



# Initial Poverty and Social Analysis

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Project Number: 55092-001  
November 2021

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

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## **CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS**

(as of 30 September 2021)

Currency unit	–	Nepalese rupee/s (NRe/NRs)
NRe1.00	=	\$ 0.0084
\$1.00	=	NRs 118.59

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
APO	–	area police office
CSO	–	civil society organization
EWCS CP	–	Establishing Women and Children Service Centers Project
GBV	–	gender-based violence
MOF	–	Ministry of Finance
MOWCSC	–	Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens
WCSC		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., FY2021 ends on 15 July 2021.
- (ii) In this report, “\$” refers to United States dollars.

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## INITIAL POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS

Country:	Nepal	Project Title:	Strengthening Systems to Protect and Uplift Women
Lending/Financing Modality:	Project Grant	Department/Division:	South Asia Department Human and Social Development Division

### I. POVERTY IMPACT AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS

#### A. Links to the National Poverty Reduction Strategy and Country Partnership Strategy

Reducing poverty, developing human capital and ensuring its and full utilization, and ensuring a safe, civilized and just society are key national goals outlined in Nepal's Fifteenth Five-Year Development Plan, 2019/2020–2023/2024<sup>a</sup> to achieve the overarching long-term vision of “Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali” and making Nepal a high-income country by 2043.<sup>b</sup> Yet, 18.7% of the total population were estimated to live below the poverty line as of 2018.<sup>c</sup> Moreover, women and girls continue to face social discrimination violence which further inhibits their human development, safety, and well-being. The proposed project aims to tackle these issues by strengthening services for protection against GBV and for rehabilitation, including economic rehabilitation, of GBV survivors. The proposed project is aligned with Country Partnership Strategy for Nepal, 2020–2024,<sup>d</sup> on improving access to devolved services to improve gender equity and with ADB's Strategy 2030<sup>e</sup> (particularly OPs 1, 2, 3, and 6).

#### B. Poverty Targeting

☒ General intervention ☐ Individual or household (TI-H) ☐ Geographic (TI-G) ☐ Non-income MDGs (TI-M1, M2, etc.)

The project components will integrate a pro-poor and inclusive design, such as ensuring inclusion of GBV survivors from poor and marginalized groups. Provinces and areas covered by the project include those with higher multidimensional poverty rates have lower human development indicators and are more prone to GBV.

#### C. Poverty and Social Analysis

**1. Key issues and potential beneficiaries.** Overall poverty rate in Nepal has fallen over the past decade or so. The share of those living below the poverty line declined from 30.9% in 2004 to 18.7% in 2018. However, poverty incidence remains high and poverty rates vary by social groups, region, and gender.<sup>f</sup> Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic is estimated to have pushed an additional 1.2 million people into poverty.<sup>g</sup> Women and girls face further constraints due to gendered social norms, division of labor, and fewer training opportunities that limit their economic participation leading to greater income poverty and time poverty. This has disempowering effects on the overall status of women and girls. Economic dependency of women abets GBV and hinders reporting. Moreover, indicators of household poverty are correlated with GBV incidence. Poverty and limited employment opportunities in rural settings fuel unsafe migration and human trafficking. Women with husbands without education were more likely to report experiencing GBV (34.0%) compared to those whose husbands have secondary education or higher (14.0%).<sup>h</sup> Thus, the project's primary beneficiaries are the female GBV survivors and their children, including those from poor, excluded, and vulnerable groups in the selected provinces. The secondary beneficiaries are communities in project areas, government, and community-based organizations working on GBV control and awareness.

**2. Impact channels and expected systemic changes.** The project will support beneficiaries through four direct impact channels: (i) improved and survivor-centric services by district, and area police to increase access to quality services for GBV survivors and encourage reporting; (ii) provision of long-term rehabilitation services, including shelter, counseling, and livelihood support that will equip survivors to lead an independent and dignified life; (iii) community awareness on GBV with the engagement of men and boys to reduce GBV incidence; and (iv); strengthening systematic coordination among service providers and stakeholders, and their institutional capacity for better short and long-term GBV services.

**3. Focus of (and resources allocated in) the transaction TA or due diligence.** Due diligence will assess and identify the socio-cultural and systemic barriers of the poor, excluded and vulnerable women and girls to existing GBV services in proposed project areas; and recommend mitigating measures to be integrated in project design.

### II. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

#### 1. What are the key gender issues in the sector and/or subsector that are likely to be relevant to this project or program?

