



Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors

INTERNAL

Project Number: 55092-001
October 2022

Proposed Grant and Technical Assistance Grant Nepal: Strengthening Systems to Protect and Uplift Women Project

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Asian Development Bank

CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

(as of 23 September 2022)

Currency unit	–	Nepalese rupee/s (NRe/NRs)
NRe1.00	=	\$0.0077
\$1.00	=	NRs129.3900

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
CSO	–	civil society organization
EWCSOP	–	Establishing Women and Children Service Centers Project
GBV	–	gender-based violence
GDP	–	gross domestic product
GESI	–	gender equality and social inclusion
MOWCSOP	–	Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens
PAM	–	project administration manual
PIU	–	project implementation unit
PMU	–	project management unit
SDG	–	Sustainable Development Goal
TA	–	technical assistance
UNOPS	–	United Nations Office for Project Services
WCSCOP	–	women, children, and senior citizen service center

NOTES

- (i) The fiscal year (FY) of the Government of Nepal and its agencies ends on 15 July. “FY” before a calendar year denotes the year in which the fiscal year ends, e.g., FY2022 ends on 15 July 2022.
- (ii) In this report, “\$” refers to United States dollars.

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CONTENTS

	Page
PROJECT AT A GLANCE	
I. THE PROPOSAL	1
II. THE PROJECT	1
A. Rationale	1
B. Project Description	4
C. Value Added by ADB and Replication Strategy	6
D. Summary Cost Estimates and Financing Plan	6
E. Implementation Arrangements	7
III. ATTACHED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	8
IV. DUE DILIGENCE	8
A. Technical	8
B. Economic and Financial Viability	8
C. Sustainability	9
D. Governance	9
E. Poverty, Social, and Gender	10
F. Safeguards	11
G. Summary of Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan	11
V. ASSURANCES	12
VI. RECOMMENDATION	12
APPENDIXES	
1. Design and Monitoring Framework	13
2. List of Linked Documents	17

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

1. Basic Data		Project Number: 55092-001	
Project Name	Strengthening Systems to Protect and Uplift Women Project	Department/Division	SARD/SAHS
Country	Nepal	Executing Agency	Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens
Borrower	Nepal		
Country Economic Indicators	https://www.adb.org/Documents/LinkedDocs/?id=55092-001-CEI		
Portfolio at a Glance	https://www.adb.org/Documents/LinkedDocs/?id=55092-001-PortAtaGlance		
2. Sector	Subsector(s)	ADB Financing (\$ million)	
✓ Public sector management	Social protection initiatives		12.000
		Total	12.000
3. Operational Priorities		Climate Change Information	
✓ OP1: Addressing remaining poverty and reducing inequalities		GHG reductions (tons per annum)	0
✓ OP2: Accelerating progress in gender equality		Climate Change impact on the Project	Low
✓ OP3: Tackling climate change, building climate and disaster resilience, and enhancing environmental sustainability			
✓ OP6: Strengthening governance and institutional capacity			
		ADB Financing	
		Adaptation (\$ million)	0.550
		Mitigation (\$ million)	0.253
		Cofinancing	
		Adaptation (\$ million)	0.000
		Mitigation (\$ million)	0.000
Sustainable Development Goals		Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	
SDG 1.1		Gender Equity (GEN)	✓
SDG 5.2			
SDG 13.a		Poverty Targeting	
SDG 16.1		General Intervention on Poverty	✓
4. Risk Categorization:	Low		
5. Safeguard Categorization	Environment: B Involuntary Resettlement: C Indigenous Peoples: C		
6. Financing			
Modality and Sources		Amount (\$ million)	
ADB		12.000	
Sovereign Project grant: Asian Development Fund		12.000	
Cofinancing		0.000	
None		0.000	
Counterpart		6.000	
Government		6.000	
Total		18.000	
Note: An attached technical assistance will be financed on a grant basis by the Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF-7) in the amount of \$1,500,000.			
Currency of ADB Financing: US Dollar			

I. THE PROPOSAL

1. I submit for your approval the following report and recommendation on a proposed grant to Nepal for the Strengthening Systems to Protect and Uplift Women Project. The report also describes proposed technical assistance (TA) for the Support for Strengthening Systems to Protect and Uplift Women Project, and if the Board approves the proposed grant, I, acting under the authority delegated to me by the Board, approve the TA.

2. The project will help strengthen the government's response to gender-based violence (GBV) in Nepal. The project will (i) provide long-term rehabilitation for GBV survivors;¹ (ii) fill gaps in availability of survivor-centric and gender equality and social inclusion (GESI)-sensitive infrastructure within the Nepal Police to ensure safe, confidential, and respectful environments for reporting cases; (iii) build service providers' capacity; and (iv) increase awareness on GBV prevention and available services. The project is aligned with the government's vision of a "Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali," which envisions a society without discrimination, violence, or crime.²

II. THE PROJECT

A. Rationale

3. Women and girls in Nepal have made significant strides in human development since 2000; Nepal's gender development index improved from 0.80 in 2000 to 0.94 in 2021.³ Yet, women and girls continue to face discrimination that manifests in poor social and economic outcomes. The labor force participation rate among adult women (26.3%) is significantly lower than that among men (53.8%).⁴ Although women comprise 33.5% of parliament, this has not translated to transformative changes.⁵ Moreover, women continue to face violence in various forms which not only violates their fundamental human rights but undermines their physical and mental health and hinders progress toward gender equality.

4. **High prevalence of gender-based violence.** GBV remains a persistent problem in Nepal. In 2016, 22.0% of women aged 15–49 years had experienced physical violence since age 15—a rate that has remained unchanged since 2011.⁶ Moreover, GBV disproportionately affects those who face intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination based on disability, social group, sexual orientation, and gender identity (footnote 6).⁷ GBV prevalence also varies by province with the highest rate in Madhesh Province (34.2%) and the lowest in Gandaki Province (12.0%) (footnote 6).⁸ Shocks such as disaster and climate related events, and the coronavirus disease

¹ GBV survivors will cover women and girls of different social backgrounds, age, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

² Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission. 2020. [The Fifteenth Plan Fiscal Year 2019/2020–2023/2024](#). Kathmandu.

³ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). [Human Development Reports](#). Nepal. (accessed 12 September 2022).

⁴ Government of Nepal, Central Bureau of Statistics. 2019. [Report on the Nepal Labor Force Survey 2017/2018](#). Kathmandu.

⁵ UNDP. 2020. [Human Development Report 2020. The Next Frontier: Human Development and the Anthropocene](#). Nepal.

⁶ Government of Nepal, Ministry of Health. 2017. [Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2016](#). Kathmandu.

⁷ For example, 44% of Madhesi Dalit women experienced violence compared with 9% of Hill Brahmin women as of 2016.

⁸ The percentage of women who experienced physical violence was highest in Madhesh Province (34.2%) followed by Lumbini Province (22.6%), Bagmati Province (19.6%), Province 1 (18.9%), Sudurpaschim Province (17.4%), Karnali Province (15.0%), and Gandaki Province (12.0%).

pandemic can exacerbate the incidence of GBV.⁹ Containment measures such as lockdown and school closures, insecure living conditions due to disasters, and increased alcohol abuse by male partners triggered by stress or job losses can place women and girls at greater risk of violence.

