16 in line with the themes like quality education (particularly target 4.7), gender (Goal 5), reducing inequality (Goal 10), an effort to make a common understanding on the SDG 16 Plus. It has evaluated the targets and indicators concerning peace, justice and accountable institution visualized by SDG 16 highlighting progresses made from the baseline of 2015, the target set for 2019 and the progress till 2019; and analyzed the opportunities and challenges for meeting the SDG 16 with a call to action to change.

Hon'ble member of the NPC and the convener of the SDG 16 Plus progress review committee, Min Bahadur Shahi coined the SDG 16 Plus concept and significantly contributed in facilitating the participatory process of consultations, and provided technical inputs during the preparation of this report. Similarly, other Hon'ble members of the NPC Dr. Krishna Prasad Oli, Dr. Usha Jha, Dr. Dil Bahadur Gurung and Dr. Ram Kumar Phuyal provided their perceptive guidance during the preparation of this report. Member-Secretary Kewal Prasad Bhandari contributed to mate-

rialize the study and bringing the report in this form.

The Joint Secretary and Division Chief Dr. Kiran Rupakhetee, Governance and Social Development Division led to commence and complete the study. Likewise, Joint Secretary Khomraj Koirala, Program Directors Dr. Narayan Raj Paudel and Shiva Ranjan Poudyal and Ms. Laxmi Ghimire are highly acknowledged for their technical contributions. Joint secretaries Suman Raj Aryal (then Joint Secretary of NPC), Biju Kumar Shrestha, Kishor Joshi, Dr. Basudev Sharma and Baikuntha Nidhi Sharma are acknowledged for their contributions. NPC gratefully recognizes the contributions of all Secretaries, Joint Secretaries and other officials from the line ministries involved during the consultation process. NPC also acknowledges the contribution of Dr. Padma Prasad Khatiwada who was directly involved in preparing this report and Dr. Sanjay Hamal involved in editing the report. NPC would also like to acknowledge the contribution of Pushpa Lal Shakya for reviewing the report. Special thanks goes to Keshav Dutta Dawadi, Policy Specialist (Governance and Coordination) working with Accelerating Implementation of SDGs in Nepal project for his contribution to bringing the report in this form.

NPC also acknowledges the contribution of UNDP and European Union country offices for their technical and financial assistance to bring the report to this form through the project Accelerating Implementation of SDGs in Nepal.

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Photo: UNDP Nepal

Acronyms

CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CIAA	Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority
CNI	Confederation of Nepalese Industries
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DoFE	Department of Foreign Employment
FEPB	Foreign Employment Promotion Board
FET	Foreign Employment Tribunal
FNCCI	Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNI	Gross National Income
GPI	Gender Parity Index
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ILO	International Labor Organization
LDC	Least Developed Countries
MoEST	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
MoFAGA	Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration
MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MoLESS	Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security
MoLJPA	Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs
MoWCSC	Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens
NASC	Nepal Administrative Staff College
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NPC	National Planning Commission
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OPMCM	Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers
SAAPE	South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
VAW	Violence Against Women



Photo: UNDP Nepal

Executive Summary

The Outset

This progress report presents Nepal's roadmap for peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Prepared as a call to action to change, the report shapes Nepal's conceptualisation on SDGs 16 Plus corresponding with the achievements so far on the related goals, targets and indicators. Among 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Goal 16 deals with the core issues of peace, justice and strong institutions, and thus is treated as the cornerstone for achieving other goals. Looking at the set targets and indicators under Goal 16, both vertical as well as horizontal integrations and relations are inter-connected without which other SDGs are challenging to achieve. Global study and interventions suggest that 36 SDG targets directly measure an aspect of peace, inclusion, or access to justice, with only a third of these found in SDG 16 which is thus officially concerned as SDG16 Plus targets.¹

SDG 16 Targets Seeks Layers of Other Targets to Meet

SDG 16 targets seeks layers of other targets to meet for which it is necessary to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all level. The major contribution of this study is linking SDG 16 with other goals and reflecting Nepal's reality, updating the progress made by 2019 and identification of gaps and challenges to strategize the future direction. The rationale behind the idea of SDG 16 Plus further lies in the "integrated approaches, grounded in broad participation, which builds on the mutually reinforcing work of many communities"

(OHCHR, 2019) for promoting and protecting all rights which drive the work done by the government in close partnership with stakeholders mainly the civil society and private sectors.

Objectives

The main objective of this report is to conduct an in-depth review and assessment of the SDG 16 Plus agenda in Nepal. It specifically aims to identify and assess the targets and indicators in relation to peace, justice and accountable institution visualised by SDG 16 highlighting progress made from the baseline (2015), target (2019) and progress (2019); and to analyse opportunities and challenges for meeting the SDG 16 with a call to action to change.

Process and Procedure for the Review

While conducting the study, review of literatures, reports, plan documents, web and other documents related to the SDGs at sub-national, national and international levels were carried out at the first stage. The study also devoted for target and indicator-based review of data in relation to SDG 5, 10 and 16. At the second stage, key government stakeholders: officials from the various ministries, academicians, UN agencies, CSO activists directly involved in the SDGs process along with bilateral agencies were consulted with presentation of the draft report. Information obtained through these various techniques were cross-verified using technology like

telephonic and email communications as well as websites of the respective agencies and organisations. Personal meetings with the head of the agencies and organisations were carried out as needed. Matrix charts were developed for meeting the consistency of the information obtained to identify the degree of variation on the response by individual organisation. SDG Progress Assessment Report 2016-2019 has also been taken as an important reference document.

Constitution: Base for Inclusive Democracy

Nepal is a country enjoying inclusive democracy and there are bases to say so. Nepal's Constitution protects and promotes social and cultural solidarity, tolerance and harmony, and unity in diversity by recognizing the multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-religious, multi-cultural and diverse regional characteristics. All these diverse nature of Nepal's typicality resolves to build an egalitarian society founded on the proportional inclusive and participatory principles to ensure economic equality, prosperity and social justice, by eliminating discrimination based on class, caste, region, language, religion and gender and all forms of caste-based untouchability. Furthermore, Nepal is, constitutionally, committed to socialism based on democratic norms and values including the people's competitive multiparty democratic system of governance, civil liberties, fundamental rights, human rights, adult franchise, periodic elections, full freedom of the press, and independent, impartial and competent judiciary, concept of the rule of law, and build a prosperous nation.²

Gender Equality

The Constitution of Nepal has guaranteed many gender-friendly provisions such as

citizenship with the identity of descent and gender, no discrimination on the ground of gender, right to ancestral property without discrimination based on gender, equal lineage right to women without gender-based discrimination, right to participate in state bodies based on inclusive principle and so forth.³ The Constitution has established the National Women Commission as a constitutional organ which is a great achievement in comparison to the previous Women Commission under the government.

Reducing Inequalities

The Constitution aims to abolish "economic inequality through equitable distribution of the gains". The Constitution gives directives "to end all forms of discrimination, inequality, exploitation and injustice in the name of religion, custom, usage, practice and tradition existing in the society".⁴

The Preamble of the Constitution stresses the rationale behind ending all forms of discrimination that is to "Ensure economic equality".⁵ The Constitution mentions the need of a federal act on the distribution of revenues to utilise it and further stresses, "...in development works, reduction of regional imbalances, poverty and inequality, end of deprivation, and assistance to be made in the performance of contingent works and fulfilment of temporary needs".⁶ Constitutionally, every citizen of Nepal enjoys right to equality as fundamental rights.⁷ Politically, Nepal affirms strong enough "to strengthen a federal democratic republican system to ensure an atmosphere where democratic rights are exercised by acknowledging sovereignty, independence and integrity of the country to be of utmost importance; by protecting freedom, equality, property and all citizens through rule of law; by embracing the norms and values of fundamental rights and human

rights, gender equality, proportional inclusion, participation and social justice; and by maintaining a just system in all spheres of national life in order to establish a government system aimed at public welfare, while maintaining relations between federal units on the basis of cooperation between them, and internalizing the principle of inclusion in the governance system on the basis of local autonomy and decentralization".⁸

Peace, Inclusion, Access to Justice and Accountable Institution

The Constitution envisions the aspirations of Nepali for sustainable peace, good governance, development and prosperity. The Constitution has guaranteed the right to participate in the State Bodies based on inclusive principle for all the caste, ethnicity, gender, population composition and place of residence. Article 20 mentions, "no person shall be detained in custody without informing him or her of the ground for his or her arrest. Article 21 devotes the fundamental right of the victims of crime who shall have justice, social rehabilitation and compensation. Children's rights have been ensured under Article 39. Clause 8 mentions the right to juvenile-friendly justice. Article 51 under policies and principles of the State encourages citizens for involving in national development by promoting the economic sector where the State has to ensure social justice and inclusion by ending all forms of discrimination, inequality, exploitation and injustice."⁹

Policy Review

The Criminal (Penal Code) 2017 protects women and children, particularly minorities. The Domestic Violence (Crime and Pun-

ishment) Act, 2006 is considered moderate to address the cases of domestic violence, VAW and GBV. The government has made several arrangements to provide services for those seeking remedies. Some of them are the National Women Commission and Women and Children Service Centers in Nepal Police. Similarly, local governments are entitled to provide remedies to the victims of domestic violence, VAW and GBV.

Realizing the fact that the anti-trafficking programs were surfaced in the previous development periodic plans of Nepal, the subsequent periodic plans have explicitly addressed the need for preventing and combating the trafficking in persons, especially women and children. The Government's institutional mechanisms to regulate foreign employment. On September 19, 2018, 16 bills¹⁰ were passed as per the mandate of the Constitution which had stipulated that laws related to fundamental rights. Right after four months of the promulgation of Nepal's Constitution through the historic Constituent Assembly, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at a historic UN Summit – officially came into force on January 01, 2016 (United Nations, 2016) after rigorous discussions in various forums created by the UN.¹¹

The Constitution provides three tiers of Court, which include the Supreme Court, High Court and the District Court. There is no distinction between the Criminal and Civil Court other than some basic procedures. District Court is the Court of the first instance against the judgment of which Court of Appeal hears the appeal. Besides, the Constitution provides for establishing special types of courts or tribunals under the judicial control of the Supreme Court to deal with special types of cases, which

include- four Revenue Tribunals, one Administrative Court, one Labor Court and one special court.

Nepal has made several efforts to enhance transparency, promote accountability, and create corruption free public institutions and the ultimate goal for them all is to inculcate public sector integrity in Nepal. A political commitment seen for the two decades has paved the way for accountable and transparent governance and the adoption of constitutional-legal measures. The institutional measures for oversight from constitutional bodies, parliamentary committees and through executive surveillance and monitoring systems are the outcomes of such political commitments.

SDG 16 - National Targets, Indicators and Responsible Agencies

Based on the 12 global targets under Goal 16 and 23 indicators, Nepal has added eight new national indicators. However, this progress review has made a critical assessment and suggested to add or delete certain targets and indicators. The monitoring responsibilities have been given to MoHA, MoLJPA, MoFAGA, CBS and NHRC. The progress made against each so far are reviewed in this report.

Ethnic Diversity and Inclusion

Nepal is a country of great geographic, cultural, ethnic and religious diversity which is constitutionally treated as an identity. This identity is inherently valued and is a rich asset of the country. Among the 26.5 million citizens of Nepal, there are many ethnic groups. The directive principles of the Constitution of Nepal states that the political objective of the State shall be to establish a

public welfare system of governance, by establishing a just system in all aspects of the national life through the rule of law, values and norms of fundamental rights and human rights, gender equality, proportional inclusion, participation and social justice. Inclusion, thus, is the major roadmap for Nepali people to reach the path of equality.

Four SDG targets are directly related to inclusion. Target 5.5 ensures women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. Target 10.2 empowers and promotes the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status. Target 16.7 ensures responsive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels. Target 16.9 provides legal identity for all, including birth registration. Nepal has made progress on the proportion of seats by women in the national, provincial and local level government bodies. One-third representation of women in the national and provincial parliaments has been ensured whereas more than two-fifths (40.8%) of women representatives have been elected in the local level. However, women are less in the managerial posts like in decision-making level (29.6%), employees (23%) and professional and technical sectors (25%). Similarly, the social position of women has not been much progressed which is shown by the social empowerment index of 2019 (0.5) against the target of 0.48. Almost similar is in the case of the economic empowerment index which is found to have increased from 0.34 in 2015 to 0.45 in 2019, slightly higher than the target (0.43).

Non-Discrimination

Nepal strongly reaffirms the principle of non-discrimination. The preamble of the

Constitution aims to end all forms of discrimination and oppression created by the feudalistic, autocratic, centralized, unitary system of governance. Five SDG targets are found directly related to non-discrimination. Target 5.1 aims to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere. Target 10.3 ensures equal opportunity and reduces inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard. Target 16.1 aims to significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere. Target 16.2 aims to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children. Target 16.b is focused to promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development. The proportion of the population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months has decreased from 23.6 percent in 2015 to around 14 percent in 2019. Similarly, the proportion of the population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed has been counted as 13.29 percent (NHRC, 2019). On the other hand, the proportion of children aged 1-14 years experiencing physical punishment or psychological aggression decreased from around 82 percent in 2015 to almost 78 percent now.

Freedom and Vibrancy of the Press and Creation of Corruption Free Society

The Constitution guarantees the civil liberties, fundamental rights, human rights, adult franchise, periodic elections, full freedom of the press and independent, impartial and competent judiciary and the concept of the rule of law, and the purpose is to build a prosperous nation. Target 16.3 of the SDG aims to promote the rule of law

at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all. Target 16.5 aims to substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms. Target 16.8 relates to broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance. Target 16.10 is focused to ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, following national legislation and international agreements.

Significant progress has been observed in the past five years on the victims reporting their victimisation to competent authorities which was reported 4.2 percent in 2015 and increased to 7.5 percent in 2019. However, the score for maintaining transparency, accountability, and minimising corruption in public has been stagnant to 3 in the reporting period and our aim is to reach 5 out of 6 by 2030. Nevertheless, marvellous progress has been noticed on the indicator that people's perception on corruption, that is, percent of people with at least one instance in the past 12 months that require to give a bribe/present from 29 in 2015 to 10 in 2019. Similarly, the proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services looks 80 percent which stands as the baseline data to compare in the future.

A Vibrant Society: Unity in Diversity

The government has a strong affirmation in fulfilling the constitutionally mandated protection and promotion of social and cultural solidarity, tolerance and harmony, and unity in diversity by recognizing the multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-religious, multi-cultural and diverse regional characteristics. In line with the Contribution Based Social Security Act, 2017 and its Regulations 2018, the Government of Nepal launched its "Contribution-Based Social Se-

curity Scheme" on November 27, 2018. The scheme is funded through the contributions made by the employees and the employers. The Social Security Fund has introduced various social security schemes: Medical Treatment, Health and Protection Scheme, Maternity Protection, Accident and Disability Protection Scheme, Dependent Family Protection Scheme and, Old Age Protection Scheme. The Employer and the Employees are required to contribute a certain amount of the employee's basic salary each month to the Social Security Fund.

Accountable and Transparent Institution

Two SDG targets are directly related to accountable and transparent institutions. Target 16.6 aims to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels. Target 16.a strengthens relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.

Progress is seen in developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels which is justified by the level of people's satisfaction with their last experience of public services which is 80 percent. However, marginal progress has been seen in the primary government expenditures, that is from 76 percent in 2015 to almost 78 percent in 2019 while the target to achieve by 2030 is 95 percent.

Reducing Inequalities

Four targets have been found directly related to reducing inequalities. Target 10.1 aims to progressively achieve and sustain income

growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population at a rate higher than the national average. Target 10.4 aims to adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality. Target 10.5 explores to improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations. Target 10.7 facilitates orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies (Table 10).

Nepal's Gini coefficient was estimated at 0.33 in 2015 which was targeted to be 0.28 in 2019, however the progress now is 0.30. The income inequality target of 2019 was 0.40 and the progress made is better than the target which is 0.32. The baseline data of 2015 for the share of the bottom 40 percent of the population in total consumption was 18.7 percent. There seems very good progress on it which is 25.7 percent against the target of 17.4 percent. Similarly, the progress on the share of the bottom 40 percent of the population in total income is 20.4 percent. Despite this, the improvement in the Gini coefficient from the level of 2004 (0.47) suggests that the growth in income experienced by the bottom of the income groups has been faster than that of groups above. This transition is reflected in the Palma ratio, measured by the share of the income of the top 10 percent in proportion to that of the bottom 40 percent, which was steady at 1.3 between 2010 and 2015 (NPC, 2017).

