

**PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT (PID)
IDENTIFICATION/CONCEPT STAGE**

Report No.: PIDC23016

Project Name	Integrated Platform for Gender Based Violence Prevention and Response in Nepal
Region	SOUTH ASIA
Country	Nepal
Sector(s)	Central government administration (10%), Public administration-Other social services (10%), Information technology (10%), Other social services (70%)
Theme(s)	Gender (80%), Other social development (10%), Social Inclusion (10%)
Lending Instrument	Lending Instrument
Project ID	P155096
Borrower Name	National Women Commission
Implementing Agency	CARE Nepal
Environment Category	C - Not Required
Date PID Prepared	23-Mar-2016
Estimated Date of Approval	24-Mar-2016
Initiation Note Review Decision	The review did authorize the preparation to continue

I. Introduction and Context

Country Context

Nepal, with a population of approximately 27 million and a per capita income of about \$750, has experienced a complex political transition following a 10-year violent conflict. On April 25, 2015 the country was affected by a powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake causing widespread damage and destruction to lives and properties. The catastrophic earthquake and an ensuing sequence of aftershocks - more than 300 greater than magnitude 4.0 - resulted in over 8,790 casualties, 22,300 injuries, and over half a million houses destroyed. . It is estimated that the lives of eight million people, almost one-third of the Nepal's population, were impacted by these earthquakes. The international community provided immediate support and pledged USD 4.1 billion for reconstruction. Ten months have passed since the earthquake but recovery and reconstruction have been slow, prolonging the pain of those affected by the earthquake, many of who have spent two winters in makeshift shelters.

The disaster also highlighted aspects of inequities in Nepali society spanning geography, income and gender. Poorer rural areas have been more adversely affected than towns and cities due to the inferior quality of houses. Also more women and girls died than men and boys, partly because of gendered roles that disproportionately assign indoor chores to women. The burden of recovery will largely fall on women due to large scale male out-migration. For example, in Gorkha, female population outnumbered male by as much as 7.5 percent. Moreover, female-headed households have

been identified as one of the most vulnerable groups. The percentage of female-headed households in the 14 hard-hit districts range from 21 percent to 37 percent, which is likely to increase with men opting to migrate. For vulnerable families, the loss of assets combined with the loss of family protection, and desperation for alternate livelihoods could have disastrous consequences on women, girls and children, who may face a heightened risk of gender-based violence and forced labor.

Peace and stability remains fragile in the country today. Although the period of transition to peace has ended with the promulgation of a Constitution in September 2015 that created a federal Nepal, it has led to another political conflict between those who support and oppose the boundaries of the federal provinces, particularly between Madhesis and Tharu populations in southern Nepal. When the much anticipated draft of the constitution was circulated in summer 2015, the hitherto marginalized groups, particularly the Madhesis, women, and Janajatis (indigenous people) staged a series of protests demanding that the constitution should not compromise inclusion. For the Madhesis and Tharus who live in the southern plains, the proposed federal state structure did not meet the commitments in terms of representation made in the past. In August 2015, the protests turned violent. A security crackdown killed more than 45 people. Despite the protests, the constitution was adopted in September 2015, which deepened the divide among Madhesis and those in government. Protestors demanding amendments to the constitution blocked border points to add pressure on Kathmandu and succeeded in blocking Birgunj, the county's main border post with India. While many in Nepal accused India of barring shipments from entering Nepal and imposing an "unofficial blockade," India has officially denied doing so, citing "unrest, protests and demonstrations on the Nepalese side" as a cause of the trade disruptions. .

The six-month "unofficial blockade" led to a fuel crisis and shortage of food and other essential supplies that exacerbated the plight of many Nepalis, who are recovering from the devastating earthquake and its aftershocks. Many essential goods including food and medicine were in short supply risking a humanitarian crisis. Changes to the Constitution were announced in January and the unofficial blockade was lifted on February 6, 2016. However, Nepal's new constitution has been criticized for not giving equal rights to women. While it contains clauses that guarantee "proportional inclusion" in all state bodies, as well as positive discrimination in education, employment, and social security -- which will, if implemented, increase women's welfare ambiguities remain, since many rights depend on the future federal laws that will be crafted as mandated by the constitution. Most importantly, when it comes to citizenship clauses, it contains separate and unequal provisions for men and women by making it difficult for single mothers to pass on their citizenship. Many studies show that statelessness is a serious issue in Nepal. The status of a Nepali man married to a foreign woman and their children, as far as citizenship goes, is of higher class than a Nepali woman married to a foreigner – who is unable to pass citizenship by descent.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

The Government of Nepal (GoN) has introduced a wide variety of legal provisions and ratified international conventions/treaties to protect and promote the rights of women and girls against violence, discrimination and abuse. Nepal is party to 16 international human rights instruments including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women. The Interim Constitution of Nepal (2007) prohibits physical, mental or any other

form of violence against women, and also made such acts punishable by law [Article 20(3)]. The Constitution also recognizes women's rights, (including reproductive rights, right to equality, and right against exploitation), as fundamental rights. The GoN has also enacted the Domestic Violence (Crime and Punishment) Act (2009) to prevent and control violence occurring within the family and provide protection to the survivors of such violence. While the Domestic Violence Act (2009) is a landmark achievement in this area, Nepal's continued political instability has hampered the implementation of this Act.