5. **Low reporting.** Despite laws that criminalize various forms of GBV,¹⁰ reporting is low. Of the women who reportedly experienced violence as of 2016, 66% did not seek any help (footnote 6). Multiple factors, such as social tolerance of GBV, low agency of women and girls, low awareness of laws and services, and lack of adequate and accessible services for survivors, contribute to low reporting. Social norms that espouse female subordination and male superiority encourage tolerance of GBV.¹¹ For example, 29% of women and 23% of men aged 15–49 years believe that a husband is justified in beating his wife (footnote 6). Stigmatization of GBV and victim-blaming attitudes further dissuade survivors from reporting violence. The issue is even more acute for those who have disabilities or are from disadvantaged groups.¹²

6. **Limited availability of survivor-centric services.** Although various government agencies and civil society organizations (CSOs) play central roles in responding to GBV, gaps remain. Services need to be more survivor-centric.¹³ The Nepal Police operates 233 women, children, and senior citizen service centers (WCSCSCs) as units within police offices for reporting and investigating GBV cases.¹⁴ However, most WCSCSCs lack the gender-sensitive infrastructure needed to ensure safe, confidential, and respectful environments for reporting. They also lack sufficient female police officers with whom survivors may feel comfortable. Another key gap is scarcity of long-term rehabilitation services for those who may need further support to reintegrate into society and lead a self-determined life.¹⁵ While the government and various CSOs run shelter homes, most of these provide short-term support for a period ranging from 45 days to 9 months depending on the shelter home's capacity. The few long-term rehabilitation centers lack the facilities needed to provide effective services.¹⁶

7. **Prior ADB experience.** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) provided crucial support to Nepal to increase survivors' access to legal protection and social support services under the Establishing Women and Children Service Centers Project (EWCSCP), 2009–2018.¹⁷ The project financed construction of survivor-friendly WCSCSC facilities in 20 districts, built police capacity in gender-responsive investigation and case handling, and supported activities to encourage reporting. The validation report by ADB's Independent Evaluation Department found that the project activities led to increased reporting of GBV cases and increased confidence in

⁹ J. Sharma. 2020. [In Nepal, a helpline serves as a lifeline for survivors during COVID-19 lockdown](#). Washington, DC: World Bank (31 July); and T. Bradley et al. 2021. [Gender and Disaster; The Impact of Natural Disasters on Violence Against Women in Nepal](#). *Journal of Asian and African Studies*. 28 December.

¹⁰ For example, the Domestic Violence Act 2009, Sexual Harassment at the Workplace (Elimination) Act 2015, and National Penal Code 2017.

¹¹ S. Batliwala. 2013. [Changing their World: Concepts and Practices of Women's Movements](#). Toronto: Association for Women's Rights in Development.

¹² Disadvantaged groups refer to those who historically have been unable to fully access and/or benefit from social, economic, and political rights; opportunities, and resources, due to their identities (systemic disadvantage) and/or because of their vulnerability (situational disadvantage).

¹³ Survivor-centric service refers to an approach that seeks to empower the survivor by prioritizing their rights, needs, and wishes by ensuring access to appropriate, accessible, and quality services.

¹⁴ Consultation with the Women, Children and Senior Citizen Service Directorate.

¹⁵ Long-term rehabilitation services refer to shelter, counseling, therapy, life skills training, livelihood training, and other services provided for up to 2 years.

¹⁶ For example, the federal Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens (MOWCSC) funds a long-term rehabilitation center in Kathmandu; but the center operates from a leased space that lacks the requisite facilities.

¹⁷ ADB. 2020. [Completion Report: Establishing Women and Children Service Centers in Nepal](#). Manila.

WCSCSCs.¹⁸ The report recommended expanding the project's initiatives to additional districts and to police offices at lower administrative levels to reach more survivors. Lessons from EWCSCP also point to the need for building capacity of service providers and key government officials and improving coordination among public institutions, CSOs, and service providers across the full spectrum of GBV services such as reporting, legal services, counseling, health, livelihood and life skills training, and shelters.

8. **Government strategy and institutional arrangements.** The Fifteenth Plan Fiscal Year (FY) 2020–2024 acknowledges GBV as a key obstacle to the country's development and calls for expanding measures to protect women against all forms of violence (footnote 2). The plan specifically mentions the need for integrated services through rehabilitation centers. As such, provincial governments have a mandate to establish and operate long-term rehabilitation centers. Under the federal system, the responsibility for providing GBV response services lies with the provincial and local governments while the federal Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens (MOWCSC) provides policy and strategic guidance. The federal MOWCSC continues to implement several national initiatives to address GBV.¹⁹ The Nepal Police, as the principal law enforcement agency, is mandated to investigate GBV cases, and to protect and offer immediate support to survivors through its police offices at central, district, area, and ward levels.

9. **Ongoing development partner initiatives.** Development partners play a key role in supporting initiatives to combat GBV in Nepal. Ongoing support includes building the capacity of short-term shelter homes, providing livelihood training, conducting community outreach and awareness-raising activities, strengthening coordinated services for survivors through one-stop crisis management centers in district hospitals, establishment of a GBV helpline, and building the capacity of government officials including at the local level.²⁰

10. **Project focus.** The project will directly support the government's initiatives by filling gaps in survivor-friendly infrastructure and long-term rehabilitation services. Drawing from the lessons of EWCSCP, the project will strengthen the capacity of police officers, government officials, and other service providers to address GBV. Based on GBV prevalence and service availability,²¹ the project will focus on three provinces: Madhesh Province, Lumbini Province, and Sudurpaschim Province. These provinces also have higher shares of poor and disadvantaged populations.²² The project will also build a new national rehabilitation center in the Kathmandu Valley, upon the government's request, to respond to the high number of GBV cases in and around the capital. The grant is aligned with ADB's country partnership strategy for Nepal, 2020–2024²³ and ADB's

¹⁸ Footnote 17, and Independent Evaluation Department. 2020. [Validation Report: Establishing Women and Children Service Centers in Nepal](#). Manila: ADB.

¹⁹ Sector Assessment (Summary): Gender-Based Violence (accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 2).

²⁰ Development Coordination (accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 2). Major development partners include European Union, Embassy of Norway, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, United Kingdom Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), United Nations Population Fund, and World Bank.

²¹ A long-term rehabilitation center is operational in Province 1 (with support from the United States Agency for International Development) and another is nearing completion in Gandaki Province (financed by the provincial government).

²² Sudurpaschim Province has the highest share of population living below the poverty line at 42%. The proportion of the population living in poverty nationwide is 25.2% while it is 27.7% in Madhesh Province and 25.8% in Lumbini Province ([Nepal in Data](#)).

²³ The project is aligned with strategic objective 2 on improving access to devolved services. ADB. 2019. [Country Partnership Strategy: Nepal, 2020–2024—Promoting Connectivity, Devolved Services, and Resilience](#). Manila.