Some other indicators of inequality include access to education and school completion, health and nutrition, labor market conditions and wage rates, and social protection coverage. In 2015, the proportion of the richest quintile of income group completing primary education was 2.2 times the poor-

est quintile while children free of stunting in the richest quintile was 1.6 times higher than the poorest quintile (NPC, 2017).

Land Inequality and Landlessness

The land is the most significant asset in the Nepalese rural-agrarian economy. More than 83 percent of Nepalese live in rural areas, and nearly 66 percent depend on agriculture for their livelihood. However, the land is concentrated in the hands of the few in Nepal. While the richest seven percent of households own about 31 percent of agricultural land, the poorest own 20 percent.¹² More than half (53 percent) of Nepali farmers own less than 0.5 hectare of land, and there are 1.3 million households, representing 29 percent of the population, that do not own any land at all (CBS, 2011).

Action to Change

To achieve the set results, the government has stressed on capital investments, human resource development and policy reforms as a major instrument to use. Similarly, collaboration with international communities, non-government actors/civil society and private sectors in implementation is seen as the priority actions of government to meet consistencies in thoughts, visions and actions.

According to the SDG Status and Roadmap Report (2016-2030), investment on reconstruction “is heavily front-loaded”.¹³ The report has further highlighted, “SDGs are not a government responsibility alone; they are a national, country-wide responsibility. A strategic partnership among the government, non-government, private and community sectors would, therefore, be required. Importantly, there needs to be suffi-

cient political buy-in of the agenda, in parliament as well as inside political parties”.¹⁴

Overall challenges are seen as limited data availability, and absence of a data consolidation platform, capacity development and improve physical and statistical infrastructure, enhancing the production, quality dissemination and use of data, ensuring resource availability and collaboration with international and national institutions. Globally three major actions to change are discussed as prevent, renew and involve. Nepal’s contexts in these three actions are, Prevent, that is to invest in prevention so that all societies and people reach their full potential, Renew, that is to transform institutions so that they can meet aspirations for a more prosperous, inclusive and sustainable future, and Involve, that is, to include and empower people so that they can fulfill their potential to work for a better future.

Catalytic actions are needed which will help launch the transformation needed to turn the ambition of SDG 16 Plus into reality. Some actions for achieving the result are to scale up violence prevention for women and children, and for vulnerable groups, respect all human rights and promote gender equality, build safe, inclusive and resilient cities, target communities left behind or most likely to be left behind, increase justice and legal empowerment, reduce corruption and ensure accountable institution, ensure universal birth registration for all and ensure youth and women as agents of change.

The enablers underpin progress towards the targets for a peaceful, just an inclusive society. The major enablers for these are the evidence-based documentation and dissemination, finance, learning and exchange through both vertical and horizontal integration and relation, communication, advocacy and movement building.





Introduction

This report presents an in-depth review of the SDG 16 Plus agenda that includes a thorough review of operating, functioning and progress achievement and gaps on the targets and indicators of the SDG 16 Plus agenda. It mainly focuses on the national progress review of the SDG 16 in line with the themes like quality education (Goal 4), achieve gender equality (Goal 5), reducing inequality (Goal 10), an effort to make a common understanding of the SDG 16 Plus. Ultimately, this report will contribute to the Voluntary National Review (VNR) for the Government of Nepal to be undertaken in 2021.

1.1 Nepal's Commitment to SDGs

Nepal is in the second year of its 15th Plan implementation. We have now completed five years after 193 member states of the United Nations (UN) made their commitments for implementing the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs), 169 targets and 232 indicators. These targets and indicators were officially endorsed in Nepal's Fiscal Year 2016-17 although the major contents were incorporated by the 14th Plan. The Constitution of Nepal promulgated in 2015 was another important opportunity for Nepal to review our social, economic and political concerns in line with SDGs which got wider space of rigorous discussion and debate. The newer trend of departure in the context of the Federal Democratic Republic

of Nepal reflected through Constitution paved the way for framing several acts and their implementation plan with SDG spirit, most of them are found reflected through the 15th Plan. These all legal and policy documents have got wider space for the implementation of SDGs agenda. Implemented since 2016, it is high time now to review how the SDG 16 Plus targets and indicators are being reflected and to what extent we are on track to fulfil the global commitments.

1.2 Why SDG 16 Plus?

The Sustainable Development Goal 16 is to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provides access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Therefore, it deals with the core issues of peace, justice and strong institution, which is treated as the cornerstone to remaining other 16 goals.¹⁵ This goal has 12 targets to be achieved by 2030. Progress towards targets will be measured by 23 indicators.

Looking upon the globally agreed 12 targets, that is, reducing violence, ending exploitation manifested in trafficking, and promoting rule of law etc., the state has the responsibility to protect, fulfil and respect entitlements committed in various targets. Many of the SDGs and their targets are inter-connected. For example, gender equality and women empowerment (Goal 5), reducing inequality

(Goal 10), and quality and inclusive education (Goal 4) are possible only by establishing and sustaining peace, promoting the culture of non-violence, ensuring accountable institution with good governance which is the agenda of goal 16.

1.2.1 Horizontal versus vertical integration and relation of SDGs

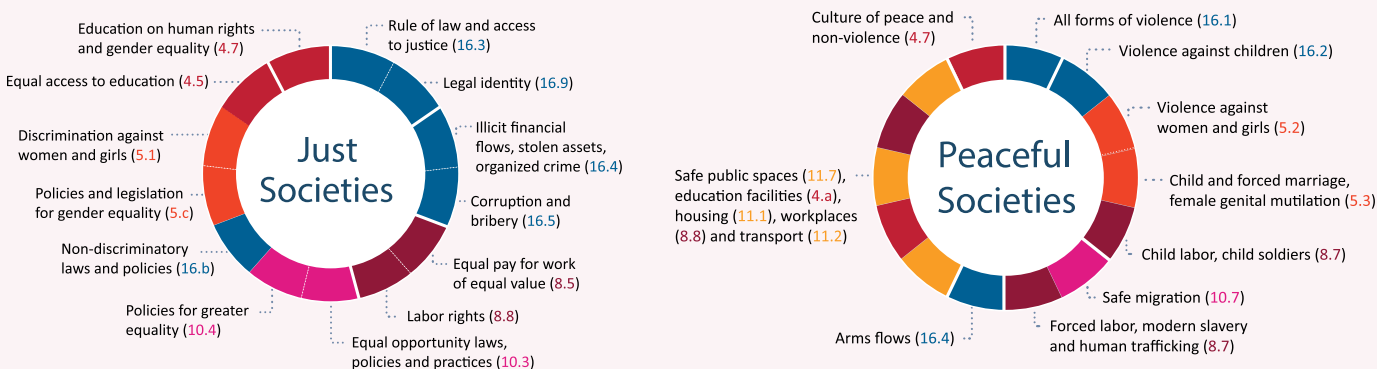
Within five years of SDG implementation, discourses have come up by setting up dimensions, review of indicators and fine-tuning them. One of such dimensions is the discourse of “horizontal integration, i.e., integration across goals, targets and implementing institutions and vertical integration, i.e., integration of policies and actions across various levels of government (federal, provincial and local) and engagement, i.e., the inclusion of relevant stakeholders in the realisation of shared development objectives” (United Nations, 2018).

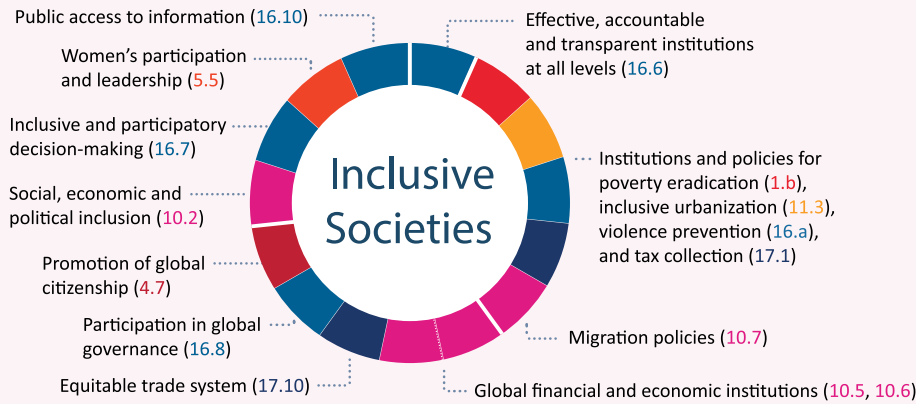
As the core of the 2030 Agenda’s Peaceful, Just and Inclusive pillar, SDG 16 Plus offers a catalytic opportunity to fully realize the 2030 Agenda, as an integrated and mutually-reinforcing whole focused on advancing government accountability, building trust,

and sustaining peace. Peace, justice and the rule of law, and strong institutions to ensure and defend these are the indispensable foundation on which sustainable development aspirations can be built. SDG 16 seeks to comprehensively address these concerns. The basic concept of SDG 16 Plus is that this goal should not be seen in isolation. Further, the concept of SDG 16 Plus is a recent discourse which has both vertical as well as horizontal relation. The targets and indicators of this goal are difficult to achieve unless the similar targets and indicators mentioned in other goals are fulfilled. According to the Pathfinders which are a group of 31 UN member states, international organizations, global partnerships, civil society and the private sectors, 36 SDG targets (Figure 1) directly measure an aspect of peace, inclusion, or access to justice, with only a third of these found in SDG 16. They have officially named this relation as the SDG 16 Plus targets.¹⁶

For example, 24 targets from seven other goals directly measure an aspect of peace, inclusion, or access to justice. Target 16.1 which aims to “significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere” can be fulfilled once we fulfil the target 5.2,

FIGURE 1: Thirty six targets relating to peace, justice and inclusion (SDG 16)





Source: <https://www.SDG16.plus/roadmap>

that is, eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and goal 11 (Sustainable cities and communities). Similarly, target 16.2, that is, “end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children” cannot be achieved unless we “take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, eradicate forced labour and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers” mentioned in target 8.7.

Some SDG 16 targets seek layers of other targets to meet, that is, “develop effective, accountable and transparent institution at all levels” as exemplified in Table 1.

Some targets/indicators have both horizontal and vertical relations such as target 16.1, that is, “significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere” is related with target 16.b: “promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development” and indicator 5.2.2: “proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate part-

ner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence” whereas target 16.2, that is, “end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children” can be fulfilled only after meeting the targets 5.2 and 8.7”.¹⁷ This concept in a sense is a campaign for “shift from SDG 16 to SDG 16 Plus”¹⁸ which needs “transformative strategies” to “provide a basis for integrated action and partnerships”.¹⁹ Three transformative strategies have been devised by the Pathfinders: “Prevent”, “Renew” and “Involve”. The “Prevent” strategy highlights the need to “invest in prevention so that all societies and people reach their full potential” whereas the “Renew” strategy stresses to “transform institutions so that they can meet aspirations for a more prosperous, inclusive and sustainable future” and the “involve” strategy stresses on including and empower people so that they can fulfil their potential to work for a better future.²⁰

The major emphasis of this report lies on linking SDG 16 with other goals and reflecting Nepal's reality, updating the progress made by 2019 and identification of gaps and challenges to strategize the future direction.

TABLE 1: Example of associated SDG targets and indicators required to fulfil the SDG 16 targets and indicators²¹

Goal	Target	Indicator
SDG 1: No poverty	Target 1.4: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance	1.4.1: Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services
SDG 3: Health and well being	Target 3.8: Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all	3.8.1: Coverage of essential health services
	Target 3.7: By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes	3.7.1: Access to reproductive health
SDG 4: Quality education	Target 4.1: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes	4.1.1: Educational achievements (Percentage of children and young people)
	Target 4.a: Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all	SDG 4.a.1, 4.a.2, 4.a.3 and 4.a.4 on school facilities
SDG 10: Reducing inequalities	Target 10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status	10.2.1: Proportion of people living below 50 percent of median income by sex, age and persons with disabilities
	Target 10.3: Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard	SDG 10.3.1: Proportion of the population reporting having personally felt discriminated or harassed in the previous 12 months

The rationale behind the idea of SDG 16 Plus further lies in the “integrated approaches, grounded in broad participation, which build on the mutually reinforcing work of many communities”²² for promoting and protecting all rights which drive the work done by the government in close partnership with stakeholders mainly the civil society and private sectors.

1.2.2 International scenario

The concept of SDG 16 Plus is a recent discourse in the international forum. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet addressing an event on SDG 16 Plus, and the Future We Want: Commitments on July 16, 2019 said. “...this event highlights the importance of SDG 16 Plus – a concept that captures the interlink ages between SDG 16 and all other SDGs, the role of

SDG 16 in enabling the entire 2030 Agenda and the key importance of partnerships for the achievement of the goals. This is integral to the acceleration of our progress in the second cycle of the SDGs and to leaving no one behind.”²³ She added, “the concept of SDG 16 Plus is so persuasive. Because the multi-faceted disempowerment of those who are left behind will not be adequately addressed if we adopt fragmented approaches, designed in silos and applied as band-aids.”²⁴

The roadmap for achieving peaceful, just and inclusive societies has been officially launched at the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly, and updated in 2019, the roadmap, “provides a shared vision for how to deliver the 2030 Agenda targets for peaceful, just and inclusive societies (SDG 16 Plus).”²⁵

1.3 Nepal SDGs: Targets and Indicators

After a series of public consultations and collaborative work of the multi-stakeholder working groups on SDGs including 169 targets, 479 indicators (including 247 national indicators) were adopted by the NPC in 2015. Regarding SDG 16, Nepal has shown commitment to fulfil all the 12 targets and 23 indicators.

1.4 Objectives of the Report

The general objective of this report is to conduct an in-depth review and assessment on the implementation of the SDG 16 Plus agenda in Nepal. The specific objectives of the report are:

- i. To identify and assess the targets and indicators concerning peace, justice and accountable institutions visualised by SDG 16 highlighting the progress made by 2019 from the baseline (2015) and target set (2019) and
- ii. To analyse opportunities and challenges for meeting the SDG 16 with a call to action to change.

1.5 Process and Procedure

During the course of study, review of literatures, reports, plan documents, web and other documents related to the SDGs at sub-national, national and international levels were carried out at the first stage. The study also devoted to target and indicator-based review of data concerning SDG 5,

10 and 16. At the second stage, key government stakeholders: officials from the various ministries, academicians, UN agencies, CSO activists directly involved in the SDG process along with bilateral agencies were consulted with the presentation of the review draft. Information obtained through these various techniques was cross-verified using technology like telephonic and email communications as well as websites of the respective agencies and organisations. Personal meetings with the head of the agencies and organisations were carried out as needed. Matrix charts were developed for meeting the consistency of the information obtained to identify the degree of variation on the response by individual organisation.

1.6 Organisation of the Report

This report is organized into four major chapters. The introductory part contains Nepal's commitment to SDGs, objectives of the review and process followed for the review. It then establishes a rationale to justify the need of SDG 16 Plus in Nepal. The second part of the report presents Nepal's roadmap to SDG 16 Plus including constitutional provisions related to goal 5, goal 10 and goal 16. The third part of the report highlights the activities carried out and the progress made so far mostly based on the SDG Progress Assessment Report 2016-2019. The report finally concludes with a future plan mentioning major areas of improvement with key transformative strategies and catalytic actions as immediate priorities to be endorsed during medium and long-term. This chapter also suggests new indicators replacing some existing indicators.





Nepal's Roadmap for SDG 16 Plus



2.1 Constitutional Provisions

2.1.1 Related to Goal 5: Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

The Constitution of Nepal has included many gender-friendly provisions such as citizenship with the identity of descent and gender (Article 12), no discrimination on

the ground of gender (Article 18.4), right to ancestral property without discrimination on the ground of gender (Article 18.5), equal lineage right to women without gender-based discrimination (Article 38), right to participate in state bodies based on inclusive principle (Article 42) and so forth (Figure 2).²⁶ As per the constitutional provision, Nepal Women Commission has been established as a constitutional body which is a great achievement from the previous Women Commission under the government.