Despite significant strides in women's social and economic development over the past two decades, GBV remains a persistent problem in Nepal. As of 2016, 26.0% of women aged 15–49 years reported experiencing physical and other kinds of violence—an increase from 22.0% in 2011.<sup>i</sup> In 2018–2019, 2,230 cases of rape and 786 cases of attempt to rape were reported—a nearly four-fold increase since 2008.<sup>j</sup> In the same year, a staggering 14,774 cases of domestic violence, 1,001 cases of polygamy, 86 cases of child marriage, 211 cases of child sexual abuse, 258 cases of trafficking, and 46 cases of witchcraft allegations were reported. Among ever-married women, husbands are the most common perpetrator of violence. Social norms, patriarchal attitudes and deeply

<p>rooted stereotypes encourage tolerance of GBV. 33.0% of women and 23.0% of men agreed that a husband is justified in beating his wife. Economic dependence combined with lack of adequate services hinder reporting of GBV; of the women who reported experiencing violence, 66.0% did not seek any help.<sup>k</sup></p> <p><b>2. Does the proposed project or program have the potential to contribute to the promotion of gender equity and/or empowerment of women by providing women's access to and use of opportunities, services, resources, assets, and participation in decision making?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>The project will contribute to the promotion of gender equity and empowerment of women and girls by creating an enabling environment for GBV survivors to report cases and benefit from immediate and long-term rehabilitation services.</p> <p><b>3. Could the proposed project have an adverse impact on women and/or girls or widen gender inequality?</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><b>4. Indicate the intended gender mainstreaming category:</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GEN (gender equity) <input type="checkbox"/> EGM (effective gender mainstreaming)  <input type="checkbox"/> SGE (some gender elements) <input type="checkbox"/> NGE (no gender elements)</p>
<p><b>III. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT</b></p>
<p><b>1. Who are the main stakeholders of the project, including beneficiaries and negatively affected people? Identify how they will participate in the project design.</b></p> <p>The primary beneficiaries of the project are the GBV survivors from the selected provinces. The secondary beneficiaries are communities in project areas, government, and community-based organizations working on GBV control and awareness. Their participation will be ensured during consultations for project design with facilitation from the selected provincial and local level representatives.</p> <p><b>2. Who are the key, active, and relevant civil society organizations (CSOs) in the project area?</b></p> <p>In the project areas, there are many CSOs, community-based organizations and groups, mother/women groups, cooperatives, and networks working on GBV and women's rights issues. They will be consulted to support the project design and implementation.</p> <p><b>3. Are there issues during project design for which participation of the poor and vulnerable is important?</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, what are these issues?</p> <p>Due diligence assessment will analyze vulnerability of the poor and excluded to GBV and specific barriers to access services considering their lower participation in decision-making positions and opportunities to voice their concerns.</p> <p><b>4. How will the project ensure the participation of beneficiaries and affected people, particularly the poor and vulnerable and/or CSOs, during project design to address these issues?</b></p> <p>The project will strengthen coordination mechanisms among stakeholders such as police, NGOs, shelter homes, provincial and local governments, CSOs, and community-level stakeholders, in responding to GBV and supporting survivors. GBV survivors from poor, excluded, and vulnerable groups will also be consulted through interviews and focused group discussions. These groups of women and girls face intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination which could create additional barriers to access information and services. Therefore, their participation is necessary to identify and design measures specific to their needs.</p>
<p><b>5. What level of CSO participation is planned during the project design?</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> H Information generation and sharing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> H Consultation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> L Collaboration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A Partnership</p>
<p><b>IV. SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS</b></p>
<p><b>A. Involuntary Resettlement Category</b> <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> F1</p>
<p><b>1. Does the project have the potential to involve involuntary land acquisition resulting in physical and economic displacement?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Though the project entails construction activities to build WCSCs buildings and rehabilitation homes in the project provinces and districts, the project will manage land either within government premises or land from other agency or individuals adopting negotiated settlement. The consultation with the concerned agency indicates that majority of the proposed land is government land and within the premises of government offices. The project does not use eminent domain or involve involuntary resettlement. It is anticipated that there will be no involuntary resettlement impact. Furthermore, a due diligence study covering all proposed sites will be carried out to confirm that no involuntary resettlement is required. The study will assess land ownership and/or use rights with the implementing agencies and confirm the proposed land are vacant and not used or claimed by any individual and groups. The level of impact will be assessed, and categorization reconfirmed during fact finding.</p> <p><b>2. What action plan is required to address involuntary resettlement as part of the transaction TA or due diligence process?</b></p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement plan <input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement framework <input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix  <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system arrangement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None (due diligence study will be carried out to ensure no involuntary resettlement involved) </p>