Strategy 2030 operational priorities 1, 2, 3, and 6.²⁴ The project will also contribute to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5.2 (eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls in public and private spheres), SDG 16.1 (significantly reducing all forms of violence), SDG 1.1 (eradicating extreme poverty), and SDG 13.a (implementing commitment to mobilize funds for climate change mitigation).

B. Project Description

11. The project is aligned with the following impact: GBV incidence reduced and GBV survivors reintegrated into society (footnote 2). The project will have the following outcome: access to and quality of GBV services in project areas improved.²⁵ This is expected to be achieved through four outputs, designed in consultation with relevant government agencies and CSOs, as follows.

12. **Output 1: Women, children, and senior citizen service center services strengthened.**

The project will construct new WCSCSC facilities to strengthen services provided by the Nepal Police in selected district and area²⁶ police offices within the three identified provinces. Expansion of adequate facilities to area police offices is expected to improve access to quality service and encourage reporting. Moreover, the selected area police offices will be those with high GBV caseloads and will include those in rural and underserved areas. The design of the new WCSCSC buildings will be gender-sensitive and disability-friendly and will incorporate features to ensure survivors' privacy. The buildings will include private rooms for short-term accommodation including a room for survivors with special needs and a childcare room. The building design will integrate climate- and disaster-resilient features to mitigate site-specific hazards. Drawing from EWCSOP's experience, the facilities will include residences for female police to encourage deployment and retention of female personnel. This output will also establish a proper referral data system within the WCSCSCs that includes details on survivors' backgrounds such as marital status, ethnicity, and gender identity. This is expected to aid case monitoring and tracking of prevalence by socioeconomic characteristics to help inform commensurate and tailored responses.

13. **Output 2: Rehabilitation services for gender-based violence survivors strengthened.**

To fill the gap in long-term rehabilitation services, the project will establish four long-term rehabilitation centers—three centers in the provinces and a national rehabilitation center (para. 10). The centers will offer an appropriate space for survivors to recover; and will facilitate integrated services such as shelter, psychosocial counseling, life skills training,²⁷ health services, legal services, and therapeutic activities. To empower survivors economically, the centers will provide livelihood and skills training, financial literacy training, and continuing education support in partnership with CSOs and training providers. The project will also pilot the provision of second-stage homes within the rehabilitation centers for survivors who are on the path toward recovery but need a stepping stone to lead independent lives.²⁸ As a readiness condition, the federal MOWCSC will prepare a standard operating procedure to guide the

²⁴ ADB. 2018. *Strategy 2030: Achieving a Prosperous, Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Asia and the Pacific*. Manila. The project will improve access to GBV services, including for poor and vulnerable groups (operational priority 1), implement solutions to address GBV (operational priority 2), integrate climate- and disaster-resilient features in infrastructure design (operational priority 3), and strengthen institutional capacity of national and subnational government agencies to respond effectively to GBV (operational priority 6).

²⁵ The design and monitoring framework is in Appendix 1.

²⁶ "Area" is an administrative unit that is below district level.

²⁷ Life skills training includes counseling, safety planning, and managing personal health and well-being.

²⁸ The second-stage homes will offer transitional housing for which survivors will pay nominal rent to ease survivors' transition toward reintegrating into society. Survivors can continue to access other rehabilitation support services.

operations of the rehabilitation centers and outline measures to ensure their sustainability beyond the project period.²⁹ The design of the centers will include climate- and disaster-resilient and disability-friendly features.

14. Output 3: Community awareness of gender-based violence prevention and services increased. The project will raise awareness on existing and emerging GBV issues,³⁰ including violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression, and on available services and relevant laws.³¹ Awareness-raising channels will include public dialogue and street drama, local radio programs, a television series to promote positive gender norms, and four or five short videos tailored to specific age groups that will be disseminated via affordable media platforms. To ensure that the messages are absorbed, listeners' groups will be formed to discuss the radio programs. Moreover, audio and visual materials will be developed in local languages, as appropriate, to ensure inclusion. Efforts will be made to meaningfully engage men, boys, and youth groups from diverse socioeconomic groups as advocates against all forms of GBV. Building on the lessons from EWCSOP, community awareness activities will mobilize police officers to build trust. These activities are further expected to contribute to reducing GBV incidence and shifting attitudes to help break the cycle of violence across generations.

15. Output 4: Institutional capacity for providing effective gender-based violence services developed. To strengthen the capacity of service providers and key stakeholders to respond effectively to GBV, the project will (i) form federal and provincial GBV response coordination committees to strengthen stakeholder coordination and advocate for resource prioritization for GBV response; the coordination committees will comprise representatives from relevant ministries, the Nepal Police, and CSOs; (ii) deliver GESI-responsive investigation and communication skills training to WCSCSC staff and other junior and senior police personnel based on training manuals originally formulated under EWCSOP;³² (iii) upgrade the psychosocial counseling training modules of the Nepal Police and deliver the revised training to capacitate trainees to identify survivors' need for psychosocial counseling and provide first-stage mental and emotional support;³³ (iv) train rehabilitation center staff on sensitive, inclusive, and respectful communication, ethical guidelines, preparedness, safety protocols, and case management; and (v) orient key government officials across line ministries on GBV-related laws, such as the Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act, 2015, to support them in integrating their provisions into their respective ministries' programs and codes of conduct. The project will also provide training opportunities related to new approaches in countering GBV to service providers, officials, and other stakeholders working on GBV issues.³⁴ Moreover, the project will support the delivery of psychosocial counseling certification to increase the pool of certified counselors.

²⁹ The government will contribute about 50% of the operating costs of the rehabilitation centers (excluding taxes and duties) during the project period. This is likely to enhance government ownership and help create the conditions for ensuring sustainability beyond the project period.

³⁰ Examples of emerging GBV issues include cybercrime, sexual grooming, and intimate partner violence among younger unmarried couples or those in live-in relationships.

³¹ For example, the National Gender Equality Policy, 2020 and the Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act, 2015.

³² The GESI-responsive investigation and communication skills training was originally formulated under EWCSOP and subsequently revised under the Integrated Program for Strengthening Security and Justice supported by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. ADB reviewed the GESI-responsive investigation and communication skills training manual during project preparation and found it to be comprehensive.

³³ The training will be upgraded from a 10-day to 16-day course to make it eligible for a credit-bearing training that counts towards evaluation for promotion and encourage enrollment and completion.

³⁴ These include members of the police-led GBV control networks formed under the EWCSOP.