FIGURE 2: Nepal's constitutional provisions related to gender

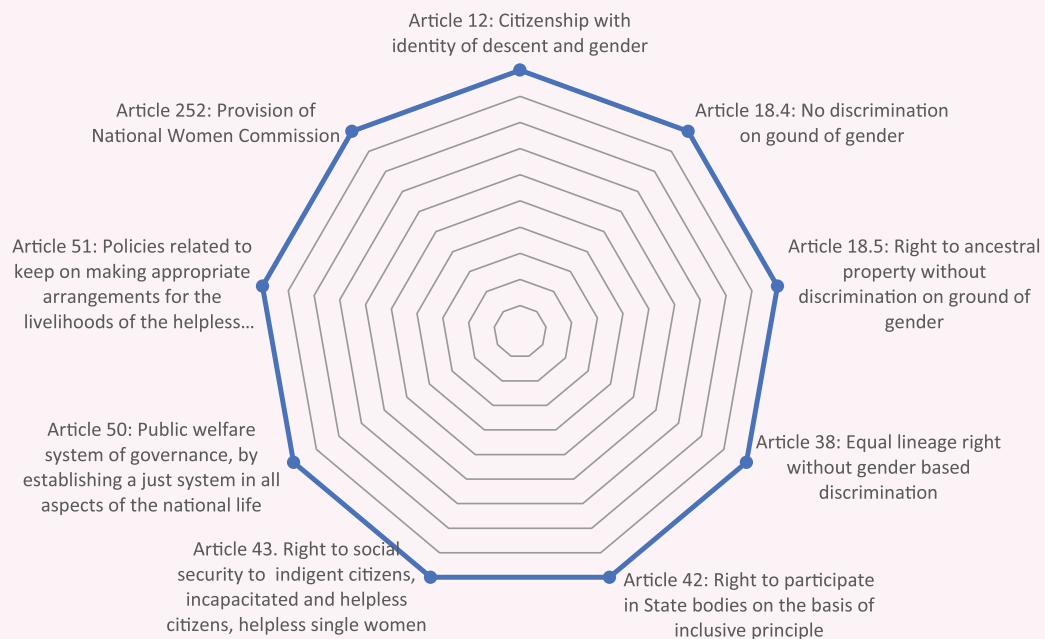
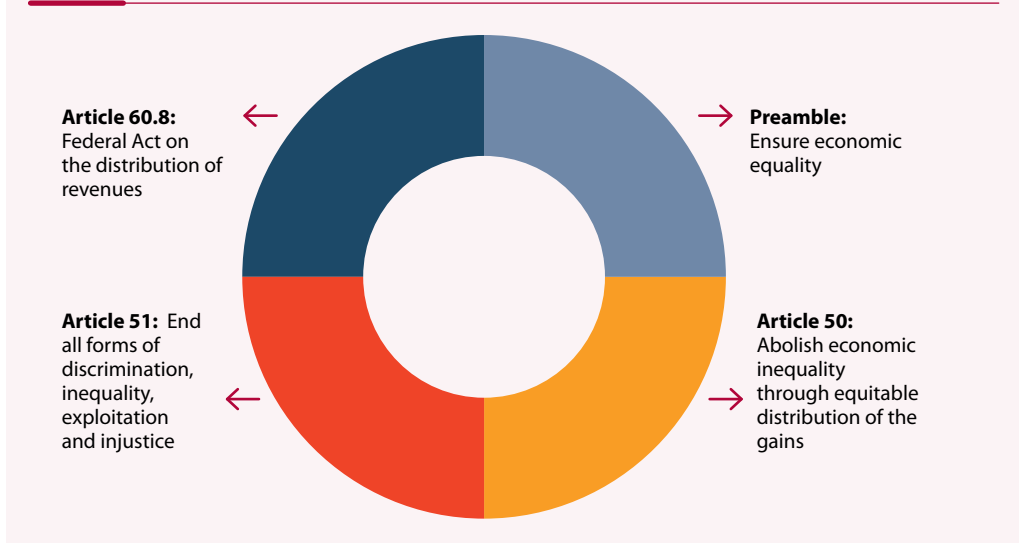


FIGURE 3: Nepal's constitutional provisions related to reducing inequalities



2.1.2 Related to goal 10: Reducing inequalities

Part Four of the Constitution deals with Directive Principles, Policies and Responsibilities of the State. Clause 3 of Article 50 aims to abolish economic inequality through equitable distribution of the gains. Highlighting policies of the State, Article 51 gives directive “to end all forms of discrimination, inequality, exploitation and injustice in the name of religion, custom, usage, practice and tradition existing in the society” (Figure 3).²⁷

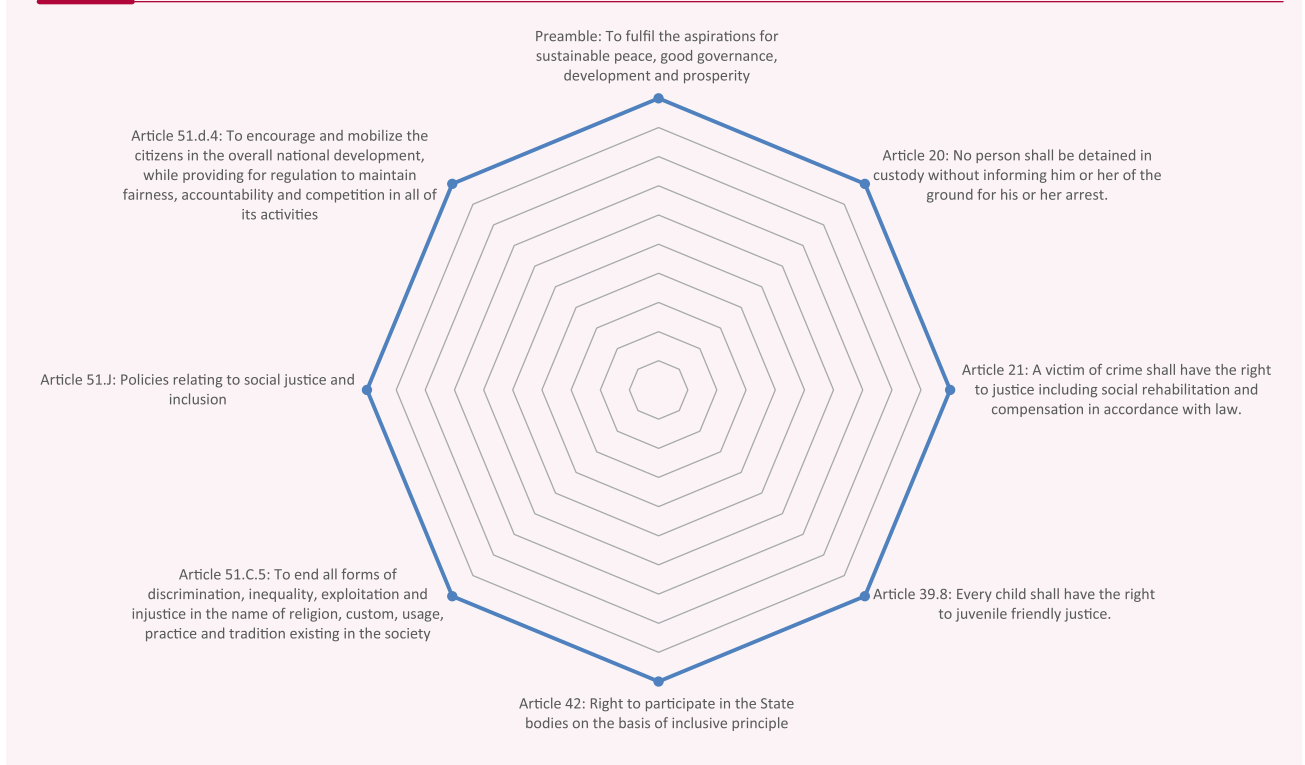
The Preamble of the Constitution stresses the rationale behind ending all forms of discrimination that is to “Ensure economic equality”.²⁸ Similarly, Clause 8 of Article 60 mentions the need of a Federal Act on the distribution of revenues to utilise it “...in development works, reduction of regional imbalances, poverty and inequality, end of deprivation, and assistance to be made in the performance of contingent works and fulfilment of temporary needs.”²⁹ Constitutionally, Nepal enjoys right to equality as fundamental rights.³⁰ Politically, Nepal

affirms strong enough “to establish a public welfare system of governance, by establishing a just system in all aspects of the national life through the rule of law, values and norms of fundamental rights and human rights, gender equality, proportional inclusion, participation and social justice, while at the same time protecting the life, property, equality and liberties of the people, in keeping with the vitality of freedom, sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Nepal”.³¹

2.1.3 Related to Goal 16: Peace, Inclusion, Access to Justice and Accountable Institution

The Preamble of the Constitution highlights the aspirations of Nepali for sustainable peace, good governance, development and prosperity. Article 42 deals with the right to participate in the State Bodies based on inclusive principle for all the caste, ethnic, gender, population composition and place of residence. Article 20 mentions, “no person shall be detained in custody without informing him or her of the ground for his or her arrest. Article 21 devotes the fundamen-

FIGURE 4: Nepal's constitutional provisions related to peace, justice, inclusion and accountable institutions



tal right of the victims of crime who shall have justice, social rehabilitation and compensation. Children’s rights have been ensured under Article 39. Clause 8 of this Article mentions the right to juvenile-friendly justice. Article 51 under policies and principles of the State encourages citizens for involving in the national development by promoting the economic sector where the State has to ensure social justice and inclusion by ending all forms of discrimination, inequality, exploitation and injustice (Figure 4).³²

2.2 Institutional Arrangement

The United Nations, as part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, encourages member states to “conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national

and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven”. These national reviews serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the high-level political forum (HLPF), meeting under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The regular reviews by the HLPF are voluntary and state-led by involving multiple stakeholders. The VNR is one of the ways to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It seeks to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.³³

The National Planning Commission (NPC) is the apex body for overall SDG coordina-

tion in Nepal. The NPC sets up a National SDG platform to enable tracking of Nepal's progress towards achieving the SDGs by 2030 and other national development plans. Nepal did the first VNR in 2017. The report analysed progress against selected SDGs – SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 17, as per the guidelines for the HLPF and presented by then Vice-Chair of NPC on July 17, 2017 in New York.³⁴

The Parliament Committee (SDGs and Good Governance) at the upper house (National Assembly) is the responsible authority in Nepal for norms settings and legislation related to SDGs. Similarly, four layers of high-level committees have been formed to facilitate SDGs implementations:

i. **National SDG Steering Committee chaired by the Prime Minister:** Members include, Vice-Chairperson of the National Planning Commission who is also the Co-chair of the committee, Finance Minister, Foreign Minister, Chief Ministers of all 7 Provinces, Chief Secretary, Chairperson of the association of District Coordination Committees Nepal, Municipal Association of Nepal and National Association of Rural Municipality in Nepal with the NPC Secretary as Member Secretary. This committee can invite sectoral Coordinator members of the National Planning Commission as required as invitee members. The committee provides

policy directives, works to create a conducive policy environment and builds partnerships for achieving the SDGs with multilateral and bilateral development partners, multi-national companies and private investors.

ii. **SDG Implementation and Coordination Committee:** This Committee is chaired by the Vice-Chair of the NPC.

Other members of the committee are members of the NPC, Member Secretary of NPC, all Secretaries of the Ministries related to SDGs, Vice Chairs of the Provincial Planning Commission or Secretaries of Economic Affairs and Planning Ministry, representatives from the association of District Coordination Committees Nepal, Municipal Association of Nepal and National Association of Rural Municipality in Nepal, Chairperson from FNCCI, CNI, National Cooperative Federation, NGO federation with the Joint Secretary of Economic Management Division of NPC as Member Secretary. This committee is responsible for guiding line ministries on mainstreaming the SDGs into national, provincial and local plans, arranging financial, human and technical resources by mobilizing internal and external resources and coordinating between the public and private sectors, civil society and development partners.

iii. **Seven SDG thematic committees:**

Each of them is headed by NPC Members. The main task of these committees is the implementation and monitoring. These committees are related to economic development, industrial development, urban development, social development, labour and employment, agriculture, climate change and environment, infrastructure develop-

“The Parliament Committee (SDGs and Good Governance) at the upper house (National Assembly) is the responsible authority in Nepal for norms settings and legislation related to SDGs.

ment, energy development and governance. The members of these committees include the secretaries or joint secretaries of concerned ministries and invitees from the private sector, civil society and development partners. The concerned NPC Joint secretaries or programme directors are member secretaries. They coordinate with sectoral government agencies, the private sector, civil society, international organizations and other partners. They also coordinate among programmes and projects implemented with ODA and arrange to mobilize ODA through the national budgetary system.

- iv. **Provincial Level Mechanism:** The administrative set up of 7 Provinces for SDGs implementation was expected to be established in the second half of 2018 although there is no any progress to date. These committees will coordinate with the private sector, civil society organisations, development partners, co-operatives and other non-government stakeholders.

2.2.1 Major events regarding SDGs

Nepal has put enormous efforts to localize SDGs. The major events completed by Nepal regarding SDG localization are listed in Table 2.

2.2.2 Reviews of policies and mechanisms

Related to SDG 16

Based on the 12 global targets and 23 indicators under Goal 16, Nepal has added 8 new national indicators (Annex 1). The 2015 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nepal and the Criminal (Penal Code) 2017 protects women and children, particularly minorities. The Domestic Violence (Crime and Punishment) Act, 2006 is considered

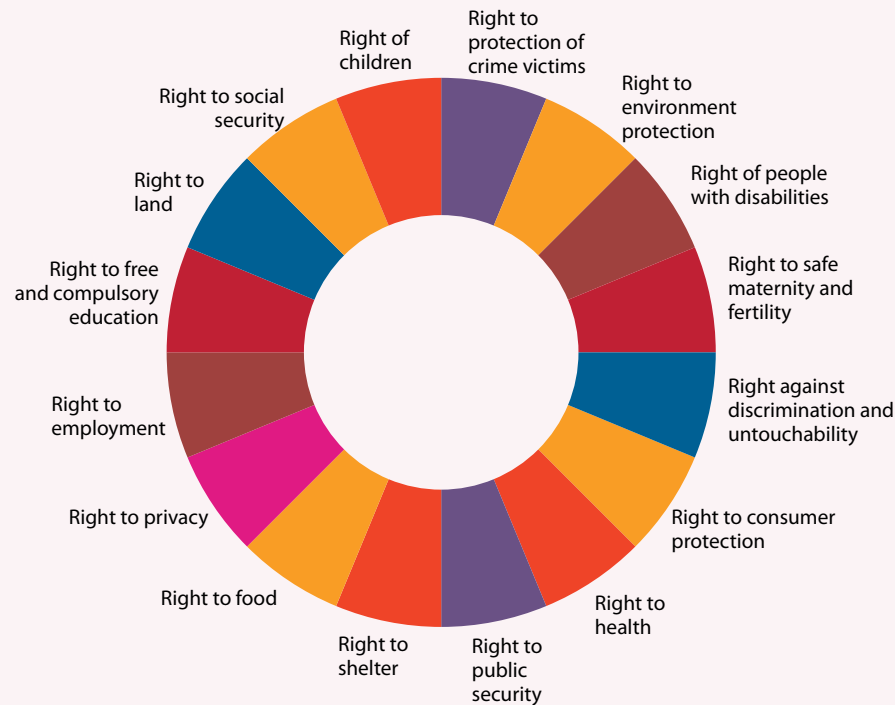
TABLE 2: Major events regarding SDGs

Timeline	Major Events
September 25, 2015	Nepal attends the SDGs Summit at the UN
2016	MDG Final Status Report (NPC, 2016)
2016	Adopted SDGs and prepared the baseline
February 25, 2016	Formed CSOs Forum on SDGs called "Nepal SDGs Forum"
2017	The government formed different committees on SDGs
July 2017	The First VNR presented at the HLPF
July 2017	CSO monitoring report published
July 2018	Participated in HLPF
September, 2018	4 th year celebration
July 2019	Participated in HLPF
September, 2019	Participation in UN SDGs Summit
2019	SDG Progress Review
July, 2020	VNR 2020 published

moderate to address the cases of domestic violence, VAW and GBV. The government has made several arrangements to provide services for those seeking remedies. Some of them are the National Women Commission and Women and Children Service Centers in Nepal Police. Similarly, local governments are entitled to provide remedies to the victims of domestic violence, VAW and GBV.

Realizing the fact that the anti-trafficking programs were surfaced in the previous development periodic plans of Nepal, the subsequent 14th and the 15th plans have further explicitly addressed the need for preventing and combating the trafficking in persons, especially women and children (NHRC, 2018). The Government's institutional mechanisms to regulate the foreign employment through i) Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security (MoLESS), ii) Foreign Employment Promotion Board (FEPB), iii) Department of Foreign Employment (DoFE), iv) Foreign Employment Tribunal (FET) and v) Labor Attaché appointed in the destination countries are the major attempts to control trafficking.

