

Achieving 2030 targets of the Second Nationally Determined Contributions through Integration of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

Context

- Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) is not only about women and men, but in the context of Nepal any legal documents and interventions will have to consider the other dimensions such as the historical discrimination (gender, caste/ethnicity, etc.) and situational vulnerabilities (people with disabilities, age, poverty, geography etc.), and capabilities, and then define the stakeholders accordingly.
- Nepal's Climate Change Policy calls for gender responsive climate actions recognizing GESI as both a cross-cutting issue and a Standalone theme for the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process.
- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) is the key policy commitment to achieve the goal of the historic Paris Agreement on climate change, which sets the target of limiting mean temperature rise to 1.5 Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
- Nepal has submitted second NDC in 2020 in line with the other developing nations, thus, has set sector wise targets among which GESI is an important cross-cutting theme.

Key Message

- Global and national commitments have emphasized on GESI responsive policies for achieving climate targets.
- Nepal's Second Nationally Determined Commitments (NDC) has noticeably acknowledged and recognized GESI as a cross cutting issue in climate mitigation and adaptation acknowledging the need to develop GESI and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan by 2021.
- Significant gaps remain to materialize the plan into actions. For example GESI roles are yet to be defined clearly across the thematic sectors. Without specially targeted activities focusing on leadership capacity enhancement interventions, proper implementation will face a stumbling roadblock.
- Ways forward lies on building collaborative approach to mobilize public institutions across the three tiers of governments (Federal, Provincial and Local) together with non-government, and private sectors, civil society and academic.
- Timely roll out of the GESI responsive NDC implementation plan is the top action pending although efforts have been made since 2 years.

Nepalese policies are strong in terms of considering GESI, but it is not systematically backed up with dedicated and adequate GESI action plans with both technical and financial resources and monitoring mechanisms.



Photo: Lalmani Wagle, CEN

Women preparing household level plastic pond for irrigation at Udayapur

GESI in Second Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)

Recognizing the differential impacts of climate change, the second NDC of Nepal has noticeably acknowledged GESI as a cross cutting issue for both climate mitigation and adaptation fronts. This emphasizes the need to take into account the principle of common but differentiated human needs, particularly of women, children, youth, and Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities and marginalized groups. One explicitly stated goal of NDC is to develop GESI and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan by 2021 to ensure achieving the targets by 2030. Further to this, the second NDC has set targets

to develop and implement strategy along with action plan on gender-responsive climate-smart technologies by 2025, and climate resilient and gender-responsive adaptation plan in all local governments by 2030 while prioritizing adaptation and DRR and management measures.

Clean Energy- Nepal (CEN) organized an expert consultation to discuss on GESI on second NDC. Eight prominent GESI Experts ideas and views were incorporated in this policy brief. CEN expects to contribute to

implement the second NDC effectively and meaningfully through this document.

Nepal is relatively in better position compared to other South Asian countries in terms of policy and institutional arrangement.

However, effective mainstreaming in the development planning process, conflicting policy and legal instruments and poor implementation and monitoring, evaluation and reporting remain a challenge.



Photo: Ronish Pandey, CEN

Round Table discussion with experts

Issues and Challenges

Implementation of the adopted policy remains a critical issue in Nepal. Issues and challenges specific to GESI responsive implementation of NDC include as follows:

- GESI as cross-cutting and standalone issue did not get required attention in current second Nationally Determined Contributions.
- While all the major mitigation targets incorporating GESI are clustered with forest and agriculture sectors, the anticipated GESI outputs of the same are not specified.
- GESI specific targets remained undefined for the 6 thematic sectors, thus, weakening the main purpose of GESI responsive NDC.
- Inadequate recognition of indigenous knowledge and roles and contributions of GESI in targets of NDC remain a critical gap to be addressed.
- Other critical issues include weak institutions capacities at both federal and provincial, ward levels to translate the legal provisions into action; poor understanding of the theory of change in terms of GESI, ambiguous redressal mechanisms and structures; and, finally, the lack of dedicated investments in terms of both technical, financial and expertise to reach the most vulnerable and making the whole effort of addressing the goal of “leave no-one behind”.

Way Forward

Key recommendations:

- The GESI responsive NDC implementation plan backed with/supported with well-defined time lines, roles, responsibility, financing and accountability mechanism should be the urgent and immediate priority of Government of Nepal.
- Synchronized mechanisms of GESI responsive NDC implementation across the different tiers of the government i.e. Federal, provincial and local is essentials for stepping forward, therefore, should be on the top policy priority to operationalize the structures and functions.
- The missing elements of intersectionality on GESI should be incorporated in NDC for which building segregated database along with robust progress monitoring indicators are imperative to mainstream them in periodic plans of climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Finally, the implementation of the NDC offers a scope for mainstreaming GESI issues and addressing the gaps of the differentiated impacts of climate change on different gender and marginalized.

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