C. Value Added by ADB and Replication Strategy

16. The Asian Development Fund 13 grant will be critical for the government to mobilize resources for nonrevenue-generating yet crucial investments to address GBV and further the SDG 5 transformative gender agenda. Without the grant, a comprehensive approach for improving GBV services, empowering survivors, and reducing discriminatory practices through engagement of key stakeholders such as the Nepal Police, and men and boys would not have been feasible, and the transformative impact on reducing GBV would be limited. ADB's direct experience under the EWCSOP places it in a solid position to support the government in responding to GBV. ADB adds value by (i) filling gaps in long-term rehabilitation services; (ii) filling gaps in the availability of gender-sensitive infrastructure to improve police services for GBV survivors; (iii) advocating positive gender and social norms to reduce all forms of GBV including those based on gender identity; and (iv) providing direct support to GBV response at the province level. The attached TA will develop sustainability and partnership-building plans for the rehabilitation centers to help ensure their sustainability beyond the project period. Moreover, the project focuses on underserved areas and those with higher shares of poor and disadvantaged groups. The project complements other development partners' support in areas such as strengthening short-term shelters and one-stop crisis management centers and building local capacity (para. 9). The project's support for rehabilitation services and the police can be replicated in other areas within and outside Nepal. To promote replication, ADB will utilize the midline and endline surveys to capture learnings from the project in knowledge products and will disseminate the findings to government stakeholders and development partners through workshops.

D. Summary Cost Estimates and Financing Plan

17. The project is estimated to cost \$18 million (Table 1). Detailed cost estimates by expenditure category and by financier are included in the project administration manual (PAM).³⁵

Table 1: Summary Cost Estimates
(\$ million)

Item	Amount ^a
A. Base Cost^b	
1. Output 1: WCSCSC services strengthened	5.8
2. Output 2: Rehabilitation services for GBV survivors strengthened	6.2
3. Output 3: Community awareness of GBV prevention and services increased	0.4
4. Output 4: Institutional capacity for providing effective GBV services developed	1.4
Subtotal (A)	13.8
B. Contingencies^c	4.2
C. Financial Charges During Implementation^d	0.0
Total (A+B+C)	18.0

GBV = gender-based violence, WCSCSC = women, children, and senior citizen service center.

^a Includes taxes and duties of \$1.9 million to be financed from government resources. Such amount does not represent an excessive share of the project cost.

^b In May 2022 prices.

^c Physical and price contingencies, and a provision for exchange rate fluctuation are included.

^d No interest and commitment charges during implementation for the grant.

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.

18. The government has requested a grant not exceeding \$12 million from ADB's Special Funds resources (Asian Development Fund) to help finance the project.³⁶ The summary financing plan is in Table 2. ADB will finance expenditures in relation to civil works, goods, consultants,

³⁵ Project Administration Manual (accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 2).

³⁶ Specifically, the Asian Development Fund 13 Thematic Pool supporting the SDG 5 transformative gender agenda.

vehicles, and contingencies. The government will finance all taxes and duties and 36% of civil works; and will contribute to rehabilitation center operations, community awareness activities, and contingencies. The government has agreed to make available adequate budgetary allocations of counterpart financing required for the project on a timely and regular basis, including to mitigate and compensate for any environmental or social risk or impact that may emerge; and to meet any additional costs arising from design changes, price escalation in construction costs, or unforeseen circumstances.

Table 2: Summary Financing Plan

Source	Amount (\$ million)	Share of Total (%)
Asian Development Bank		
Special Funds resources (Asian Development Fund grant) ^a	12.0	67.0
Government	6.0	33.0
Total	18.0	100.0

^a Asian Development Fund 13 Thematic Pool.

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.

19. Climate mitigation is estimated to cost \$252,945 and climate adaptation is estimated to cost \$550,440.³⁷ ADB will finance 100% of mitigation costs and 100% of adaptation costs. Details are in the PAM (footnote 35).

E. Implementation Arrangements

20. Implementation arrangements are summarized in Table 3 and described in detail in the PAM (footnote 35).

Table 3: Implementation Arrangements

Aspects	Arrangements		
Implementation period	December 2022–December 2026		
Estimated completion date	31 December 2026		
Estimated grant closing date	30 June 2027		
Management			
(i) Oversight body	Project steering committee Secretary, Federal MOWCSC (chair) Project director, PMU, federal MOWCSC (member secretary) Representatives from (i) Ministry of Finance; (ii) Ministry of Home Affairs; (iii) National Police Headquarters Women, Children and Senior Citizen Service Center directorate; (iv) Ministry of Urban Development; (v) MOWCYS; (vi) MOWCSC–Lumbini, and (vii) MOSD (members)		
(ii) Executing agency	Federal MOWCSC		
(iii) Key implementing agencies	Department of Urban Development and Building Construction, MOWCYS, MOWCSC–Lumbini, MOSD		
(iv) Implementation unit	MOWCYS, MOWCSC–Lumbini, MOSD, about 25 staff (total)		
Procurement	OCB (nationally advertised)	12 contracts (works and goods)	\$10.5 million
	RFQ	10 contracts (goods)	\$0.5 million
Consulting services	ICS	536 person-months	\$0.7 million
Retroactive financing and/or advance contracting	Advance contracting and retroactive financing of civil works, goods, and consulting services are allowed. Retroactive financing will be up to 20% of the ADB grant amount for eligible expenditures of civil works, goods, and consulting services incurred prior to grant effectiveness but not earlier than 12 months prior		

³⁷ The climate mitigation and adaptation costs were estimated based on the costs of energy-efficient lighting, solar panels, sun-shading design features, adaptation measures for site-specific hazards, and climate screening assessments.

Aspects	Arrangements
	to the signing of the grant agreement. Advance contracting activities are being implemented for four civil works packages.
Disbursement	Disbursement of the grant proceeds will follow ADB's <i>Loan Disbursement Handbook</i> (2017, as amended from time to time) and detailed arrangements agreed between the government and ADB.

ADB = Asian Development Bank; ICS = individual consultants selection; MOSD = Ministry of Social Development; MOWCSC = Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens; MOWCYS = Ministry of Women, Children, Youth and Sports; OCB = open competitive bidding; PMU = project management unit; RFQ = request for quotations.
Source: Asian Development Bank.

III. ATTACHED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

21. The attached TA will provide technical backstopping and monitoring support to the executing and implementing agencies. The TA will have three outputs: (i) construction of survivor-friendly and climate and disaster-resilient WCSCSCs and rehabilitation centers supported, (ii) capacity-building measures for survivor-centric and sustained service provision designed, and (iii) monitoring and evaluation of project activities strengthened. ADB will administer the TA. The TA is estimated to cost \$1.5 million, which will be financed on a grant basis by ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF 7).³⁸ The government will provide counterpart support in the form of staff, office space, and other in-kind contributions.

IV. DUE DILIGENCE

A. Technical

22. The project design incorporates measures that are based on extensive consultations with stakeholders and have been identified by experts as effective and practical solutions for providing immediate and long-term support to GBV survivors. ADB's previous experience with EWCSOP suggests that survivor-friendly services in police offices can increase reporting. Activities such as meaningful engagement of men and boys to reduce GBV have demonstrated the potential to shift attitudes. All WCSCSC buildings and rehabilitation centers supported by the project will adopt climate- and disaster-resilient features. Further, the architectural design of the buildings will create a conducive environment for GBV survivors. ADB will engage the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) under the attached TA to ensure that all civil works are implemented smoothly and as per technical standards and design.