FIGURE 5: Sixteen bills passed by both the House of Representatives and National Assembly on September 19, 2018



Legal Arrangement

On September 19, 2018, 16 bills (Figure 5)³⁵ passed by the House of Representatives and National Assembly were officially approved by the President as per the mandate of the Constitution which had specified that laws related to the fundamental right should be enacted within three years of its proclamation. Among them, four were originated in the Upper House.

Right after four months of the promulgation of Nepal's Constitution through the historic Constituent Assembly, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at a historic UN Summit – officially came into force on January 01, 2016³⁶ after rigorous discussions in various forums created by the UN.³⁷

Judicial system

The Constitution provides three tiers of Court, which include the Supreme Court, High Court and the District Courts. There is no distinction between the Criminal and Civil Court other than some basic procedures. District Court is the Court of the first instance against the judgment of which High Court i.e. Court of Appeal hears the appeal. Besides, the Constitution provides for establishing special types of courts or tribunals under the judicial control of the Supreme Court to deal with special types of cases, which include- four Revenue Tribunals, one Administrative Court, one Labor Court and one Special Court.

Transparency, accountability and public institution

Nepal has made several efforts to enhance transparency, promote accountability, and create corruption-free public institutions

and the ultimate goal for them all is to inculcate public sector integrity in Nepal. A political commitment seen for the two decades has paved the way for accountable and transparent governance and the adoption of constitutional-legal measures. The institutional measures for oversight from constitutional bodies, parliamentary committees and through executive surveillance and monitoring systems are the outcomes of such political commitments. The Government has included several systems for the review and evaluation of public sector performance, and direct citizen oversight through social accountability mechanisms. Nepal has also acceded to some of the international instruments regarding control of corruption, money-laundering, or terrorist financing. However, there is a broad consensus on the need for transparent and accountable governance in Nepal. The Constitution of Nepal recognizes the rights to communication (Article 19) and the right to information (Article 27) as fundamental rights and empowers citizens to seek information on any matters of concern to her/him or public. The Constitution also upholds principles of the separation of powers and checks and balances, allowing Constitutional Bodies and Parliamentary Committees to provide oversight on the government activities. Further, there is a state policy for ensuring government system impartial, transparent, accountable and participatory. The Constitution itself commits in its Preamble and several of its clauses to good governance, accountability and transparency. Several laws have been enacted especially over the past two decades regarding public oversight agencies, control of corruption, vigilance on public procurement, and provisions on right to information and for good governance in general. These Acts and corresponding regulations establish the procedures to create institutions for greater transparency, creat-

“Nepal has established over one and a half dozens of anti-corruption and oversight agencies. The establishment of CIAA is one of the prime examples of this. Further, there are other constitutional bodies, judicial entities, parliamentary committees, executive agencies, and specialised wings of the Ministry of Finance and Nepal Rastra Bank.

ing fairness in public procurement, adopting accountability tools, and reporting and disclosure requirements. Prominent Acts in this regard include the following:

- i. Audit Act, 1991
- ii. Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) Act, 1991
- iii. Financial Procedures Act, 1999
- iv. Good Governance Act, 2007
- v. Public Procurement Act, 2007
- vi. Right to Information Act, 2007

In the meantime, Nepal has established over one and a half dozens of anti-corruption and oversight agencies. The establishment of CIAA is one of the prime examples of this. Further, there are other constitutional bodies, judicial entities, parliamentary committees, executive agencies, and specialised wings of the Ministry of Finance and Nepal Rastra Bank. These institutions operate at different levels of constitutional/legal autonomy and independence (NASC, 2018).

Related to SDG 5

The Government of Nepal has adopted important frameworks for women's human rights, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development

Goals, and UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820. These commitments are enshrined in the Constitution of Nepal and efforts are being taken to ensure that all laws and policies conform with the constitutional provisions on gender equality.³⁸ The Constitution in various Articles [such as 40 (7) Rights of Dalit Women; Article 42 Rights to Social Justice; Article 43 Right to Social Security; Article 51 (j) (1) & (2) Policies of the State; Article 18 Right to Equality and Article 38 Rights of Women] address specifically the intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination against women and girls based on caste, class and ethnicity.

Article 215 (4) of the Constitution provisions that the members of the Rural Municipality Executive shall also include four women members elected by the members of Rural Municipal Assembly from amongst themselves and two members elected by the Rural Municipal Assembly from the Dalit or minority communities. Similarly, Article 216 (4) of the Constitution guarantees that the members of the Municipal Executive shall also include five women members elected by the members of the Municipal Assembly from amongst themselves and three members elected by the Municipal Assembly from the Dalit or minority communities. Local Level Election Act, 2017, Section 6 (2) provides for reservation for two women including a Dalit woman to be elected at each Ward Committee of Municipality and Rural Municipality. The Caste Based Discrimination and Untouchability (Offence and Punishment) Act, 2011, the Tharu Commission Act, 2017, Indigenous Nationalities Commission Act, 2017 aimed at addressing the intersecting forms of discrimination against women. Section 10A (b), (d), (e), (f) of Scholarship Regulations, 2003 provides special scholarship quotas to women, indigenous, Dalit and people residing in backward areas. Major acts to implement these constitutional provisions are the following:

- i. National Civil Code Act, 2017
- ii. National Penal Code Act, 2017
- iii. Domestic Violence (Offence and Punishment) Act, 2009
- iv. Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act, 2007
- v. National Women Commission Act, 2017
- vi. Citizenship Act, 2006
- vii. Some Nepal Acts to Maintain Gender Equality and End Gender-Based Violence Act, 2015

The National Civil Code Act, 2017 (Civil Code) provides for equality of all citizens, right against discrimination, and include provisions of positive discrimination. Section 19 of the Civil Code clearly provides that special measures ensured by the law for the protection, empowerment and development of the citizens including the socially or culturally backward women, Dalits, indigenous people, indigenous nationalities, Madhesi, Tharu, Muslim community, and others. Similarly, National Penal Code Act, 2017 (Penal Code) criminalizes discrimination. Section 160 reads “except otherwise provided by a law in force, no public official shall, while exercising the authority according to the law can exercise discriminatory treatment against any citizen on the grounds of origin, religion, race, sex, caste, tribe, physical condition, condition of health, marital status, pregnancy, economic condition, language or region, ideology or on similar other grounds.”

Executive, Legislative, Judiciary and other state mechanisms are responsible to ensure gender equality and non-discrimination. The parliamentary oversight mechanism (Women and Social Committee of the House of Representatives) is in place to address the concerns of women and children and to oversee the government functions relating thereto specifically to make the government accountable and to ensure the implementation of the policies and legislation in furtherance of women's rights.

The Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen (MoWCSC) at the federal level is responsible to formulate policies and laws concerning gender equality and women's rights standard development, implementation and monitoring of the plan of actions relating thereto. There is a Social Development Ministry in each of the seven Provinces which is responsible for the formulation of Province level policies, laws, women's rights standard development, implementation and monitoring of plan of actions, development and implementation of plans to address Gender-Based Violence (GBV) issues along with ensuring gender-responsive budget. All 753 local level governments are responsible for the protection and promotion of the rights of women.

All three tiers of the Judiciary (Supreme Court, High Court, and District Court) are empowered to promote and ensure the principle of equality and non-discrimination. The Supreme Court has the power of judicial review of each of the laws made and administrative actions taken. Moreover, there are 13 Constitutional Commissions out of which eight Commissions (National Human Rights Commission, National Women Commission, National Dalit Commission, National Inclusion Commission, Indigenous Nationalities Commission, Madhesi Commission, Tharu Commission, and Muslim Commission) deal with issues related to human rights, women's rights, rights of Dalit and indigenous communities, Madhesi, Tharu and Muslim communities/people, and also deal with the issues of inclusion and intersectional elements.

The National Gender Equality Policy is in the process of endorsement. Similarly, the second National Strategy and Action Plan on Gender Empowerment and Ending Gender-Based Violence is also in the process of

“Nepal has adopted a broad-based, inclusive and employment-centric development strategy as well as a progressive tax system to narrow down income inequality.”

drafting at the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers (OPMCM). To ensure substantive equality in health, employment, education and social security through affirmative measures, the MoWCSC has been working to bring an amendment to the relevant legislation.³⁹

Related to SDG 10

Nepal has adopted a broad-based, inclusive and employment-centric development strategy as well as a progressive tax system to narrow down income inequality (NPC, 2012).⁴⁰ Recent formulation of the policy and programmes by the government are more concentrated massively on reducing inequalities. One of them being the Contributions Based Social Security Act 2018 enacted according to the Article 296 (1) of the Constitution. Similarly, the Social Security Regulations has been published in the Nepal Gazette on November 19, 2018 with immediate effect. The Social Security Fund (the “SSF”) has formulated the Social Security Schemes Operational Directives (“Directives”) to operate the Social Security Schemes pursuant to Section 10 of the Social Security Act. The Directive has been approved by the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security on November 22, 2018 and has been effective thereof. The Regulations has prescribed certain matters as required by the Social Security Act. Such matters include (a) the procedure for participation in Social Security Schemes (b) registration of the employer and employee with Social Security Fund (c) operation of fund, etc.



Photo: UNDP Nepal

3

SDG 16 Plus Review

3.1 Inclusive Democracy

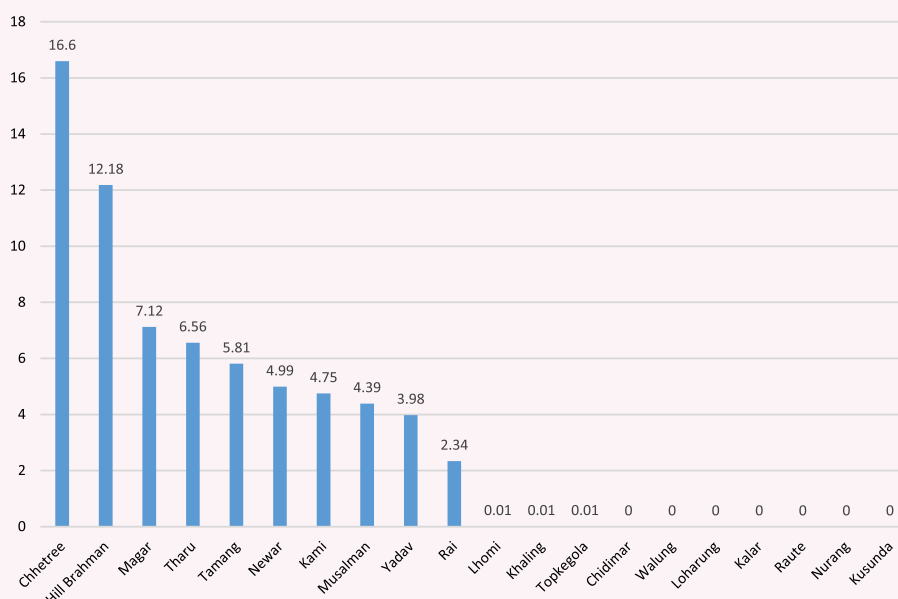
Nepal is a country enjoying inclusive democracy and there are bases to say so. Nepal's Constitution protects and promotes social and cultural solidarity, tolerance and harmony, and unity in diversity by recognizing the multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-religious, multi-cultural and diverse regional characteristics. All these diverse nature of Nepal's typicality resolves to build an egalitarian society founded on the proportional inclusive and participatory principles to ensure economic equality, prosperity and social justice, by eliminating discrimination based on class, caste, region, language, religion and gender and all forms of caste-based untouchability. Furthermore,

Nepal is, constitutionally, committed to socialism based on democratic norms and values including the people's competitive multiparty democratic system of governance, civil liberties, fundamental rights, human rights, adult franchise, periodic elections, full freedom of the press, and independent, impartial and competent judiciary and concept of the rule of law, and build a prosperous nation.⁴¹

3.1.1 Ethnic diversity in Nepal

Nepal is a country of great geographic, cultural, ethnic and religious diversity which is constitutionally treated as an identity. This identity is inherently valued and is a rich asset of the country (CBS, 2014).

FIGURE 6: Top 10 and bottom 10 caste/ethnic groups in terms of percentage of population



Source: CBS, 2014

Among the 26.5 million citizens of Nepal, there are many ethnic groups. Some, like the Hill Chhetree have significant populations; they alone account for just under one-fifth of the total population with the highest share (16.6 percent) (Figure 6). The Hill Brahman population is in the second position with a share of 12.2 percent. There are seven others such as Magar, Tharu, Tamang, Newar, Kami, Musalman and Yadav that have populations of more than one million people. Other groups have small populations; Lhomi, Khaling, Topkegoa, Chidimar, Walung, Loharung, Kalar, Raute, Nurang, and Kusunda all have populations of less than 1,615 with Raute (618), Nurang (278) and Kusunda (273) registering numbers of less than one thousand.

3.1.2 Inclusion

The directive principles of the Article 50 of the Constitution of Nepal states that politically, Nepal affirms strong enough to strengthen a federal democratic republican system to ensure an atmosphere where democratic rights are exercised by acknowledging sovereignty, independence and in-

tegrity of the country to be of utmost importance; by protecting freedom, equality, property and all citizens through rule of law; by embracing the norms and values of fundamental rights and human rights, gender equality, proportional inclusion, participation and social justice. Inclusion, thus, is the major roadmap for Nepali people to reach the path of equality.

Four SDG targets directly related to inclusion are as follows:

- **Target 5.5:** Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
- **Target 10.2:** Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
- **Target 16.7:** Ensure responsive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels
- **Target 16.9:** Provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

FIGURE 7: Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliament (b) provincial parliament and (c) local governments

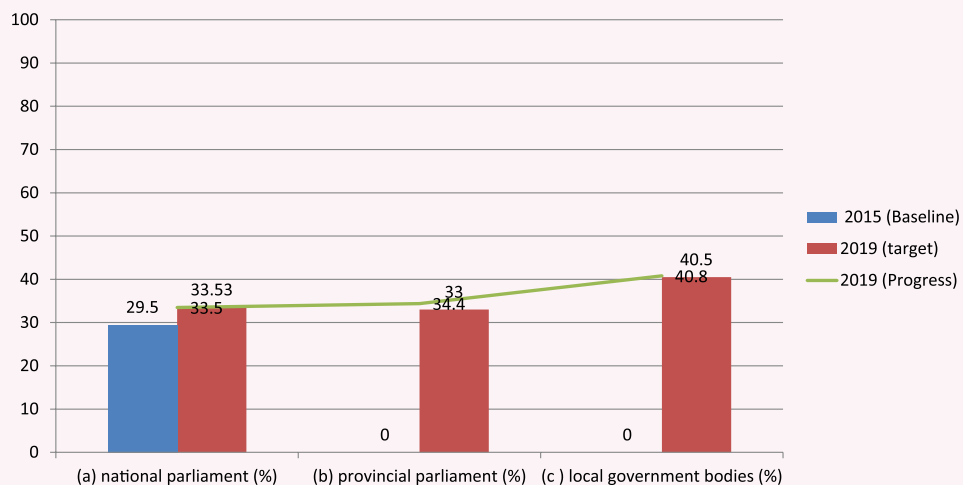
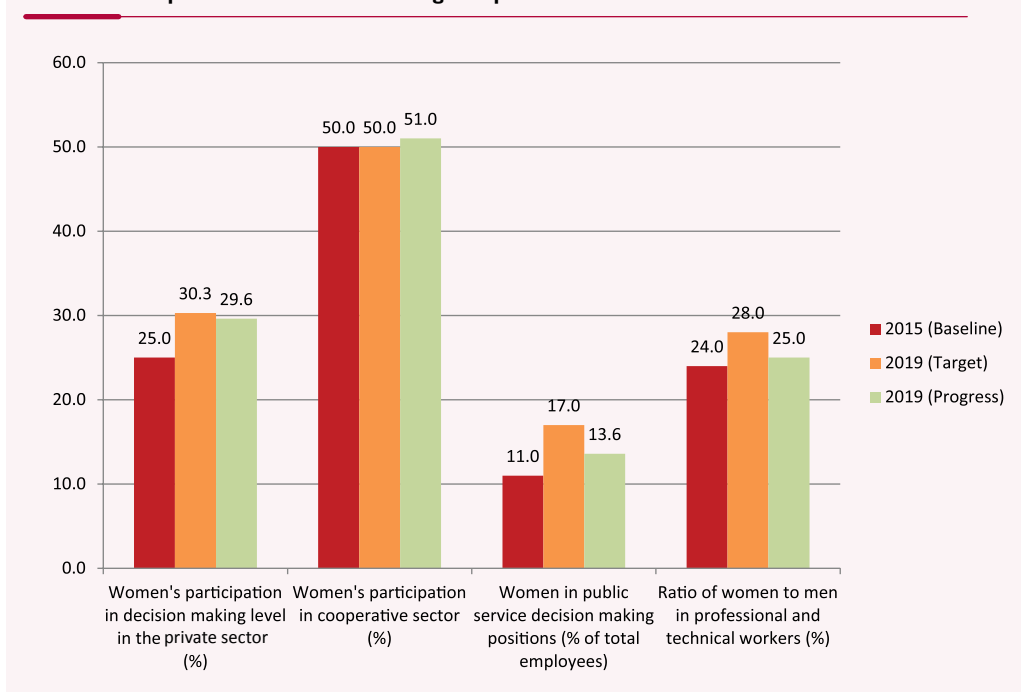