In addition, the GoN has drafted a five-year action plan for the empowerment of women and prevention of GBV. The Government of Nepal's Action Plan on GBV is a welcome step, but remaining challenges include the allocation of adequate budget, having trained and skilled human resources, sensitivity and responsiveness to immediate needs of survivors and having the funds and capacity to develop cohesive systems and an infrastructure to implement the action plan. Policy achievements have not been reciprocated by efforts to ensure effective implementation and compliance. A huge challenge for effective implementation is coordinated funding, trainings, and clear, differentiated accountability mechanisms between the different ministries, government agencies, police, justice, medical and legal departments, civil society groups and CSO's that are required to build an eco-system of prevention and response.

Institutionally, there are several government mechanisms in Nepal that have been established to address issues relating to GBV. The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare is the nodal ministry responsible for the overall development and coordination of all activities relating to women, children and social welfare, while the Department of Women and Children is the implementing wing of the Ministry. The Nepal Police has established Women and Children Service Centers to investigate crimes against women and children across Nepal. The Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers has established a special unit, the Gender Empowerment and Coordination Unit (GECU), which serves as a secretariat to monitor the implementation of various action plans relating to gender, including the Action Plan on GBV. Similarly, a high-level committee, comprising representatives of various ministries, commissions and civil society along with experts, has also been formed with the mandate to review policies and monitor effective implementation of the Action Plan on GBV. Besides these, the Ministry of Local Development has formed paralegal committees in all districts of Nepal and has been actively involved in awareness raising activities at grassroots level. These paralegal committees are now being converted into GBV watch-groups under the 'Integrated Programme on Strengthening Security and Justice' supported by the Department for International Development (DFID) that came into effect in December 2014.

In 2011/12, the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) established 15 one-stop crisis management centers (OCMCs) in hospitals to provide integrated support to GBV survivors. The OCMCs are the first inter-ministerial, multisectoral, and hospital-based government initiative to address gender-based violence in Nepal. At an OCMC, a violence survivor can receive immediate medical treatment, psycho-social counseling, legal counseling, a safe home, and rehabilitation-services that were previously scattered across a number of organizations. However, OCMC service provision has been hampered by the limited efforts to orientate stakeholders, the absence of work plans, the lack of knowledge of staff and lack of awareness among survivors and the general public of existence of these centers.

Despite efforts to address GBV in Nepal, there continue to be significant gaps in the effectiveness of the response mechanisms. Existing research shows a consistent pattern of high policy priority

and robust policy formulation, but weak implementation, resulting in relatively little knowledge of, and use of services and low quality services. Only about one quarter of women (24.8 percent) were aware of services available to the survivors of GBV, and most were unable to name the specific services since there is no central place to get help and information. More specifically, the country lacks an integrated support model for survivors of violence, encompassing access to shelter, health care, psychosocial support and legal aid.

Relationship to CAS/CPS/CPF

The proposed project is firmly rooted in the Bank's work in the following ways. First, it will contribute to the Nepal Country Partnership Strategy (2014-2018) goal of strengthening public sector capacity and governance through institution building. Second, it builds on the South Asia Regional Strategy which highlights GBV as an important development issue in the region, as well as the 2012 World Development Report on Gender Equality and Development, which recommends promoting gender equality through innovative approaches that support women's voice and agency, facilitate access to justice, and limit the reproduction of gender inequality across generations. Lastly, this project follows on the Bank's regional report on Violence against Women and Girls which emphasizes the need for multiple and long-lasting coordination and cooperation amongst all stakeholders in order to address the challenges of enhancing effectiveness, reach and sustainability of GBV-related interventions. It is also closely aligned with the regional GBV program which supports integrating a focus on GBV in Bank operations, the development of knowledge products and design of a regional campaign that addresses underlying social norms that lead to GBV.

II. Project Development Objective(s)

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The development objective of this project is to raise awareness about, and improve response to, Gender Based Violence in Nepal. This will be achieved by improving the quality and reach of services for GBV survivors through a helpline, promoting greater awareness among key stakeholders and strengthening the capacity of National Women Commission (NWC).