B. Economic and Financial Viability

23. The economic returns from this project are expected to be realized in the form of avoided costs from inaction to address GBV, which include (i) costs resulting from the trauma and life-long effects of GBV; (ii) costs related to services for survivors; (iii) foregone income through lost wages and decreased productivity; and (iv) second-generation costs, which include effects on children's human capital development that arise from witnessing violence.³⁹ In 2016, the global economic cost of violence against women was estimated at 2% of global gross domestic product (GDP).⁴⁰ These costs are likely to be higher in developing countries, given the strong negative correlation

³⁸ Attached Technical Assistance Report (accessible from the list of linked documents in [Appendix 2](#)).

³⁹ L. Kiesel and K. Piescher. 2016. [The Relationship Between Child Maltreatment, Intimate Partner Violence Exposure, and Academic Performance](#). *Journal of Public Child Welfare*. 5 August.

⁴⁰ UN Women. 2016. [The economic costs of violence against women](#). New York.

between GDP per capita and GBV prevalence rates.⁴¹ Moreover, these cost estimates are lower-bound figures and do not capture the full scale of GBV-related costs. Because of the intangible effects of GBV and the lack of detailed data needed to quantify the impacts of project interventions, no cost–benefit analysis or calculation of economic rate of return was done. However, assessments from other countries suggest that the short-term costs of investing in the project are likely to be outweighed by the substantial expected savings.⁴²

24. Financial sustainability was assessed at the fiscal and project levels as there are no revenue-generating components. Although the government faces a widening fiscal deficit underpinned by increasing public expenditures, budget allocation to the federal MOWCSC and the relevant provinces has increased for FY2023. Moreover, the budget allocated to activities related to women, children, and senior citizens reflects a 48% increase from the previous fiscal year.⁴³ Expected incremental recurrent costs arising from the project are estimated to comprise a small share of the implementing agencies' budgets, ranging from 0.02% to 0.31%.⁴⁴ Nevertheless, there have been issues with insufficient budget allocation as well as low utilization in previous years indicating low absorptive capacity. To ensure financial sustainability, steadfast commitment from the government will be needed for continued financial support and capacity-building of implementing agencies to manage resources and maintain and operate assets.

C. Sustainability

25. The government has signaled a firm commitment to addressing GBV. The budget speech for FY2023 specifically highlights measures to combat GBV (footnote 43). However, there are sustainability risks (para. 24). To mitigate the risks, the attached TA will develop sustainability measures that include collaborations with CSOs for operating the rehabilitation centers and for additional resource-generating activities. In addition, the federal MOWCSC will establish a clear policy and guidance on the operation and maintenance requirements for the long-term rehabilitation centers and WSCSCs as part of the project's financial management action plan.

D. Governance

26. **Financial management.** The assessed pre-mitigation financial management risk is *high* mainly because of the risks associated with the involvement of agencies across multiple tiers of government, insufficient staff, limited experience with ADB projects in the provincial level, absence of a fully functional asset management system, the government's fiscal constraints, and the narrow internal audit scope. Mitigation measures include (i) the formation of a central project management unit (PMU) that will be responsible for coordination across the implementing agencies; (ii) establishment of clear lines of reporting between the project implementation unit (PIU) and the PMU, which will be solidified by a memorandum of understanding to be entered into by the provincial implementing agencies and the federal MOWCSC; (iii) appointment of dedicated financial management staff in the PMU and PIUs, supported by consultants; (iv) monitoring of

⁴¹ L. Heise and A. Kotsadam. 2015. [Cross-national and multilevel correlates of partner violence: an analysis of data from population-based surveys](#). *The Lancet Glob Health*. June. Comparing data from 44 countries, using the 12-month prevalence of partner violence, these authors found that for every log increase in GDP per capita, the prevalence of partner violence decreases by 5.5%.

⁴² Economic Analysis (accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 2).

⁴³ Government of Nepal, Ministry of Finance. 2023. [Budget Speech of Fiscal Year 2022/23](#). Kathmandu.

⁴⁴ A financial sustainability analysis compared estimated recurrent costs of the project against budget estimates of the related ministries for the next 10 years. Budget estimates and their utilization were assessed for the federal MOWCSC, the Ministry of Social Development, Lumbini Province, Madhesh Province, and Ministry of Home Affairs (the WSCSC buildings will be operated by the police, which is within the Ministry of Home Affairs). Financial Analysis (accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 2).

yearly budget allocations; and (v) improvements in asset management controls. In addition, ADB will provide orientation and regular training to PMU and PIU staff on ADB's financial management and disbursement procedures. The internal audit function will submit the findings of the internal audit and status of its recommendations to the project steering committee and will include them in quarterly progress reports.

27. **Procurement.** The project's procurement risk is rated *moderate*. The Department of Urban Development and Building Construction, which is responsible for most of the procurement activities, has adequate procurement capacity given its experience with implementing ADB projects. While the federal MOWCSC and the provincial implementing agencies are unfamiliar with ADB projects, the assessment found that the proposed provincial PIUs have experience in using the electronic government procurement system, which will be useful to enhance efficiency in the bidding process and competition in the local market. However, further capacity-building will be needed. Procurement risks will be mitigated via (i) regular training of the PMU and PIUs on ADB's procurement framework, (ii) active oversight and handholding support in the preparation of bidding documents and review of all contract packages, and (iii) support by UNOPS and a procurement specialist in the PMU for all procurement and training activities.

28. **Anticorruption measures.** A governance risk assessment was carried out according to ADB's Second Governance and Anticorruption Action Plan.⁴⁵ ADB's country performance assessment conducted for Nepal in 2020 reported that transparency, accountability, and control of corruption in the public sector remained low at a score of 3.5 out of 6. The government is strongly committed to improving Nepal's quality of governance.⁴⁶ The Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority is working on amendments to the Anticorruption Act and the Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority Act to further integrate good practices. Sound legal frameworks exist to promote transparency, fairness in public procurement, accountability, reporting and disclosure requirements. ADB's Anticorruption Policy (1998, as amended to date) was explained to and discussed with the government and the federal MOWCSC. The specific policy requirements and supplementary measures are described in the PAM (footnote 34).

E. Poverty, Social, and Gender

29. The project has pro-poor dimensions as poverty and GBV are interlinked. The economic dependency of women and girls contributes to their disempowerment and increases their vulnerability to violence. Moreover, women from poor and disadvantaged groups are more likely to experience GBV (para. 4). The project focuses on three provinces that have higher shares of poor and disadvantaged populations (footnote 22). Within these provinces, the project will expand access to reporting for women and girls from poor and underserved areas through survivor-friendly WCSCSC facilities in district and area police offices that serve disadvantaged communities.

30. The project is categorized *gender equity theme*. All project activities aim to reduce the incidence of GBV and enable survivors to rebuild their lives. The rehabilitation services provided under the project will improve survivors' mental and physical wellbeing, help them recover from violence, and strengthen their fallback position, thereby empowering them to take steps to

⁴⁵ ADB. 2019. [Governance and Institutional Risks and Challenges in Nepal](#). Manila.

⁴⁶ The 2020 Corruption Perception Index of Transparency International suggests a slight improvement in Nepal's ranking (from 124th of 180 countries in 2018 to 117th of 179 countries in 2020), but corruption in its public sector remains a challenge.

reintegrate into society and regain a self-determined life. The project will also help advocate positive gender and social norms, which are expected to contribute to GESI.