FIGURE 8: Proportion of women in managerial positions



Nepal has achieved progress on the proportion of seats by women in the federal, provincial and local governments. One-third representation of women in the national and provincial parliaments have been ensured whereas more than two-fifths (40.8 percent) of women representatives have been elected at the local level (Figure 7). However, women are less in the managerial posts like in decision making level (29.6 percent), employees (13.6 percent) and professional and technical sectors (25 percent) (Figure 8). On participatory and representative decision-making,

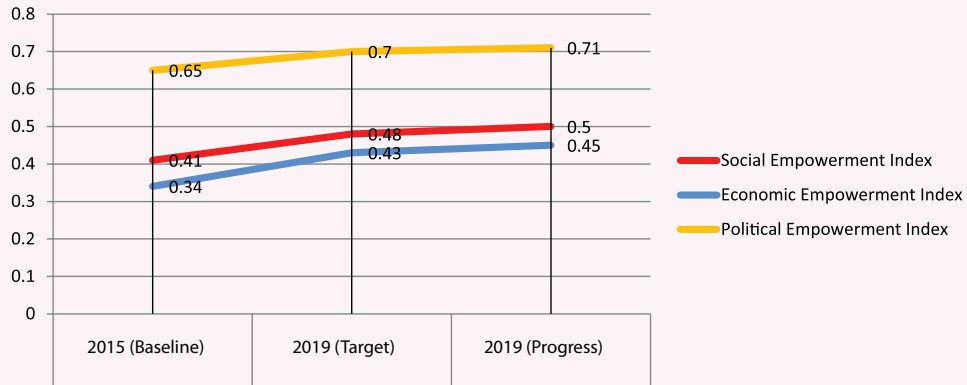
the proportion of women in decision-making positions in public institutions remains much lower (13.9 percent) than expected (20.3 percent) in 2019. Although the participation of women overall has increased, there has been virtually no progress in the decision-making positions in public life held by women (Table 3).

The social empowerment index has been found to have increased to 0.50 from the baseline value of 0.41 of 2015. Similarly, the economic empowerment index is also pro-

TABLE 3: Progress on proportions of decision-making positions held by women in public institutions

Target 16.7 Ensure responsive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels					Sources
16.7.1	Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions	2015 (Baseline)	2019 (Target)	2019 (Progress)	MIS
16.7.2	Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group				Governance survey
1	Proportions of decision-making positions held by women in public institutions	15	20.3	13.9	Governance survey

FIGURE 9: Proportion of people living below 50 percent of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities



gressing from 0.34 in 2015 to 0.45 in 2019. Further, good progress has been seen on the political empowerment index which was 0.65 in 2015 and increased to 0.71 in 2019 (Figure 9).

3.1.3 Non-discrimination

Nepal strongly reaffirms the principle of non-discrimination. The preamble of the Constitution aims to end all forms of discrimination and oppression created by the feudalistic, autocratic, centralized, unitary system of governance. It has mandated, for example the National Dalit Commission to file cases against any persons or bodies on matters of being victims of caste-based discrimination and untouchability or social ill-practices or infringement of or deprivation of enjoyment of the rights of the Dalit, to make recommendations to the concerned bodies to file such cases in courts in accordance with the law.

SDG targets directly related to non-discrimination are as follows:

Target 5.1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

Target 10.3: Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

Target 16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

Target 16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

Target 16.b: Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

Regarding the progress to SDG 5.1, out of the three indicators taken to monitor discrimination against girls, Nepal has met the target for 2019 (0.62 against the target of 0.6). With regards to wage equality for similar work, there has been progress- but it is slow (0.66) relative to the target (0.72). On the gender inequality index, the target was to reduce inequality from 0.49 in 2015 to 0.38 in 2019. There has been a slight progress and the 2019 index stands at almost 0.48 (Figure 10).

FIGURE 10: Progress on whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non discrimination on the basis of sex

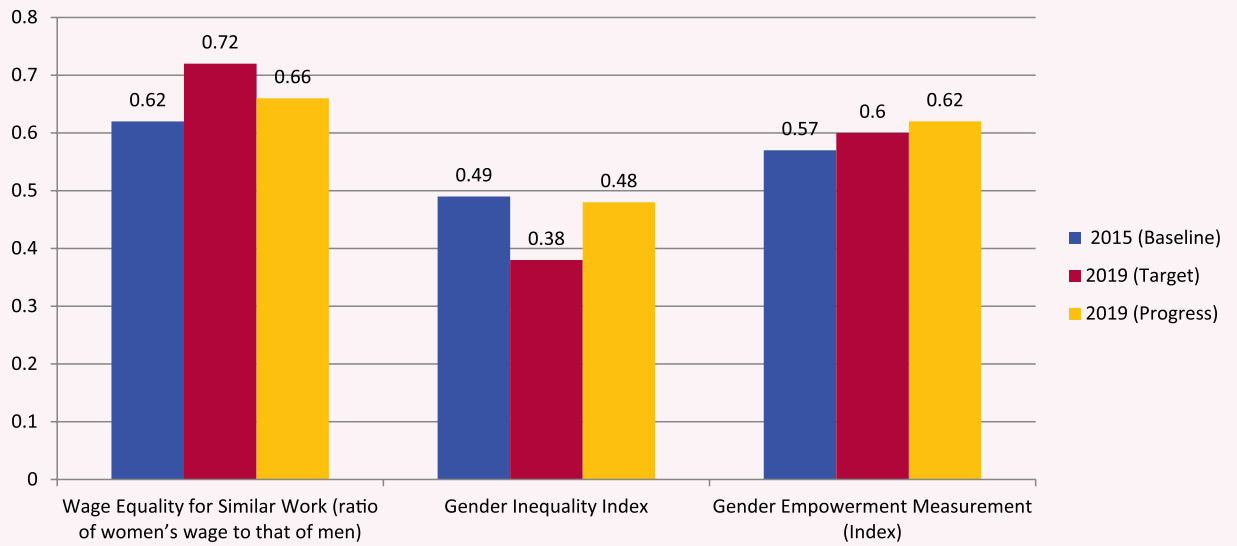


FIGURE 11: Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

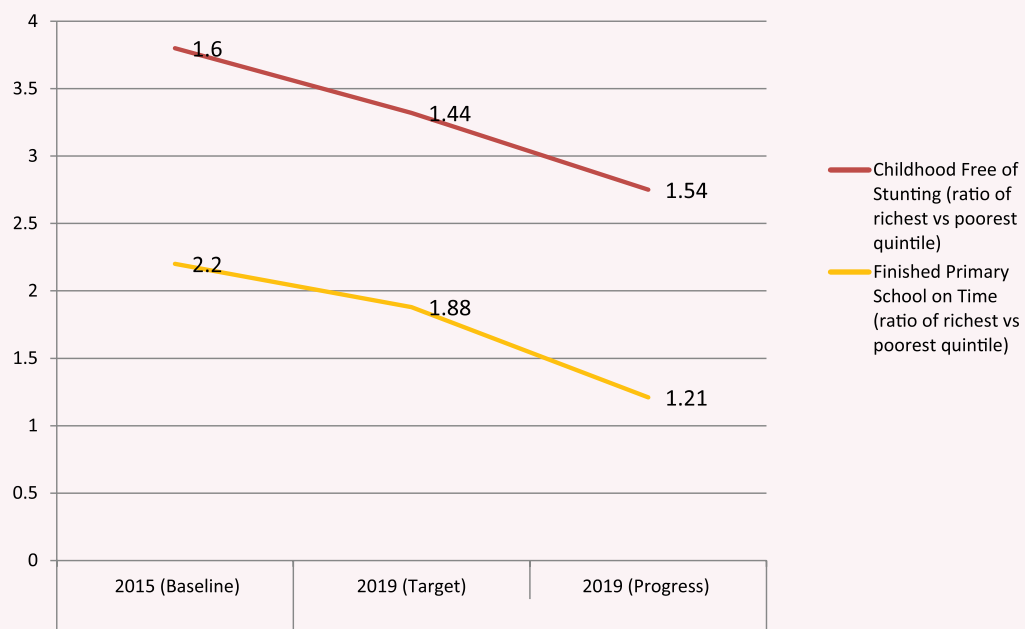
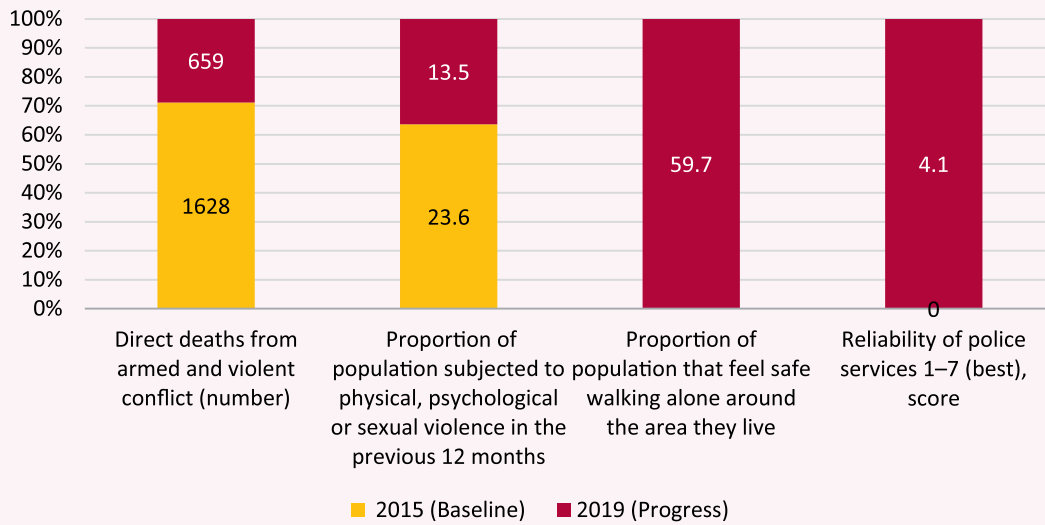


FIGURE 12: Progress on significantly reducing all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere



Source: Reliability of police service data- Staff College, Jawalakahel

FIGURE 13: Progress on ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

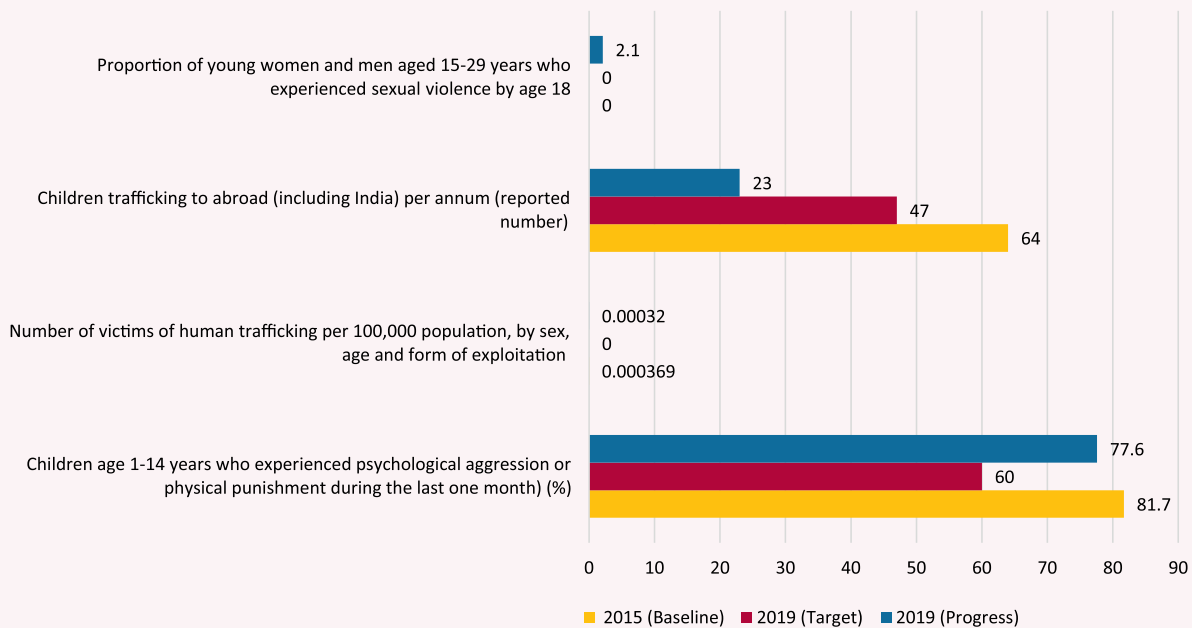


TABLE 4: Progress on proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months

Target 16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development		2015 (Baseline)	2019 (Target)	2019 (Progress)	Sources
16.b.1	Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law	-	-	13.2	Governance survey

Concerning the progress related to SDG 10.3, the primary school completion ratio of richest to poorest quintiles is above the expectation for 2019 (1.21). On the ration of richest to poorest quintiles with respect to stunting, the largest was 1.44 for 2019 and progress is 1.54 in 2019 (Figure 11)

Regarding the progress related to SDG 16.1, Nepal has now significantly reduced the incidents of deaths from armed and violent conflict which is from 1628 in 2015 to 659 in 2019. Population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence has also decreased from almost 24 percent in 2015 to around 14 percent in 2019 (Figure 12). Similarly, the proportion of population reporting as experience of dissemination in the previous 12 months is reported to be 13.2 in 2018 (Table 4).

Regarding the SDG 16.2 target, that is, to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children, significant progress have been found within the three years of SDG implementation in Nepal.

To quote some of them, the proportion of children aged 1-14 years experiencing physical punishment or psychological aggression decreased from around 82 percent in 2015 to 77.6 percent in 2019 (Figure 13).

3.1.4 Freedom and vibrancy of the press and creation of corruption free society

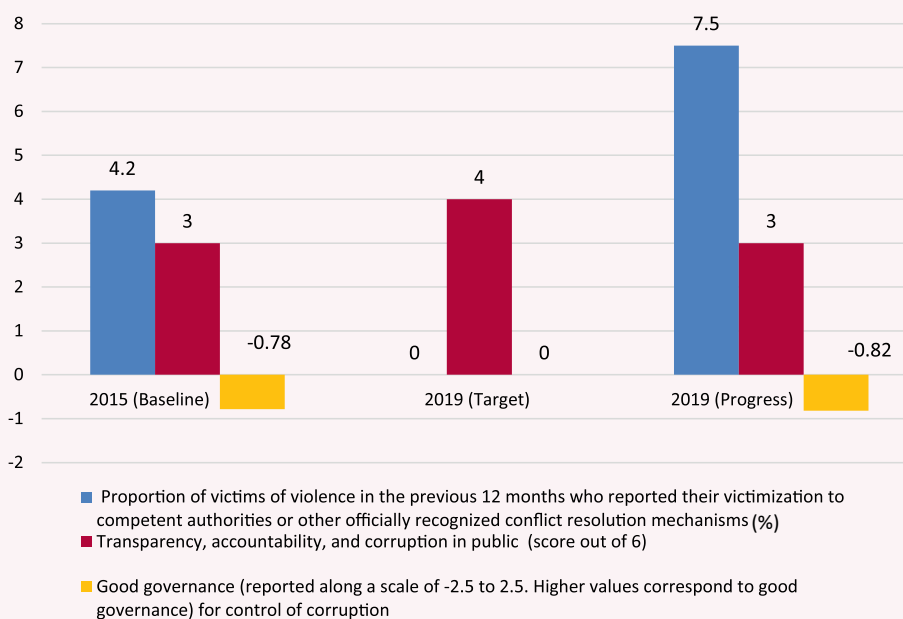
Nepal affirms its commitment towards socialism based on democratic norms and values. The path to go ahead is the people's competitive multiparty democratic system of governance. The Constitution guarantees civil liberties, fundamental rights, human rights, adult franchise, periodic elections, full freedom of the press, and independent, impartial and competent judiciary and the concept of the rule of law, and the purpose is to build a prosperous nation. Target 16.3 of the SDG aims to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.