**B. Indigenous Peoples Category** ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ FI

**1. Does the proposed project have the potential to directly or indirectly affect the dignity, human rights, livelihood systems, or culture of indigenous peoples?** ☐ Yes ☒ No

**2. Does it affect the territories or natural and cultural resources indigenous peoples own, use, occupy, or claim, as their ancestral domain?** ☐ Yes ☒ No

**3. Will the project require broad community support of affected indigenous communities?** ☐ Yes ☒ No

The proposed project aims to strengthen services for protection against GBV and for rehabilitation, including economic rehabilitation of GBV survivors. The beneficiaries of the project are the GBV survivors and communities from the selected provinces. The GBV survivors and potential beneficiaries may be from indigenous communities. The project interventions will not target distinct and vulnerable IPs as a group. The project is less likely to have differential impacts on IP communities. However, this assumption will be confirmed via due diligence study conducted during preparation. IP safeguard category commensurate with the level of impact will be confirmed by fact-finding.

**4. What action plan is required to address risks to indigenous peoples as part of the transaction TA or due diligence process?**

☐ Indigenous peoples plan ☐ Indigenous peoples planning framework ☐ Social impact matrix  
☐ Environmental and social management system arrangement ☒ None

**V. OTHER SOCIAL ISSUES AND RISKS**

**1. What other social issues and risks should be considered in the project design?**

☐ L Creating decent jobs and employment ☒ M. Adhering to core labor standards ☐ M Labor retrenchment  
☒ L Spread of communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS ☒ L Increase in human trafficking ☐ Affordability  
☒ L Increase in unplanned migration ☒ L Increase in vulnerability to natural disasters ☐ L Creating political instability  
☒ L Creating internal social conflicts ☐ Others, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

**2. How are these additional social issues and risks going to be addressed in the project design?**

Participatory project planning will ensure that these risks are identified and can be managed in the final project design. The project will have no risks in majority areas. Still, due diligence will take stock of the issues and risk mitigation plan will be included in the project design.

**VI. TRANSACTION TA OR DUE DILIGENCE RESOURCE REQUIREMENT**

**1. Do the terms of reference for the transaction TA (or other due diligence) contain key information needed to be gathered during transaction TA or due diligence process to better analyze (i) poverty and social impact, (ii) gender impact, (iii) participation dimensions, (iv) social safeguards, and (v) other social risks. Are the relevant specialists identified?**

☒ Yes ☐ No If no, please explain why.

**2. What resources (e.g., consultants, survey budget, and workshop) are allocated for conducting poverty, social, and/or gender analysis, and participation plan during the transaction TA or due diligence?**

Two international GBV or GESI specialists and a national social safeguard expert, will be engaged to support the preparation of the social dimensions of the project.

ADB = Asian Development Bank, COVID-19 = coronavirus disease, CSO = civil society organization, GBV = gender-based violence, GESI = Gender Equality and Social Inclusion, IP = indigenous people, NGO = nongovernment organization, OP = operational priority, WCSC = Women, Children and Senior Citizen Service Center.

<sup>a</sup> Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission. 2020. *Fifteenth Five-Year Plan 2019/2020–2023/2024*. Kathmandu.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid.

<sup>c</sup> ADB. 2019. *Macroeconomic Update – Special Economic Zones: Issues and Challenges in Nepal*. Manila.

<sup>d</sup> ADB. 2019. *Country Partnership Strategy: Nepal 2020–2024: Promoting Connectivity, Devolved Services, and Resilience*. Manila.

<sup>e</sup> ADB. 2018. *Strategy 2030: Achieving a Prosperous, Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Asia and the Pacific*. Manila.

<sup>f</sup> ADB. 2019. *Country Partnership Strategy, Nepal 2020–2024: Promoting Connectivity, Devolved Services, and Resilience*. Manila.

<sup>g</sup> Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission. *Annual Report FY2020*. Kathmandu.

<sup>h</sup> Government of Nepal, Ministry of Health and Population. 2016. *Nepal Demographic Health Survey*. Kathmandu.

<sup>i</sup> Footnote h.

<sup>j</sup> Government of Nepal, Nepal Police. *Women, Children and Senior Citizen Service Directorate*.

<sup>k</sup> Footnote h.

Source: Asian Development Bank.