

Leave No One Behind Nepal

The Leave No One Behind Partnership urges decision makers at the national and global levels to ensure that the voices of marginalised communities are heard and count in the planning, review and implementation of the SDGs.



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The partnership includes national and international civil society organisations (CSOs), civic platforms and community-based organisations jointly working to address data and policy gaps, and to realise the universal claim to “leave no one behind” in the context of the 2030 agenda.

Together, partners carried out a pilot project across five countries (India, Bangladesh, Kenya, Vietnam and Nepal). Each country coalition undertook national pilot research targeting specific marginalised communities with the overall goal of closing knowledge gaps, analysing local drivers of vulnera-

bility, and deriving concrete recommendations for public policy making and planning. Between December 2018 and March 2019, the national coalitions worked closely with members of their target communities to build community understanding on the SDGs and collect data through participatory research.

In Nepal, the Leave No One Behind national coalition comprises the country offices of VSO (lead partner), ActionAid, Care, CBM, Plan, WWF and World Vision, and the Beyond Beijing Committee.

Making Voices Heard

Findings from the national research pilot

SDG Target

5.1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere; 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls; 5.3: Eliminate harmful practices; 5.4: Recognise and value unpaid care work; 5.5: Equal opportunities in decision making; 5.6: Sexual and reproductive health.

Target groups

Young women and girls.

How did we engage marginalised groups in SDG monitoring?

LNOB partners worked with Local Women's Major Groups in nine wards of three municipalities belonging to different three provinces (2, 5, 6). These groups used community scorecards to lead citizens and service providers in a participatory process to monitor SDG Goal 5 in their local area. Citizens monitored performance on 41 indicators, including the official government indicators for the relevant SDG targets, as well as a set of supplementary indicators.

Ways target groups are left behind

Some of the aggregate findings from the community scorecards were:

- Women earn lower wages than men – and wage discrimination varies between local areas. Few public agencies are meeting the national target to put in place local laws to prevent discrimination. However, the laws are yet to come into effect.
- Though awareness on violence against women and girls (VAWG) as a crime is high, there are still more efforts required to address gender-based violence and harmful social norms.
- Child marriage is still very high; and municipalities score badly on actions against those responsible for carrying out early marriage and harmful practices.
- Municipalities score badly on having provisions for gender responsive social protection (like maternity leave, child care).
- Lack of fully functional gender responsive budget allocation and inclusive data at ward level.

What is missed in national reporting?

- National gender equality data fails to capture diverse results at municipal level – it is not able to show where change is needed.
- National indicators only show part of the picture – the supplementary indicators in this research highlight key implementation gaps holding back achievement of SDG 5.

Making Voices Count

National advocacy impact so far:

In Nepal, service providers and citizens in the nine municipalities have developed future targets to improve in each of the 41 areas of gender equality measured in the community scorecards. These targets form a benchmark that citizens can now use to hold service providers to account.

Recommendations:

- Effectively implement practical and policy level interventions to combat violence against women and girls (VAWG), and improve gender equality, including:
 - Introduce gender responsive social protection provisions for women and interventions addressing issues of child marriage.
 - Introduce gender responsive budgets system at Municipality level (available already at national and province level) and follow-up mechanism on implementation
 - Increase women's participation in decision making processes and positions
 - Enhance reproductive health knowledge and awareness through various awareness programs, including programs targeting harmful norms (such as menstrual taboos, child marriage)
 - Empower women economically by engaging them in enterprise development and income generation activities
 - Increase women's awareness on their legal rights and services and complaint mechanisms available for combating issues of VAWG.
- Improve the capacity of national statistical systems to collect disaggregated data by sex, age group, geography, caste/ethnicity, ability and poverty status + improve monitoring of Goal 5:
 - Enhance the capacity of local officers to standardise the data management system in public agencies on VAWG
 - Implement gender mainstreaming scorecards, focused at different levels of government, and include SDG 5 indicators in public institutions' regular result matrices
- Increase investment in science, technology, research and innovation in productive sectors and provide an enabling environment for private sector investment.
- Create enabling environment for civil society and support in strengthening their solidarity and internal good governance promotion for increased interventions on gender equality.
- Improve awareness on laws, policies and guidelines among service providers and strengthen mechanisms for monitoring and accountability of service delivery. Encourage public and local authorities to use community-led monitoring tools.
- Empower women and marginalised communities so that their participation in local level development planning can be ensured and voices will be heard.

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