Targets related to Freedom and vibrancy of the press and creation of corruption-free society:

TABLE 5: Progress on substantially reducing corruption and bribery in all their forms

Target 16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms		2015 (Baseline)	2019 (Target)	2019 (Progress)	Data Sources
16.5.1	Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months	-	-	-	Governance Survey
1	People's perception on corruption (percent of people with at least one instance in the past 12 months that require to give a bribe/present) (Corruption index score)	29	21	10	Governance Survey

FIGURE 14: Progress on promoting rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all



Target 16.3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

Target 16.5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

Target 16.8: Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance

Target 16.10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

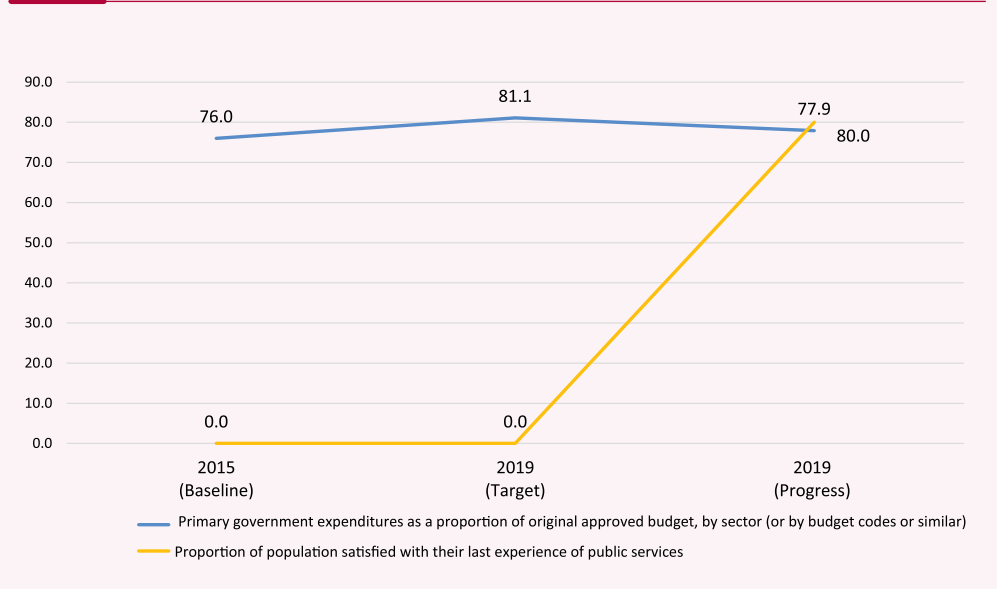
There has been a significant progress in the past three years on the victims reporting their victimisation to competent authorities which were reported 4.2 percent in 2015 and increased to 7.5 percent in 2019. However, the score for maintaining transparency, accountability, and minimising corruption in public

has been stagnant to 3 in the reporting period (Figure 14) and our aim is to reach 5 out of 6 during the SDG implementation period.

Table 5 shows the corruption index score which measures perception of corruption in terms of experience. It demonstrates a drastic decline in 2019 (10) compared to the target 21. Similarly, marginal progress has been seen in the primary government expenditures, that is, local government in our context, that is from 76 percent in 2015 to almost 78 percent in 2019 and the final target is 95 percent by 2030. Similarly, the proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services looks 80 percent (Figure 15) which stands as the baseline data to compare in the future.

There seems to have been remarkable progress, as birth 77.2 percent of births of under five children was registered in 2019 against the target of 66 percent (Table 6).

FIGURE 15: Progress on developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all level



3.1.5 A vibrant society: unity in diversity

The government has a strong affirmation in fulfilling the constitutionally mandated protection and promotion of social and cultural solidarity, tolerance and harmony, and unity in diversity by recognizing the multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-religious, multi-cultural and diverse regional characteristics.

Article 42 of the Constitution of Nepal guarantees the right to social justice, especially for the socially backward women, Dalit, indigenous nationalities, Madhesi, Tharu, minorities, persons with disabilities, marginalized communities, the Muslim community and backward classes.

The Constitution of Nepal has envisioned social security as one of the fundamental rights (under article 34) under the right regarding labor for the citizens as a step towards establishing a welfare society. Being aligned with the assurance of this right, the Contribution Based Social Security Act, 2017 is enacted according to the principle every worker to have appropriate remuneration, facilities and contribution based social security fund (SSF). Meanwhile, the Social Security Regulations, 2018 is enacted further specifying legal provisions by exercising the power conferred to it under Section 69 of the Contribution based Social Security Act.

Overall, the contribution-based social security schemes are subject to the laws, regulations, directives and notifications as mention in the Table 7.

TABLE 6: Progress on providing legal identity for all, including birth registration

16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration		2015 (Baseline)	2019 (target)	2019 (Progress)	Sources
16.9.1	Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age	58.1	66	77.2	MIS, CRVS Survey

TABLE 7: Laws related to social security schemes

Legal Sources	Effective Date
Constitution of Nepal	September 20, 2015
Labour Act, 2017	September 04, 2017
Labour Regulations, 2018	June 22, 2018
Contribution Based Social Security Act, 2017	August 13, 2017
Contribution Based Social Security Regulations, 2018	November 19, 2018
Social Security Schemes Operational Directives, 2018	November 22, 2018
Gazette Notice Requiring Enrolment of Employer to the Social Security Fund	November 12, 2018

In line with the Contribution Based Social Security Act, 2017 and its Regulations 2018, the Government of Nepal launched its “Contribution-Based Social Security Scheme” on November 27, 2018. The scheme is funded through the contributions made by the employees and the employers. The Social Security Fund has introduced the following Social Security Schemes:

- i. Medical Treatment, Health and Protection Scheme
- ii. Maternity Protection
- iii. Accident and Disability Protection Scheme
- iv. Dependent Family Protection Scheme and,
- v. Old Age Protection Scheme

The social insurance schemes cover pension and gratuity benefits, the Employees’ Provident Fund and the Citizen Investment Trust as well as insurance for disability, maternity leave, work-related injury, sickness and survivors’ benefits. These schemes, which are meant to cushion the risks associated with bad health, disability, work injury and old age, only target formal sector employees (ILO, 2017).

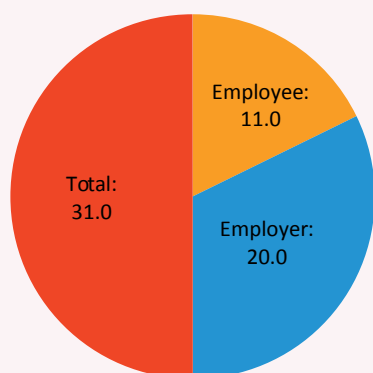
The Employer and the Employees are required to contribute a certain amount of the employee’s basic salary each month to the Social Security Fund. The rate of contribution is shown in Figure 16.

3.1.6 Allocation of contribution

The total amount of contribution made by the Employer and Employee will be allocated to the different schemes as shown in Figure 17.

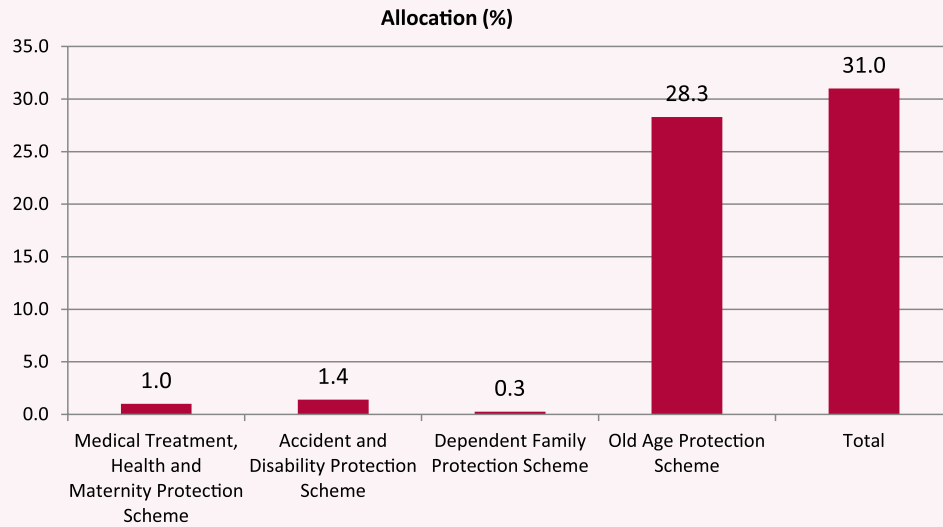
Publishing a notice in the Nepal Gazette, the Government of Nepal formally asked all the employers to be registered with the SSF.⁴² The campaign has aimed to contribute to almost 3.50 million workers and their respective families in the country will get major benefits in five areas from the new scheme. The Fund will be revolving in nature. The scope of the Fund will be broad as included in the act. To manage the Fund effectively, there will be the Board of Direc-

FIGURE 16: Ratio of amount for contribution between employee and employer



Source: MoLESS, 2017

FIGURE 17: Allocation of contribution



Source: MoLESS, 2017

tors, Executive Director, employees, internal control system, audit and actual evaluation, recording system, etc. Meanwhile, the fund may also invest the deposits in lucrative sectors such as hydropower.

Contributing workers can get up to Rs 100,000 every year for treatment in the hospital. The amount will be deposited directly to the hospital once one provides evidence of getting treatment. Workers will get different benefits for accidents occurring at the work place or outside of work as per this scheme. The fund will bear all expenses for the accidents occurring at the work place and up to Rs 700,000 for that occurring outside. The spouse of the contributor will get a life-long pension at sixty percent of the amount the worker is paid per month at the time of death if the contributor dies. Forty percent of the salary will be provided for educational expenses if the dead worker has a kid younger than 18 years. Sixty percent of the salary will be distributed equally among the kids if the dead worker has

more than one kid. Contributors will start to get pension after 60 years. They must contribute for at least 15 years to be eligible for pension. The workers can choose to either withdraw the amount they have contributed to the fund or opt for a monthly pension.⁴³

The number of institutions or organizations so far has been listed in the fund established by the government for the social protection of the workers. In recent days, the number of organizations of institutions to be enlisted in the fund has increased. The government has also made extensive reforms structurally, procedurally and strategically to make the fund's operations effective. All regular, working timely, daily, casual or part-time workers must be listed in the fund. All the organizations and institutions must be listed under the fund system within the stipulated time. If the company or institution is not listed in the fund, the entire responsibilities will have to borne by it for the workers' risk. All the organizations and

institutions were called for listing on the Social Security Fund by mid-October 2018. The total number of beneficiaries of the various social security schemes was about 7.6 million in 2014, which was only about 27.3 per cent of the total population. According to the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security Nepal, Social Security Fund, around 13,722 employers/institutions have come under the scheme.⁴⁴

More than four thousand institutions or organizations have been listed in the Social Security Fund launched by the government. Ganapati Box Industries has deposited the fund in the fund as the first company. The employer will deduct 11 percent of the basic salary of the worker and contribute 20 percent of the basic salary of its own, and deposit a total of 31 percent of the basic salary with the fund every month. There are over 4,400 employers in the fund. From the registered companies, around 195,000 workers have come under the protection of social security.⁴⁵ The Social Security Fund has linked 55 banks and financial institutions to the system to collect the amount for such contributions.⁴⁶

However, those funds can be deposited in all commercial bank branches. The workers deposited in the fund will get the facility as per the social security schemes operated by the Fund. Contributors or employees who make regular contributions to the Fund will benefit from Medicare Health and Maternity Protection, Accident and Disability Protection, Dependent Family Safety and Old Age Protection.⁴⁷ The government has announced a contribution-based social security program for the protection of workers. All private sector employers and workers can participate. The workers involved in this process will get pension benefits from the fund.

Till April 19, 2021, around 198,136 workers or employees have come under contribution-based social security program representing more than 13 thousand employment companies as they all have come under the scheme.⁴⁸

3.1.7 Accountable and Transparent Institution

Targets related to Accountable and Transparent Institution

Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institution at all levels

There has been some progress relative to 2015 in the indicator for government expenditure as proportion of approved budget (77.9 percent) however it remains below the target (81.1 percent). But the proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services stands at 80 percent.

Target 16.a: Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime

In this target, Nepal's progress has been quite positive, as there are three independent institutions dealing with the issues in human rights in compliance with Paris principles.

3.2 Reducing Inequalities

In any society, there is a multitude of inequalities that combine to restrict the economic and social progress of poor and marginalised people. Economic inequalities, such as inequalities of income, consumption, wealth and assets, interact with horizontal inequalities and age-old discrim-

ination based on gender, class and identity. First, we look at these many faces of inequality in Nepal, to ask how extreme the gap between the most privileged and most marginalised has become.

There is a lack of robust longitudinal data showing inequality over time in Nepal. Key data sources to analyse inequality in Nepal are the Nepal Living Standard Surveys and Nepal Demographic Health Surveys.

Targets of Reducing inequalities

Target 10.1: By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

Target 10.4: Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

Target 10.5: Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations.

Target 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

3.2.1 Consumption and Income Inequality

Inequality is measured globally based on consumption, income and wage and is calculated by the Gini coefficient. Nepal's Gini coefficient was estimated at 0.33 in 2015 which was estimated to be 0.30 in 2019. While income inequality in 2015 was 0.46 which has come to 0.32 in 2019. Out of total consumption, the share of the bottom 40 percent of the population was only 18.7 percent in 2015 which reached to 25.7 percent in 2019. Similarly, the share of the bottom

40 percent in total income was nearly 12 percent in 2015. This has been progressed to 20.4 percent in 2019 (Figure 18). Despite this, the improvement in the Gini coefficient from the level of 2004 (0.47) suggests that the growth in income experienced by the bottom of the income groups has been faster than that of groups above. This transition is reflected in the Palma ratio, measured by the share of the income of the top 10 percent in proportion to that of the bottom 40 percent, which was steady at 1.3 between 2010 and 2015 (NPC, 2017).

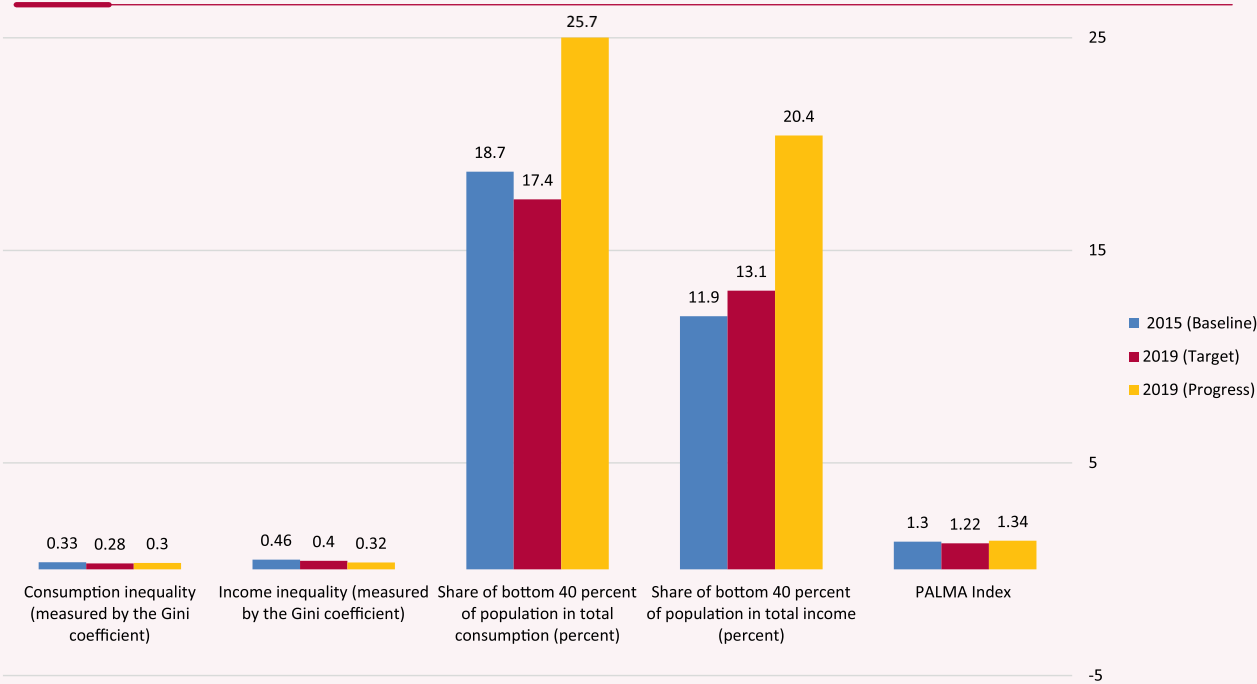
Some other indicators of inequality include access to education and school completion, health and nutrition, labour market conditions and wage rates, and social protection coverage. In 2015, the proportion of the richest quintile of income group completing primary education was 2.2 times the poorest quintile while children free of stunting in the richest quintile was 1.6 times higher than the poorest quintile (NPC, 2017).

