Engendering Local Governance Processes:

Reflecting upon the Local Governance and Community Development Programme, Nepal

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Local Governance and Community Development Programme (LGCDP): at a glance

• Largest Governance Programme Implemented in Nepal with 100% coverage of all 75 districts, 3915 VDCs/58 municipalities and approx. 40,000 wards

• Supported by 10 major development partners and 6 UN agencies of the country

• Fully owned and implemented by the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD)
Programme Goal

Goal

LGCDP's goal will be to contribute towards poverty reduction through inclusive responsive and accountable local governance and participatory community-led development that will ensure increased involvement of women, Dalits, Adibasi Janajatis, Muslims, Madhesis, disadvantaged groups in the local governance process.
How??

• Creating over **40,000 people's organisations** to give voice to citizens' needs.

• Establishing **the Local Governance and Accountability Facility** (to provide funds to civil society organisations to review local governments' performance).

• Providing over **US$760 million in grants** to local bodies. The actual amount local government receive is based upon how well they perform.

• Guiding local governments how they should plan and spend their budgets. For example, **at least 35% of expenditure** should be for projects that benefit women and disadvantaged groups.

• Developing a rolling dialogue with the local body associations to identify local bodies' needs for **capacity development** to better deliver services to the citizen
Gender and Social Inclusion initiatives

- Gender and Social Inclusion (GE/SI) Strategy Developed for MoFALD/ GE/SI section established within the ministry, GE/SI thematic group established from the programme

- All local governance related policies revised accordingly-Grant Guideline, Minimum Condition and Performance Measure Guideline, Planning Process, Monitoring and Evaluation etc.

- Institutions created and mechanism strengthened at District, VDCs/Municipalities and Wards to assure Gender and Social Inclusion in the local planning and implementation process
The *stir* is there

- Community Awareness Centers *(CAC)*
- Ward Citizen Forums *(WCF)*
- Ward Citizen forums/ CAC linked to planning process
- At least 33% women in all the institutional set-ups and mechanisms
- budget allocation
- The minimum condition and performance measure linked to the budget provision
Environmental Governance – adding in the missing element

**POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- Local Self Governance Act 1999 and Regulation 1999 authorize local bodies to manage natural resources of their respective areas

- Environment Protection Act 1996 and Regulations 1997 authorize MoFALD to approve ToR of Initial Environment Examination (IEE) and IEE Report

- Local Environmental Policy and Guidelines being prepared
  - Prepared Local Disaster Risk Management Planning Guidelines, 2011
  - Environment Policy and Guidelines for Local Infrastructure Development and Manual – almost completed

- Climate Change Policy, National Adaptation Plan of Action Local Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA and LAPA)

- Disaster Risk Management Strategy
Institutional Framework

Environment Management Section in Ministry of Local Development

- Establishment of Environment/Disaster Desk in DDC/Municipalities (also to address climate change issue)

- Energy Unit established

- District Forests Coordination Committee are functional in some Terai Districts
LGCDP / Poverty Environment Initiatives

- **Prepared** climate change and environment responsive information, education and communication (IEC) booklets and posters

- **Revised** DDC/Municipality/VDC planning guidelines that include climate change and environment elements

- **Minimum Conditions and Performance Measures (MC/PM)** includes climate change and environment consideration
The Missing Perspective

• Gender and Environment/Climate issues are separate entities – Gendered Aspect of Environment and Climate change is not considered

• Mountain Issues (environment/social/economical) is not taken into account – No separate provisions made

• Mountain Women are not identified as a group having special needs, issues and interest
Way forward:

- Use of CACs/WCFs
- Capacity Building packages for planning, monitoring and environment committees
- Integration of gender analysis and perspective in environmental assessments and vise versa
- Identification/Recognition/Inclusion of Mountain issues/agendas and Mountain women
Thank You