F. Safeguards

31. In compliance with ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (2009), the project's safeguard categories are as follows.⁴⁷

32. **Environment (category B).** The federal MOWCSC prepared an environmental assessment and review framework and three initial environmental examination reports based on a sample of 12 subprojects following ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement and the government's environmental provisions. No significant adverse environmental impacts are anticipated from project implementation and operation. The framework will guide the selection, screening, categorization, assessment, and monitoring of subprojects that are yet to be identified. The environmental management plan in the initial environmental examination suggests mitigation measures for any potential impacts during the construction and operations phases. An environmental safeguard specialist (consultant) with support from UNOPS will help ensure safeguards compliance. Monitoring reports will be submitted to ADB semiannually during construction and annually during operations.

33. **Involuntary resettlement (category C).** Due diligence covering 12 subprojects confirmed that all construction will take place on government-owned premises that are not currently used or claimed by any other party. The PMU will follow the same criteria in assessing subprojects that will be identified during implementation and will ensure that components involving involuntary resettlement impacts are not taken up. A social safeguard specialist (consultant) with support from UNOPS will help the PMU and PIUs confirm the eligibility criteria for project financing.

34. **Indigenous peoples (category C).** The social safeguard due diligence confirms no adverse impacts resulting from the project activities on indigenous peoples. The project may have beneficial impacts on survivors from indigenous groups given that the project will include measures to ensure inclusion of survivors from diverse backgrounds regardless of age, disability status, ethnicity, or indigenous peoples group. However, the potential positive impacts on indigenous groups are not likely to be significant enough to trigger indigenous peoples safeguards as per ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement *Operations Manual*.⁴⁸ Nevertheless, the project design ensures that beneficiaries from indigenous households receive benefits in a culturally appropriate manner. Participation of and consultation with indigenous peoples will be ensured under the GESI action plan and stakeholder communication strategy.

G. Summary of Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan

35. Significant risks and mitigating measures are summarized in Table 4 and described in detail in the risk assessment and risk management plan.⁴⁹

Table 4: Summary of Risks and Mitigating Measures

Risks	Mitigation Measures
The involvement of multiple agencies across multiple tiers of government may create confusion about lines of reporting	The provincial implementing agencies and the federal MOWCSC will sign a memorandum of understanding outlining clear lines of reporting between the PMU and all PIUs. The PMU will coordinate closely with the PIUs in monitoring

⁴⁷ ADB. 2009. [Safeguard Policy Statement](#). Manila.

⁴⁸ ADB. 2013. Safeguard Policy Statement. [Operations Manual](#). OM F1/BP. Manila.

⁴⁹ Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan (accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 2).

Risks	Mitigation Measures
and cause challenges in monitoring and delays in reporting.	project activities with support from UNOPS. The attached TA will strengthen monitoring.
Lack of sufficient staff for key project management functions, combined with frequent turnover, especially in provincial implementing agencies, might lead to delays in project implementation and reporting.	The executing and implementing agencies will fill staff vacancies through alternative processes such as hiring consultants or secondment of specific positions. The PMU and PIUs will be supported by UNOPS and teams of dedicated specialists across project different functions.
The federal MOWCSC and provincial implementing agencies lack experience with ADB projects and are unfamiliar with ADB's processes which could lead to delays in implementation.	ADB will provide training on ADB's requirements and processes to PMU and PIU staff. ADB will also guide the PMU and PIUs in preparation of bids and review of all contract packages. UNOPS will provide technical backstopping and handholding support to the PMU and all PIUs.
Fiscal constraints combined with dependency on government budget risk delays in allocation of adequate budget and the sustainability of rehabilitation centers.	The Ministry of Finance will provide firm commitment for the allocation and timely transfer of budget, including for counterpart funding, each year. ADB will monitor the provision of counterpart financing regularly through each quarterly progress report. Gender-based violence response coordination committees formed under the project will advocate for continued budget allocation to the rehabilitation centers and project activities. The attached TA will develop sustainability plans for the rehabilitation centers.
An insufficient pool of female police personnel willing to be deployed in WCSCSCs in project areas may undermine service delivery.	The WCSCSC design will include safe accommodation facilities for female police personnel. The project will provide training on survivor-centric and gender equality and social inclusion responsive investigation, communication, and case handling to all police personnel in project areas regardless of gender.

ADB = Asian Development Bank; MOWCSC = Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens; PIU = project implementation unit; PMU = project management unit; UNOPS = United Nations Office for Project Services; WCSCSC = women, children, and senior citizen service center.

Source: Asian Development Bank.

V. ASSURANCES

36. The government has assured ADB that implementation of the project shall conform to all applicable ADB requirements, including those concerning anticorruption measures, safeguards, gender, procurement, consulting services, financial management, and disbursement as described in detail in the PAM and grant documents.

37. The government has agreed with ADB on certain covenants for the project, which are set forth in the draft grant agreement.

VI. RECOMMENDATION

38. I am satisfied that the proposed grant would comply with the Articles of Agreement of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and recommend that the Board approve the grant not exceeding \$12,000,000 to Nepal from ADB's Special Funds resources (Asian Development Fund) for the Strengthening Systems to Protect and Uplift Women Project, on terms and conditions that are substantially in accordance with those set forth in the draft grant agreement presented to the Board.

Masatsugu Asakawa
President

28 October 2022

DESIGN AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK

Impact the Project is Aligned with GBV incidence reduced and GBV survivors reintegrated into society (Government of Nepal's Fifteenth Five-Year Plan 2019/2020–2023/2024) ^a			
Results Chain	Performance Indicators	Data Sources and Reporting Mechanisms	Risks and Critical Assumptions
<p>Outcome Access to and quality of GBV services in project areas improved</p>	<p>By 2027:</p> <p>a. Number of GBV cases reported to WCSCSCs in project areas increased by 30%. (2022 baseline: 8,212 cases reported)</p> <p>b. At least 70% of GBV survivors enrolled in the rehabilitation centers reported receiving satisfactory services^b (2021 baseline: Not applicable) (OP 6.2)</p> <p>c. At least 50% of survey respondents in project areas reported confidence in WCSCSCs^c (2021 baseline: 27% report confidence in WCSCSCs in project areas) (OP 6.2)</p>	<p>a. Data on annual number of GBV cases reported to WCSCSCs in police offices in project areas and WCSCSCs in police offices that are not in project areas but are within the three selected provinces and/or data on GBV cases reported to shelter homes and CSOs (Data on GBV cases will be triangulated from these sources to ascertain that the indicator reflects increased reporting and not merely an increase in GBV incidence)</p> <p>b. Project monitoring report, midline and end line surveys</p> <p>c. Baseline, midline, and end line surveys</p>	<p>A: Trained staff are retained in their positions.</p> <p>R: There may not be a sufficient pool of female police personnel willing to be deployed in WCSCSCs in selected district and area police offices.</p>
<p>Outputs 1. Women, children, and senior citizen service center services strengthened</p> <p>2. Rehabilitation services for gender-based violence survivors strengthened</p>	<p>By 2026:^d</p> <p>1a. 15 WCSCSC buildings (at least 12 in area police offices) with adequate facilities^e for GBV survivors and WCSCSC staff, and disaster-resilient^f and disability-friendly^g features, constructed and operational. (2021 baseline: 0) (OP 2.5.2, OP 3.2.5)</p> <p>1b. Survivor's referral data system strengthened and maintained in each WCSCSC in project areas.^h (2021 baseline: WCSCSCs do not maintain detailed referral data for individual cases)</p> <p>2a. Four climate- and disaster-resilient and disability-friendly rehabilitation center buildings constructed and operational in project areas.ⁱ (2021 baseline: No government-run rehabilitation centers with adequate facilities) (OP 2.5.2; OP 3.2.5)</p>	<p>1a. WCSCSC data, project monitoring report</p> <p>1b. WCSCSC data, project monitoring reports</p> <p>2a. MOSD, MOWCYS, MOWCSC–Lumbini, federal MOWCSC, quarterly progress reports</p>	<p>A: Collaboration among provincial government, police, and CSOs is sustained.</p> <p>R: Political instability may affect implementation.</p>

