

NEPAL*

Empowering Marginalized Women Through Political Participation and Leadership Development in Nepal's Diverse Provinces

DURATION: 02/2025 – 02/2027

Women in Nepal, particularly those with disabilities, from lower socio-economic backgrounds, and other marginalized communities, face systemic barriers to political participation and leadership. These include entrenched gender stereotypes, limited access to education, and minimal structural support. Social norms often confine women to domestic roles, while in some instances discouraging women from pursuing leadership positions. Women with disabilities face compounded discrimination and intersectional marginalization, restricting diverse voices in governance and undermining inclusive development. Structural inequalities are intensified by stigma, safety concerns, and limited mobility—especially in rural and underserved areas—leaving many women without pathways to participation. Addressing these barriers requires a deliberate, intersectional approach that builds women's leadership capacity, transforms social attitudes, and creates enabling environments for long-term political engagement and change.

This project aims to address systemic barriers to women's political participation in Nepal, particularly among marginalized groups such as women with disabilities, low-income women, and those from socially excluded communities. It builds inclusive leadership ecosystems and promotes structural transformation at community level. Key strategies to implement this project are:



Empowering marginalized women across three provinces through leadership training and mentorship.



Shifting social norms by engaging men, youth, and traditional leaders in sustained community dialogues.



Establishing intergenerational support networks and regional fora to amplify women's voices in governance.



Increasing visibility of women's leadership through media campaigns and storytelling.



Photo: UN Women/Gagan Thapa

*Provinces of Bagmati, Madesh and Sudurpashchim.

KEY TARGETS INCLUDE

90

trained in political,
governance, advocacy and
decision-making skills

WOMEN

45

mentored by
established
community leaders

YOUNG ACTION
AMBASSADORS

6

with local governments engaging
men, boys and community
members as advocates for
women's leadership

COMMUNITY
DIALOGUES

90

paired and engaged
in intergenerational
mentorship sessions

WOMEN LEADERS
AND YOUNG
WOMEN

KEY ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Train aspiring women leaders in public speaking, self-esteem, and manifesto development to enhance their readiness for councilor, MP, and presidential races in 2025.
- ▶ Host role modeling sessions and public debates to build confidence and visibility of women candidates, with participation from prominent women leaders.
- ▶ Engage political party gatekeepers and leaders through lobbying meetings and panel discussions to increase the number of women and youth candidates in primaries and elections.
- ▶ Mobilize voter support through public debates, market-day campaigns, and radio jingles promoting gender equality and women's leadership.
- ▶ Combat GBV and harmful norms via community dialogues, media campaigns, and roadshows focused on preventing violence against women in politics and public life.



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