3.2.2 Gender and economic inequality

Gender inequality interacts with economic inequality to push the poorest women and girls to the very bottom. Full data disaggregated by gender is not yet available in Nepal, but we know that women and girls remain at a disadvantage. For example, the available data implies that female-headed households are more likely to be poor. According to DHS 2016, 22 percent of female-headed households are in the poorest quintile, compared to 20 percent of male-headed households. At the other end of the spectrum, only 17 percent of female-headed households are in the richest quintile, compared to 22 percent of male-headed households.

There also remains a divide in terms of access to property in Nepal. The survey data

FIGURE 18: Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population



from 2011 shows that just 25.7 percent of households are female-headed, and while the figures imply this has increased it may in fact be an overestimate. The government has granted up to 30 percent tax exemptions on land purchased by women, but this may mean that men are purchasing in women’s names without giving them full ownership or control the asset, in order to take advantage of this tax break. In practice, women are not in a position to sell the property themselves. This points to the need for a more fundamental shift in policy and practice, to improve the economic, political, social and cultural status of women, and to increase their access to assets and other economic opportunities (SAAPE, 2016).

Gender inequality also interacts with other inequalities to leave women and girls in the poorest and most marginalised furthest behind. As in many other South Asian na-

tions, the majority of communities in Nepal are patriarchal, and women and girls life is strongly influenced by their fathers, husbands and sons. Patriarchal norms are deep-rooted, and reinforced by laws that are skewed against women and girls. There is also significant discrimination in all areas of life. For example, the practice of early marriage still exists in Nepal, despite the evidence that this negatively affects the life status of women.⁴⁹

Illegal and harmful practices are also still common in some areas of Nepal. These include Badi (caste-based sex work), Chhaupadi (menstrual seclusion), Kamlari (bonded labour of daughters) and Deuki (selling daughters to temples as child goddesses), as well as child marriage.

Women who suffer gender-based violence (GBV) in Nepal face significant challenges

obtaining justice. Men hold an overwhelming majority of positions in legal institutions, often bringing traditional concepts of masculinity that do not embrace the rights of women. This is one of the major reasons that women are hesitant about reporting the cases of GBV in Nepal.⁵⁰

Gender compounds the impact of economic inequality. A rich woman is four times more likely to have gone to the school than a poor woman, whilst a rich man is fifty times more likely to have gone to school.⁵¹

Progressive laws are also often poorly implemented or ignored in practice. The government has adopted a Domestic Violence (Offence and Punishment) Act, and funded programs on gender-based violence including a hotline for survivors to register complaints. Further, government has also established guidelines for Hospital Based One-stop Crisis Management Centers in several districts, which would allow women to report violence and seek treatment at the same facility. However, implementation has been slow and patchy. Women from remote rural areas of Nepal, and those from poor Dalit and other minority groups, are particularly left behind and continue to suffer.⁵²

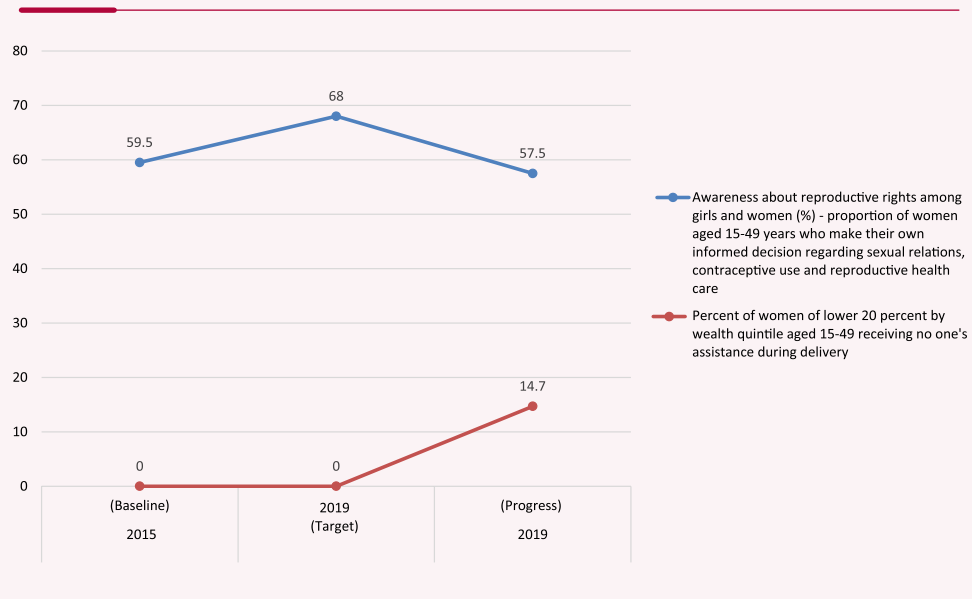
Discrimination against women in minority groups also leaves them ostracized, and can even put their lives at risk, as evidenced in a study conducted by National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). The report quoted a respondent from Banke saying, “We have still the communities who say in our area who refuse to drink water served or touched by the Dalit community”. Another respondent from the same district shared their experience of witnessing caste-based discrimination in the public hospital, where nurses and doctors do not give proper attention to Dalit patients, including Dalit women during childbirth (NHRC, 2017).

“The government has introduced several proactive measures to promote women’s access, ownership, and control over land and property.”

Nepal has agreed to fulfil sexual and reproductive health rights following the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences. Although progress on awareness about reproductive rights among girls and women is found fluctuating (from 59.5 percent in 2015 to 57.5 percent in 2019), women of lower 20 percent by wealth quantile has reached almost 15 percent (Figure 19).

Land and property rights provide another good example of the gap between laws and common practice in Nepal. The government has introduced several proactive measures to promote women’s access, ownership, and control over land and property. These measures, include a 25 percent to 50 percent tax exemption on registration when land is owned by a woman, a 35 percent tax exemption for single women (MoF, 2014), and joint registration of land in the names of husbands and wives with a fee of Rs. 100 (or less than \$1). These laws and incentives do not apply in all geographical areas however, and they can be abused in practice. As we already noted, men are registering land in the name of female family members to take advantage of tax breaks, without giving them any control over the assets. Also, while the Constitution has provided equal property rights to sons and daughters, in practice males in the family are prioritised while women and girls are deprived of their rights.

FIGURE 19: Progress on ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights



In Nepal, women make a significant contribution to the economy, including through unpaid care and household work, however they tend to have lower socio-economic status. This is compounded by a lack of awareness among women of their rights, along with insufficient support from existing institutions to ensure that they can enjoy these rights.

Figure 20 relates to recognizing the value of unpaid care and domestic work undertaken by women. It shows that the ratio of women to men in participation in labour force is 0.61 against the target of 0.95 for 2019 which seems slow in progress. On the other hand, with regards to the average hours spent by women in domestic work, it shows 6 hours in 2019 which is much lower than 11.87 hours, the target set for 2019.

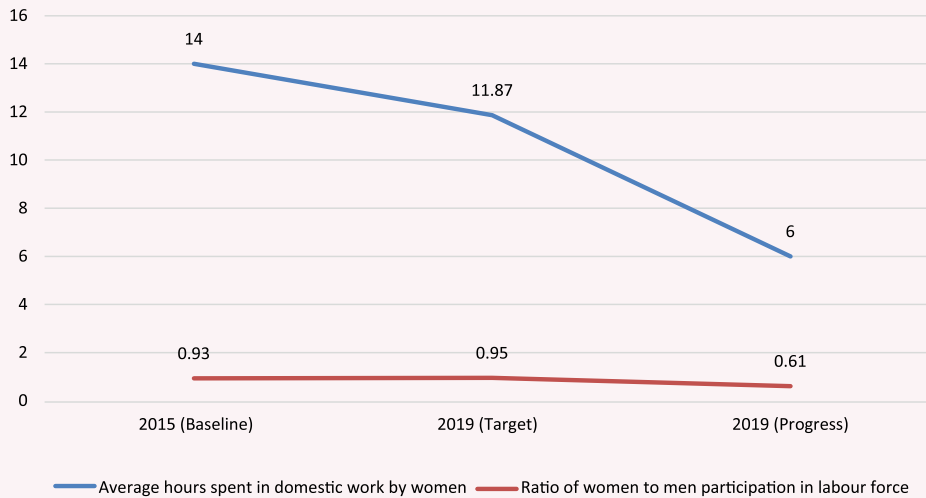
Fundamental changes to the economic, political, social and cultural status of women are needed in Nepal, to increase their access

to decision-making and livelihood opportunities. Without this, too many women and girls are destined to remain in poverty trap.

Figure 21 illustrates the financial markets and institutions. On the three indicators for which comparable data is available (farm households covered by microfinance, global competitive index and doing business index), Nepal's position has been improved. It can be seen that 29 percent of the households have been covered by the micro finance. Similarly, Nepal's global competitive index has also been progressed to 5.1 while the target was 4.1. Further, Nepal has done good progress on doing business index which was 105 in 2015 and now stands on 94.

Table 8 shows the progress on facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies. It demonstrates that recruitment cost born by

FIGURE 20: Progress on proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location



migrant labor has declined but not as expected.

3.2.3 Land inequality and landlessness

Land distribution and ownership inequality is the oldest and most fundamental type of wealth inequality. It manifests in many forms and has far-reaching implications; from a lack of protection for the collective lands of indigenous and peasant communities, to fiscal policies that incentivise extractivism and share the benefits of exploitation of natural resources unequally. Landless people, or those with small landholdings, are treated as the second class citizens in Nepal. They are denied government benefits, and lack access to food, housing, water, health, and work, and are more likely to face social instability and lack opportunities for economic development.

Land is the prime source of livelihood of many rural households. More than 83 percent of Nepalese live in rural areas, and

nearly 75 percent depend on agriculture for their livelihood. However, the land is concentrated in the hands of the few in Nepal. While the richest seven percent of households own about 31 percent of agricultural land, the poorest 20 percent own just 3 percent.⁵³ More than half (53%) of Nepali farmers own less than 0.5 hectare of land, and there are around 1.3 million households of the total population, that do not own any land at all (CBS, 2011).

Skewed patterns of landownership have also been compounded by a deeply discriminatory and strictly hierarchical society that has excluded women, ethnic minorities, and especially those of 'low-caste' (particularly Dalits). In this way, land inequality also mirrors and exacerbates other divisions in Nepal. Approximately 80 percent of Nepal's indigenous population are marginal landowners, meaning that they have less than 1 acre of land holding. Dalits are also more likely to have little or no land. Landlessness is as high as 44 percent among

TABLE 8: Progress on facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

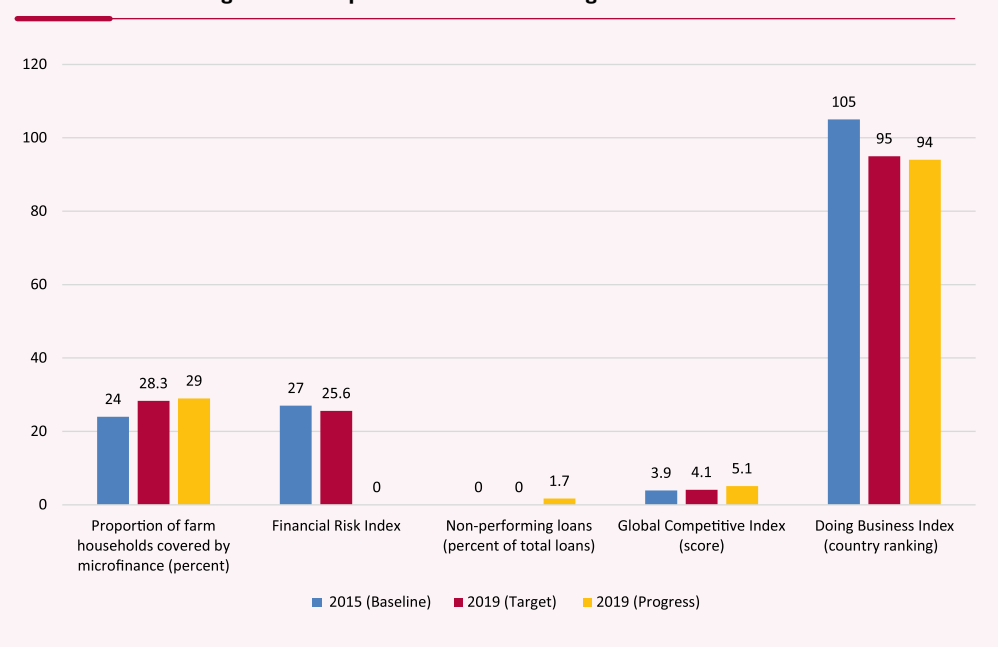
Target 10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies		2015 (Baseline)	2019 (Target)	2019 (Progress)	Data Source
10.7.1	Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of yearly income earned in country of destination	-	-	-	-
1	Recruitment cost borne by migrant labor (average of cost for Malaysia, South Korea and Middle East - USD)	1000	867	900	MoLESS

Dalits in the Terai, and 22 percent among Dalits in hills.⁵⁴ Although women in Nepal work hard and long hours on agricultural land, they own very little of it. Almost 81 percent of women are landless, and overall women own just five percent of land in Nepal. Also, women cannot sell produce, even from land that they own themselves, without the permission of a male family member (Ministry of Agriculture, 2012).

Landlessness is to be found in all regions of Nepal, but rates are high in Terai. There are also many more large land owners in the Terai than in the rest of the country, and

nearly 16 percent of farming households are registered as tenants (541,802 households). However, this is widely known to be a significant underestimate, as around 1.8 million households were renting land in 2001, and comprehensive but highly localized surveys suggest that up to 37 percent of rural households are tenants. One million people are unregistered and do not have the chance to acquire any part of the land they farm, sometimes for decades. Many cannot even get a receipt for the crop-share they pay to land owners. The threat of eviction hangs over all tenants and the tenant farming has become highly mobile over the

FIGURE 21: Progress on improving the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations



last decade or two, farmers moving on after one or two years (Wily, 2009).

3.2.4 Political challenges of land reform

Nepal's Constitution has provisioned scientific land reforms. It guarantees the interest of the farmers by ending dual ownership of land and discouraging absentee land-ownership to increase production and productivity by integrating fragmented land. It also speaks about protection and promotion of farmers' rights while carrying out land management, and commercialization, industrialization, diversification and modernization of agriculture to increase agriculture production and productivity.

Land redistribution through land reform is crucial for the economic development of Nepal. Without land reform, there will be no investment in farming technology, or improvement in agricultural productivity. This prevents the country's evolution from subsistence farming, to surplus farming that could stimulate the economy, create employment, produce raw materials for other industries and reduce social unrest.

Further, huge investment is needed in agriculture. Government programs to introduce irrigation facilities and fertilizers have proven inadequate and their delivery hampered by the mountainous terrain. Government efforts to boost the agricultural economy have focused on easing dependence on weather conditions, increasing productivity, and diversifying the range of crops for local consumption, export, and industrial inputs. Solutions have included the deployment of irrigation facilities, chemical fertilizers and improved seed varieties, together with credit provision and technical advice. Still, the weather continues to determine good and bad years for the average farmer. Further, increased agricultural activity has placed tremendous stress on the fragile ecosystems of the mountains, with severe deforestation leading to erosion and flooding that threatens the livelihoods of farmers throughout the country. Once an exporter of rice, Nepal now is a food deficit country.⁵⁵ Once an exporter of rice, Nepal now has a food deficit country. Official statistics show that 1,030,000 hectares of agricultural land has not been used for agriculture (Ministry of Agriculture, 2012).