Results Chain	Performance Indicators	Data Sources and Reporting Mechanisms	Risks and Critical Assumptions
<p>3. Community awareness of gender-based violence prevention and services increased</p> <p>4. Institutional capacity for providing effective gender-based violence services developed</p>	<p>2b. At least 80% of GBV survivors in long-term rehabilitation centers report increased knowledge on life skills^j and/or livelihood skills. (2021 baseline: Survivors have limited life skills) (OP 1.1.1)</p> <p>2c. Sustainability- and partnership-building plan for the rehabilitation centers developed and submitted to the federal MOWCSC for approval. (2021 baseline: Not applicable)</p> <p>3a. At least 27,000 individuals, including at least 40% men and boys, reached by GBV campaigns, of which 40% with increased awareness on GBV prevention and services. (2021 baseline: 0)</p> <p>3b. At least 500,000 views reached by awareness videos on GBV posted on social media platforms. (2021 Baseline: 0)</p> <p>4a. By 2024, GBV response coordination committees formed and operational in Lumbini Province, Sudurpaschim Province, and Madhesh Province comprising service providers, government, and civil society organizations as per agreed guidelines.^k (2021 Baseline: 0) (OP 2.2.3; OP 6.2.4)</p> <p>4b. By 2025, at least 70% of WCSCSC staff and police personnel in project areas reported increased knowledge on survivor-centric^l investigation and GBV case handling. (2021 Baseline: Limited knowledge among WCSCSC staff and police personnel) (OP 6.1.1)</p> <p>4c. 75% of key personnel in rehabilitation centers in project areas reported increased knowledge on safety protocols and survivor-centric service.^l (2021 baseline: 0) (OP 6.1.1)</p> <p>4d. At least 140 gender focal points and female officials in line ministries report increased knowledge on legal provisions on GBV (such as the Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act, 2017)^m (OP 6.1.1)</p>	<p>2b. MOSD, MOWCYS, MOWCSC–Lumbini, project monitoring reports, post-training surveys</p> <p>2c. Federal MOWCSC, project monitoring reports</p> <p>3a. Project monitoring reports, post-campaign surveys based on a representative sampleⁿ</p> <p>3b. Viewership data</p> <p>4a. MOSD, MOWCYS, MOWCSC–Lumbini, federal MOWCSC, quarterly progress reports</p> <p>4b. WCSCSC data, post-training surveys</p> <p>4c. MOSD, MOWCYS, MOWCSC–Lumbini; post-training surveys</p> <p>4d. Federal MOWCSC, post-training surveys</p>	

Key Activities with Milestones

1. Women, children, and senior citizen service center services strengthened

- 1.1 Complete detailed design of 10 WCSCSC buildings (batch 1 WCSCSCs) by Q3 2022
- 1.2 Prepare bid documents and publish IFB and contract awards of batch 1 WCSCSCs by Q1 2023
- 1.3 Complete construction and furnishing of batch 1 WCSCSCs by Q4 2024

- 1.4 Prepare design of remaining 5 WCSCSC buildings by Q1 2023
- 1.5 Prepare bid documents and publish IFB and contract awards of remaining 5 WCSCSC buildings by Q2 2023
- 1.6 Complete construction and furnishing of remaining 5 WCSCSC buildings by Q1 2025
- 1.7 Ensure WCSCSCs are fully staffed, and services are operational in new buildings Q3 2024 onwards
- 2. Rehabilitation services for gender-based violence survivors strengthened**
- 2.1 Approve revised rehabilitation center operation and maintenance guidelines by Q4 2022
- 2.2 Complete detailed design of Lumbini rehabilitation center by Q4 2022
- 2.3 Complete detailed design of national rehabilitation center by Q4 2022
- 2.4 Prepare bid documents and publish IFB and contract awards of Lumbini rehabilitation center by Q1 2023
- 2.5 Prepare bid documents and publish IFB and contract awards of national rehabilitation center by Q1 2023
- 2.6 Complete construction and furnishing of Lumbini and national rehabilitation center (batch 1) by Q4 2024
- 2.7 Complete detailed design of Sudurpaschim and Madhesh province rehabilitation centers (batch 2) by Q1 2023
- 2.8 Prepare bid documents and publish IFB and contract awards of batch 2 rehabilitation centers by Q2 2023
- 2.9 Complete construction and furnishing of Sudurpaschim and Lumbini rehabilitation centers by Q2 2025
- 2.10 Ensure services are operational in batch 1 rehabilitation centers Q1 2025 onwards
- 2.11 Ensure services are operational in batch 2 rehabilitation centers Q3 2025 onwards
- 2.12 Prepare sustainability plan for each long-term rehabilitation center by Q2 2025
- 3. Community awareness of gender-based violence prevention and services increased**
- 3.1 Develop community awareness plan and approaches by Q2 2023
- 3.2 Develop necessary information, education, and communication materials by Q3 2024
- 3.3 Sign memorandums of understanding with radio stations to broadcast awareness-raising programs and messages by Q3 2026
- 3.4 Organize awareness-raising activities and campaigns in project areas by Q3 2026
- 3.5 Design and implement a TV program on GBV issues, prevention, and services; and broadcast in a national TV channel by Q2 2025
- 3.6 Produce and disseminate short films by Q3 2026
- 4. Institutional capacity for providing effective gender-based violence services developed**
- 4.1 Commence dialogue among stakeholders for strengthening the GBV services coordination mechanism by Q1 2023
- 4.2 Form GBV response coordination committees by Q1 2023
- 4.3 Prepare the action plan of the GBV RCC group by Q2 2023
- 4.4 Conduct a 1-day workshop to orient GBV RCC members on the purpose of the Committee/s, roles, and responsibilities by Q2 2023
- 4.5 Conduct periodic meetings of GBV RCCs at least four times annually by Q2 2023 onward
- 4.6 Conduct master training of trainers for senior WCSCSC personnel by Q1 2024
- 4.7 Conduct GESI-responsive investigation and communication skills training for junior WCSCSC and other police personnel by Q2 2024
- 4.8 Develop and approve 16+ days psychosocial counseling training manual by Q4 2023
- 4.9 Roll out 16+ days psychosocial counseling training by Q3 2025
- 4.10 Implement refresher training on GESI-responsive investigation and communication skills (for 90 participants) by Q4 2025
- 4.11 Develop two training manuals for rehabilitation center staff by Q1 2024
- 4.12 Implement capacity and team-building training for rehabilitation center staff (training no. 1–1.5 days) by Q2 2026
- 4.13 Implement understanding GBV and violence against women and girls, and responses training for rehabilitation center staff (training no. 2–3 days) by Q4 2024 onward
- 4.14 Conduct refresher training: capacity-building training for rehabilitation center staff (training no. 1) by Q3 2025 onward
- 4.15 Conduct refresher training: understanding GBV and violence against women and girls, and responses training for rehabilitation center staff (training no. 2) by Q3 2025 onward
- 4.16 Implement trainings for GBV RCC members on GBV issues, purpose of rehabilitation centers, referral mechanisms by Q3 2023
- 4.17 Conduct workshop and orientation for GBV control network of Nepal Police on purpose of rehabilitation centers, referral mechanisms by Q4 2024
- 4.18 Conduct training for gender focal points of line ministries every Q3 2023–2026
- 4.19 Conduct training for female undersecretary, joint secretary, and secretary-level personnel by Q4 2023 onward
- 4.20 Conduct training to PMU and PIU staff on project management, procurement, and safeguards by Q2 2025
- Project Management Activities**
- Establish PMU in MOWCSC and PIUs in three provinces with required staff by Q4 2022
- Recruit individual consultants in PMU and PIUs by Q4 2022
- Form project steering committee and hold at least one meeting by Q1 2023
- Hold steering committee meetings

