Engendering Local Governance Processes: Sharing from the Local Governance and Community Development Programme, Nepal

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The Local Governance and Community Development Programme (LGCDP) is the largest governance programme implemented by the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development in Nepal, and is supported by ten major donors in the country and six UN agencies. The programme uses two basic approaches: 1) capacity building of local government as service providers, and 2) capacity building of communities, especially women and marginalized groups, as empowered citizens, enabling them to identify and put forward their needs and demands to local government and hold local government accountable towards them. This presentation highlights the relevance of changes made in government policies and guidelines, as well as formulating of new policies, to promote women’s meaningful participation in local governance processes. The presentation also discusses challenges and resistance faced and shares some success stories from mountain districts where women have been able to participate in the local governance processes and assert their rights. The paper is based on a desk study of national policies and guidelines concerning local governance and case studies from mountain districts which shows some visible impacts of the programme.