



# GOOD PRACTICE FOR A G2 ACTION ASIA – NEPAL

## Empowered Women for a Prosperous Nepal (Shashakta Mahilaharu, Sambriddha Nepal)

**CRIS number:** NDICI ASIA/2021/043-148

**Budget:** EUR 22.2 million

### Presenting the action

Empowered Women for a Prosperous Nepal (*Shashakta Mahilaharu, Sambriddha Nepal*) represents a strategic contribution to achieving gender equality as an integral part of realising the national vision of a prosperous and developed Nepal (Vision 2030). The action addresses key drivers of gender inequality in the country, using an **integrated gender-transformative approach**.

Its overall objective is **to advance the full realisation of Nepalese women's and girls' human rights and socio-economic agency, and help unlock their potential**. It focuses on three specific objectives:

1. Ensuring that women/girls, in all their diversity, are safe, valued and have increased voice, choice and control to challenge/transform harmful social norms.
2. Women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, **fully enjoy and exercise their equal economic, labour and social rights**.
3. Institutions deliver gender equality outcomes in all spheres, in line with international and national normative frameworks.

### Why is this action considered a promising practice?

- The action **addresses the root causes of gender inequalities**. It does not hesitate to challenge underlying belief systems and biases, including within key public and market institutions. At the individual and family levels, male engagement strategies, combined with consciousness-building across generations, seeks to challenge the status quo from within, create bystander intervention reflexes, and bolster allyship.
- As part of building **duty-bearers'** capacities, the action works on transparency and accountability for gender equality. This is why it targets oversight institutions and the implementation tools of public policies, such as laws, budget and public participation.
- While being a G2 programme, **the action also contributes to other EU priorities**, notably the green deal, making it consistent with the GAP III approach. For example, it seeks to strengthen economic, social and labour rights on an equal basis, but with a focus on sustainable value chains using gender, inclusive and green lenses to remove barriers to decent work and unlock women's economic potential. This is also reflected in its alignment with national gender and green policies, including Nepal's National Gender Policy 2021, the Forest Policy (2018), the Forest Sector Strategy (2015- 2025), the Environmental Policy (2019), the Climate Policy (2019), and the second Nationally Determined Contribution (2020).
- The action adopts an **intersectional approach** and upholds the principle of leaving no one behind by including persons with disabilities (PWD) and other groups in vulnerable situations. This commitment is reflected in the log frame's indicators. For example, "*the number of women, youth and PWD entrepreneurs and their collectives who have started and/or developed business, including in green sectors, supported by the programme (disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, disability and economic sector)*."
- The action is also distinguished by its **multidimensional approach**. It targets the family, community, school and market levels, as well as public spaces and social movements. It combines this with a focus on expanding opportunities by enhancing women and girls' social capital, increasing their voice, choice, control over and access to economic opportunities and social protection.
- **The action's approach to combatting gender-based violence** is not limited to services for preventing and responding to violence. It also addresses the formal and informal factors that contribute to violence, discrimination, impunity and eroded trust in public institutions.



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