<p>Recruit United Nations Office for Project Services and complete onboarding by Q4 2022; technical backstopping support provided by United Nations Office for Project Services</p> <p>Hold PMU and PIUs coordination meetings by Q4 2022 onward</p> <p>Complete baseline survey of project by Q3 2022</p> <p>Undertake project midterm review by Q4 2024</p> <p>Hold project review meetings with ADB Q2 and Q4 2023 onward</p> <p>Implement midline and end line surveys by Q1 2025 and Q4 2026</p> <p>Prepare and submit quarterly progress reports and financial reports</p>
<p>Inputs</p> <p>ADB: \$12 million (Asian Development Fund 13 Thematic Pool grant)</p> <p>Government: \$6 million</p>

A = assumption; ADB = Asian Development Bank; CSO = civil society organization, GBV = gender-based violence; IFB = invitation for bid; MOSD = Ministry of Social Development; MOWCSC = Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens; MOWCYS = Ministry of Women, Children, Youth and Sports; OP = operational priority; PIU = project implementation unit; PMU = project management unit; Q = quarter; R = risk; RCC = response coordination committee; WCSCSC = women, children, and senior citizen service center.

Note: Indicators 1a, 2a, 2c, 3a, 4c, and 4d will be supported by an attached technical assistance financed by ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF 7).

^a Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission. 2020. [The Fifteenth Plan Fiscal Year 2019/2020–2023/2024](#). Kathmandu.

^b The outcome will be measured based on survivors' rating of their experience in the rehabilitation centers in terms of services such as timeliness of health checkups as and when needed, access to counseling, quality of therapeutic activities, and attitudes of rehabilitation center staff. Survivors will be asked to rate their experience using a Likert scale. The data will be collected via short periodic surveys during project implementation.

^c Survey respondents will include individuals from different demographics and social backgrounds in the project areas, adolescent girls and boys, youth groups, members of CSOs, individuals working in shelter homes and other GBV response services, and GBV survivors. Confidence in WCSCSCs and police will be measured via a composite score based on responses to a set of questions related to perceptions of police attitudes and the likelihood of police supporting survivors to get justice, referring them to adequate services, maintaining survivors' confidentiality, and investigating cases in an unbiased manner.

^d The target year for all output indicators is 2026 unless otherwise specified in the individual output indicator statement.

^e Adequate facilities for GBV survivors include a private counseling room, a separate bedroom with a proper door to ensure privacy, a private bathroom, and a childcare room.

^f All WCSCSCs will comply with the Nepal National Building Code 2020 to make them earthquake resilient. Disaster-resilient features may include mitigating measures for site-specific hazards such as flood walls and retaining walls to mitigate flood and landslide risk.

^g Disability-friendly features will include ramps and bathrooms suited for use by disabled persons.

^h The referral data system should include a record of each case with detailed information such as the form of GBV; whether the survivor was referred to another service provider; the service provider the survivor was referred to; whether the survivor was sent back home or to another place (in case of mediated cases); and the survivor's marital status, age, any form of disability, ethnic group or caste, indigenous peoples group, and gender identity (if revealed).

ⁱ Rehabilitation centers include the national rehabilitation center in Bhaktapur and the three provincial rehabilitation centers. Rehabilitation centers will be deemed operational once core staff are deployed and services such as shelter, health services, counseling, life skills training, and therapeutic activities are provided. Disability-friendly features will include ramps and bathrooms suited for use by disabled persons. All buildings will comply with the Nepal National Building Code 2020 to make them earthquake resilient. Disaster-resilient features may include mitigating measures for site-specific hazards such as flood walls and retaining walls to mitigate flood and landslide risk.

^j Life skills training includes counseling, training on safety, and managing personal health and well-being.

^k Each GBV response coordination committee should meet at least 4 times annually to be deemed operational. The guidelines refer the terms of reference that will be formed for each GBV response coordination committee.

^l Survivor-centric service refers to an approach that seeks to empower the survivor by prioritizing their rights, needs, and wishes by ensuring access to appropriate, accessible, and quality services. This entails applying principles of confidentiality, safety, respect, and non-discrimination and ensuring sensitivity to survivor's background and culture including those of indigenous peoples as applicable.

^m 200 gender focal points and female officials in line ministries will be oriented on legal provisions on GBV.

ⁿ The sample will be representative of disadvantaged groups.

Contribution to Strategy 2030 Operational Priorities:

Expected values and methodological details for all OP indicators to which this operation will contribute results are detailed in Contribution to Strategy 2030 Operational Priorities (accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 2).

Source: Asian Development Bank.

LIST OF LINKED DOCUMENTS

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/RRPs/?id=55092-001-2>

1. Grant Agreement
2. Sector Assessment (Summary): Gender-Based Violence
3. Project Administration Manual
4. Financial Analysis
5. Economic Analysis
6. Summary Poverty Reduction and Social Strategy
7. Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan
8. Contribution to Strategy 2030 Operational Priorities
9. Attached Technical Assistance Report
10. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Action Plan
11. Initial Environmental Examination: Lumbini Province
12. Initial Environmental Examination: Madhesh Province
13. Initial Environmental Examination: Sudurpaschim Province
14. Environmental Assessment and Review Framework

Supplementary Documents

15. Development Coordination
16. Financial Management Assessment