4

Action to Change

4.1 Progress in Track

On Goal 5, progress has been seen on increase in the gender empowerment measurement index. There has been found a reduction in women experiencing physical and sexual violence and on average hours spent in domestic work. Significant increases have been observed in the proportion of seats held by women in parliaments and local governments, the number of enterprises owned by women and women's ownership of property (land and house).

On Goal 10, a positive sign has been observed on the economic and political empowerment index. Significant improvement in primary school enrolment and completion, the proportion of farm households covered by microfinance has been observed. Progress has also been observed on the global competitive index as well as improvement in doing business index.

On Goal 16, improvement has been seen in the proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live. People have observed reliability of police services. Improvement has also been observed on psychological aggression or physical punishment against children, lesser incidences of sexual violence, reduction on the corruption index, increase in primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget and proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services.

4.2 Areas of Improvement

Despite the progress in the track above, the following areas of improvement have been observed.

On Goal 5, wage equality for similar work between men and women did not decrease. The gender inequality index could not meet the target of 0.38 from 0.49. The lifetime physical and/or sexual violence could not meet the target of 22.2 from 28.4 percent. Children's experience of psychological aggression or physical punishment could not meet the target 59.9 from 81.7 percent. Target of reducing child marriage also could not meet the target of 18 percent though progress has been seen 19.3 percent from the base value of 24.5 percent. The ratio of women to men participation in labour force turned to be very poor (0.61) despite target (0.95). Similarly, the progress on the ratio of women to men in professional and technical workers is only 25 percent which

“The ratio of women to men participation in labour force turned to be very poor (0.61) despite target (0.95). Similarly, the progress on the ratio of women to men in professional and technical workers is only 25 percent which could not meet the target (28 percent).”

could not meet the target (28 percent). More efforts also need to be taken care on the proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care. It has been found to be decreased to 57.5 percent from the baseline value of 59.5 percent. Further, use of internet by women aged 15 -24 years also could not meet the target. The progress was only 34.97 percent against the target of 40.5 percent in 2019. However, there is good progress as compared to the baseline value of 19.6 percent.

On Goal 10, the Gini coefficient of consumption inequality did not meet the target of 0.28 and remained stagnant to 0.30. Social Empowerment Index remained almost constant. A childhood free of stunting (ratio of richest vs poorest quintile) got slow speed of decrement (from 1.60 to 1.54) and thus did not meet the target (1.44). The ratio of wage index to consumer price index showed a very poor result, that is, decreased from 2.94 to 1.97 despite the target of 2.96. Similarly, the recruitment cost borne by migrant labor also could not meet the target, which remained at USD 900 despite a target of USD 867. Progress on reduction on remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted is not obtained. The proportion of women in decision making position in public institutions remains much lower (13.9 percent) than expected (20.3 percent).

“*Transparency, accountability, and corruption in the public sector remained stagnant but birth registration coverage data was found to be progressing which is increased from 58.1 percent in 2015 to 77.2 percent in 2019 against the target of 66 percent.*”

On Goal 16, transparency, accountability, and corruption in the public sector remained stagnant but birth registration coverage data was found to be progressing which is increased from 58.1 percent in 2015 to 77.2 percent in 2019 against the target of 66 percent. However, much focus needs to be given to meet the target of 100 percent by 2030.

4.3 New Indicators Proposed

Data on some indicators are not collected in the context of Nepal and their baseline is hard to determine. Instead, some similar indicators are found being collected and updated by major surveys of Nepal. Based on the thorough review of the global indicators included in the three goals, the following new indicators are proposed:

- **Target 5.6.1:** The indicator “receiving specific support and service provisions related to sexual health care to the poor, discriminated and marginalized groups (percent)” is proposed to replace by percent of women of lower 20 percent by wealth quintile aged 15-49 receiving no one’s assistance during delivery. The status of 2016 on this indicator is 14.7 according to NDHS 2016.
- **Target 10.5.1:** The financial solution indicator: financial risk index is proposed to replace by non-performing loans percent of total loans and the status is 1.7 percent (NRB, 2018).
- **Target 16.1.4:** Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live (Reliability of police services 1-7 [best], score)

4.4 Main Constraints

Overall constraints have been divided into two groups, constraints of identification, and constraints of implementation.

The constraints of identification are manifested with the targets and indicators concerning goal 16 whereas the constraints of implementation have been noticed with respect to goal 5. The main constraint is noticed for target 5.6 which guarantees equal access to women aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. Similarly, target 5.a has a concern to the implementation of existing legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control. Target 5.c.1 highlights the proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment.

Although legal framework (including customary law) that guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control have been framed, weak systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment are the major constraints.

Many of the targets and indicators related to goal 16 were found with constraints of identification which are listed as follows:

- Proportion of seized small arms and light weapons that are recorded and traced, in accordance with international standards and legal instruments
- Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments
- Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months
- Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journal-

ists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months

- Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information

4.5 Instruments

After identifying and prioritizing major goals and targets in terms of progress, it is the right time to discuss the nature of the intervention of policy instruments. During this period, National Planning Commission (NPC) has developed the 15th Plan with 25 years long term vision. This vision paper is developed aftermath the on-set of implementation of the Constitution of Nepal and international commitments to fulfill the SDGs. During this period, elections to federal, provincial and local governments have been held and for the first time, governments of all levels have been formed ensuring political stability and creating a basis for all sorts of prosperities. The 15th Plan has fully internalized that the need to fulfill the SDG agenda targeted till 2030 and furnished the slogan of "Leave No One Behind". The 15th Plan has adopted its plan to translate this slogan by mobilising and coordinating with all three levels of government: federal, provincial and local. To meet the SDG goal, and fulfill the government's vision of "Prosperous Nepal: Happy Nepali", the vision paper of the NPC has created four milestones, respectively, for 2019, 2022, 2025 and 2030.⁵⁶

To achieve the set results, the government has stressed capital investments, human resource development, policy reforms as a major instrument to use. Similarly, collaboration with international communities, non-government actors/civil society and private sectors in implementation is seen as

the priority actions of government to meet consistencies in thoughts, visions and actions.

According to the SDGs Status and Roadmap Report 2016-2030, investment in reconstruction "is heavily front-loaded".⁵⁷ The report has further highlighted, "SDGs are not the government responsibility alone; they are a national, country-wide responsibility. The strategic partnership among the government, non-government, private and community sectors would, therefore, be required. Importantly, there needs to be sufficient political buy-in of the agenda, in parliament as well as inside political parties".⁵⁸

4.6 Overall Challenges

The overall challenges for achieving SDGs are related to availability of timely and plausible as well as consolidated data. Assessment of the progress in SDG 16 Plus agenda is only as good as the quality of data that supports it. The unavailability of relevant data is the major constraint to monitoring the progress of SDGs. Other challenges for achieving the 16 Plus agenda are as follows (NPC, 2020):

- Eradicating gender-based violence against women.
- Ensuring gender equality in social and economical life.

- Ensuring gender sensitivity in development programs.
- Addressing issues of deep structural inequalities.
- Increased focus on enhancing human capital and capabilities.
- Strengthening social security and protection for target groups.
- Increasing employment creation and raising labour productivity.
- Establishing the rule of law.
- Adopting zero tolerance to cast-based discrimination.
- Improving access to prompt and effective justice.
- Development of legal and institutional capability of provincial and local governments.

4.7 Action to Change

The targets for peaceful, just and inclusive societies are highly interconnected, both with each other and with the other SDGs. The transformative strategies provide a basis for integrated action and partnerships among the government, non-government, private and community sectors. Globally three major actions to change are discussed as 'Prevent', 'Renew' and 'Involve'. These transformative strategies are also the priorities of the Government of Nepal.

Prevent i.e. invest in preventing all forms of violence, discrimination, inequalities in Nepal so that all societies and people reach their full potential. Violence is a threat to all societies. It is a symptom of broader failures to address grievances within a society, resolve disputes peacefully, or to respect the rights of women, children, and vulnerable groups. It also reflects an inability of institutions to guarantee fairer access to opportunities, resources and power, and to identify and respond to risks that could lead to crisis or instability. To build peaceful, just

“

To meet the SDG goal, and fulfill the government's vision of "Prosperous Nepal: Happy Nepali", the vision paper of the NPC has created four milestones, respectively, for 2019, 2022, 2025 and 2030.

and inclusive societies, we need a new commitment to preventing all forms of violence, whether it is found in the home, the community, or the wider society. All countries including Nepal must reduce violence and manage disputes peacefully. Targeted prevention is needed when grievances and exclusion increase the risk of violence.

Renew i.e. transform institutions so that they can meet the aspirations for a more prosperous, inclusive and sustainable future. The 2030 Agenda is a plan of action for transforming our world, but it will only be delivered if we build institutions that are able to accelerate progress towards sustainable development. Nepal is facing social, economic, and environmental challenges that require new and innovative solutions. On the other hand, countries including Nepal have agreed to end poverty and reduce inequalities, while investing in quality health, education, and public services that allow people to fulfil their potential. So, Nepal must focus to address these aspirations which requires an institutional transformation of a scale.

Involve i.e. to include and empower people so that they can fulfill their potential to work for a better future. Exclusion and injustice are drivers of violence and insecurity. Social, economic, and political inclusion holds the key to fostering more peaceful societies. Greater inclusion is essential to defending human rights, to achieving gender equality, and to providing access to justice for all. It will fulfil the commitment to leaving no-one behind and have a profound impact on the lives of those who feel they are being left in the societies. So, Nepal should focus to meet the aspirations of its citizens for a better future, and to respond to the disparities of opportunity, wealth, and power that

“To build peaceful, just and inclusive societies, we need a new commitment to preventing all forms of violence, whether it is found in the home, the community, or the wider society. All countries including Nepal must reduce violence and manage disputes peacefully.”

act as barriers to sustainable development. Further, inclusive policies and approaches are needed for the implementation of all parts of the 2030 Agenda.

The strategies reinforce each other. By investing in prevention, transforming institutions, and including and empowering people, we can make sustained progress towards all targets for peaceful, just and inclusive societies, while reaching the poorest, most vulnerable, and those left furthest behind.⁵⁹

The report identifies some catalytic actions which will help launch the transformation needed to turn the ambition of SDG 16 Plus into reality. The major catalytic actions for achieving the results are to scale up violence prevention for women and children, and for vulnerable groups, respect all human rights and promote gender equality, build safe, inclusive and resilient human settlements cities, target the communities left behind or most likely to be left behind, increase justice and legal empowerment, reduce corruption and ensure accountable institutions, ensure universal birth registration and ensure youth and women as agents of change.

“ *Nepal should focus to meet the aspirations of its citizens for a better future, and to respond to the disparities of opportunity, wealth, and power that act as barriers to sustainable development. Further, inclusive policies and approaches are needed for the implementation of all parts of the 2030 Agenda.* ”

4.8 Enablers

Enablers are those that strengthen the foundations for ambitious delivery. The enablers also reinforce progress towards the targets for peaceful, just and inclusive societies. The major enablers to achieve SDG 16 Plus agendas are:

Evidence and data: Delivery of the SDG 16 Plus targets require increased investment in the knowledge, data, and evidence that is needed to inform decision making for policy makers. So, focus needs to be given on strengthening the national statistical networks and strategies, while the partnership for data should draw on the skills and

expertise of civil society, academia, cooperatives and the private sectors. A strategic approach is needed to provide decision makers with evidence and data to support effective implementation.

Finance: Delivery of the SDG targets for peaceful, just and inclusive societies requires the mobilization of finance from all sources- national and international, public, cooperatives and private sectors. In order to fill the financing gap, government must heavily allocate resources to the prevention of violence, while increasing investments in justice and inclusion.

Learning and Exchange: SDG16 Plus offers opportunities for new types of learning and exchange, highlighting innovation wherever it is found and strengthening policy and professional networks. Governments, local authorities, civil society, academia, cooperatives and private sectors all have a contribution to make to learning and exchange, while international and regional organizations, and multi-stakeholder partnerships and networks provide a platform to mobilize and share knowledge and expertise. Knowledge platforms and hubs will provide policymakers a lot of information that improves decision making and builds the case for action.⁶⁰



Photo: UNDP Nepal



Annexes

Annex I: Descriptions of the SDG 16 national targets, indicators and implementing government body

No	Targets and Indicators	Implementing/Coordinating Agency
Target 16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere		
16.1.1	Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age	MoHA, MoLJPA
1	Direct deaths from armed and violent conflict (number)	MoHA, MoLJPA
16.1.2	Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause	MoHA
16.1.3	Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months	MoFAGA, CBS
16.1.4	Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live	MoHA, CBS
Target 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children		
16.2.1	Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month	CBS
1	Children age 1-14 years who experienced psychological aggression or physical punishment during the last one month (%)	CBS
16.2.2	Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation	MoHA, CBS
1	Children trafficking to abroad (including India) per annum (reported number)	NHRC, MoHA
16.2.3	Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18	CBS
Target 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all		
16.3.1	Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms	MoHA, MoFAGA
1	Transparency, accountability, and corruption in public (score out of 6)	OPMCM
16.3.2	Un-sentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population	MoHA, MoLJPA
1	Proportion of seized small arms and light weapons that are recorded and traced, in accordance with international standards and legal instruments	MoHA
2	Good governance (Reported along a scale of -2.5 to 2.5. Higher values correspond to good governance) for control of corruption	OPMCM
Target 16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime		
16.4.1	Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars)	MoHA
16.4.2	Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments	MoHA
Target 16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms		

No	Targets and Indicators	Implementing/Coordinating Agency
16.5.1	Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months	MoFAGA
1	People's perception on corruption (% of people with at least one instance in the past 12 months that require to give a bribe/present) (Corruption index score)	MoFAGA
16.5.2	Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months	CBS
Target 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institution at all levels		
16.6.1	Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)	MoF
16.6.2	Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services	MoFAGA, CBS
Target 16.7 Ensure responsive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels		
16.7.1	Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions	MoFAGA
16.7.2	Proportion of population who believe decisionmaking is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group	MoFAGA, CBS
1	Proportions of decision making positions held by women in public institutions	MoFAGA, CBS
Target 16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance		
16.8.1	Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations	MoFAGA
Target 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration		
16.9.1	Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age	MoFAGA, CBS
Target 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements		
16.10.1	Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months	MoHA
16.10.2	Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information	OPMCM
Target 16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime		
16.a.1	Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles	NHRC
Target 16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development		
16.b.1	Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law	MoFAGA

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Notes

- 1 See further at <https://www.sdg16.plus/roadmap>.
- 2 See further the Preamble of the Constitution of Nepal. Available from <http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/archives/category/documents/prevailing-law/constitution/constitution-of-nepal>.
- 3 English translation of the Constitution of Nepal is available from Nepal Law Commission's website: <http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/archives/979>. Retrieved on October 11, 2019.
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- 10 These were right to social security, right to land, right to free and compulsory education, right to employment, right to privacy, right to food, right to shelter, right to health, right to consumer protection, right against discrimination and untouchability, right to safe maternity and fertility, right of people with disabilities, right to environment protection, right to protection of crime victims, right of children and right to public security.
- 11 The SDGs were first formally discussed at the United Nations (UN) Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 (Rio+20), and then in the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2014. See for detail: <https://www.undp.org/content/dam/nepal/docs/reports/SDG%20final%20report-nepal.pdf>.
- 12 See Land Administration Strategy 2018, A country level implementation strategy by Ministry of Agriculture, Land Management and Cooperatives, Kathmandu, Nepal Community Self Reliance Centre, Kathmandu, Nepal UN-Habitat, Nepal Country Office, Kathmandu, Nepal
- 13 See further at <http://sdg.npc.gov.np/resource/2659/>.
- 14 Ibid.
- 15 Referred to as common online review platform which is dedicated to compiling information from countries participating in the voluntary national reviews of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development which can be obtained from United Nations official website on SDGs: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg16>
- 16 See further at <https://www.sdg16.plus/roadmap>.
- 17 Ibid.
- 18 <https://www.sdg16.plus/roadmap>.
- 19 Ibid.
- 20 Ibid.
- 21 See UN Metadata Repository: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/>.
- 22 Statement by Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the occasion of SDG16 Plus, and the Future We Want: Commitments, available from <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24829&LangID=E>.
- 23 See the statement issued on July 16, 2019 at <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24829&LangID=E>.
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- 31 Article 50 of the Constitution.
- 32 English translation of the Constitution of Nepal is available from Nepal Law Commission's website: <http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/archives/979>. Retrieved on October 11, 2019.
- 33 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>.
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- 36 See at <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>.
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