Key Results

- Number of cases reported to the Helpline (disaggregated by gender, age, location/districts and typology of violence and perpetrator)
- GBV survivors who report to have been satisfied with the support services they have received through the Helpline
- Percentage of service referrals which result in service utilization.
- Number of people in project area reporting increased knowledge of support services for survivors of violence through the Helpline
- Increase in number of people in project area who report changes in attitude and behavior from learning about gender relations, norms and expectation

III. Preliminary Description

Concept Description

In June 2013, the World Bank and OXFAM International organized a regional conference on GBV – “Joining Forces to Overcome Violence against Women in South Asia” where the Bank committed to address GBV. The Bank in collaboration with IFC, Young Innovations and the Computer Association of Nepal jointly organized a Hackathon on Violence Against Women (VAWHack). The Hackathon was the first time in Nepal that the private sector, youth technology and practitioner

communities worked jointly on the issue of VAW. The hackathon was organized in collaboration with the National Women Commission and Young Innovations. VawHack produced ICT applications developed by Nepal's youth for victims, support services providers and perpetrators of VAW. Winning apps were integrated into a comprehensive online platform FightVAW (www.fightvaw.org). In 2014, the World Bank published the regional report that documented the prevalence and typology of, risk and protective factors for, context behind, and promising approaches to addressing Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)—while in the process bringing together diverse stakeholders to discuss these facets of VAWG. The project builds on Bank's past efforts to address GBV and draws on its comparative advantage to convene multiple stakeholders, to produce analytical work, and sector operations for its various components. More specifically, the project is founded on the achievements and lessons of the FightVAW initiative and will support its conversion from a case management system to a national ICT-based helpline for GBV survivors. The initiative was implemented from August 2013 to June 2015 in Kathmandu district with a focus on women survivors of GBV, but also attempted to involve men and boys. The FightVAW initiative developed a Helpline and a full-fledged case management system from the ideas generated during the Hackathon. Other ICT applications including an Android application that allows users in unsafe situations to discretely press the power button and message family and friends along with GPS location was developed. The initiative partnered with i) youth and women's media organizations to disseminate information on the Helpline, and ii) CSOs providing support services to respond to cases reported to the Helpline. The NWC demonstrated interest and relevance of the technology during the Hackathon and therefore coordinated the FightVAW activities and piloted the system.

During the FightVAW pilot, the case management system and referral processes were refined with feedback from CSOs and NWC. The CSOs and NWC reported that the Case Management System (CMS) would improve coordination and enable tracking of cases to ensure GBV survivors are receiving continuous support. Outreach activities indicated a need for a Helpline dedicated to GBV issues similar to Child Helpline. Other results from the initiative include:

- Capacity building of CSO focal points on using applications and internet-based applications.
- Improved institutional relationships between government stakeholders, including NWC, Nepal Police, Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Women and Children at the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Office of the Prime Minister, other development partners, and CSOs, as well as increased awareness on the nature and scope of GBV and the internet-based applications developed to combat the issue.
- Some 57 cases recorded by phone, SMS or entered manually (including calls from family members reporting domestic violence and trafficking of women).
- Compilation and maintenance of a database of 94 organizations that work to address GBV.
- Monitoring of 12 news sites for GBV-related news.
- A collection of stories of women and girls who had experienced gender-based violence.

Key lessons of the FightVAW initiative include ability of the World Bank to bring together traditional and non-traditional actors to address GBV and the pilot provided platform for coordination of services. These lessons have contributed to designing the components.

IV. Safeguard Policies that Might Apply

Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project	Yes	No	TBD
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01		x	

Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04		x	
Forests OP/BP 4.36		x	
Pest Management OP 4.09		x	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11		x	
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	x		
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12		x	
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37		x	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50		x	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60		x	

V. Financing (in USD Million)

Total Project Cost:	2	Total Bank Financing:	0
Financing Gap:	0		
Financing Source			Amount
State and Peace Building Fund			2

VI. Contact point

World Bank

Contact: Luiza A. Nora
 Title: Social Development Specialist
 Tel: 473-5964
 Email: lnora@worldbank.org

Borrower/Client/Recipient

Name: National Women Commission
 Contact: Lekh Bahadur Karki
 Title: Secretary
 Tel: 977714250246
 Email: secretary@nwc.gov.np

Implementing Agencies

Name: CARE Nepal
 Contact: Julie Gurung
 Title: Programme Development Coordinator
 Tel: 977-9851083305
 Email: Julie.Gurung@care.org

VII. For more information contact:

The InfoShop
 The World Bank
 1818 H Street, NW
 Washington, D.C. 20433
 Telephone: (202) 458-4500
 Fax: (202) 522-1500
 Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/infoshop>