

Project title (Acronym)	Cities 4 Women: Inclusive and Climate Resilient Urbanization in Nepal
LA / CSO (type)	Not applicable
Implementing Partner(s)	UNOPS, UNHABITAT, CITIES ALLIANCE
Country/countries, region	NEPAL, SOUTH ASIA
Budget (specify EU funding amount, if applicable)	USD \$3,763,441(EUR 3,500,000)
Is it a Global Gateway project?	Yes
Funding modality	Co-funded grant mechanism combined with a municipal co-financing (cost-sharing) modality.
Funding sources	European Union and Government of Finland
Implementation period	4yrs (Oct 1,2023-Sep 30,2027)
Thematic development area (5 words)	Inclusive and Resilient Urbanization in Nepal
Short description, including target beneficiaries and their engagement/reactions thus far (300 words)	The Cities 4 Women: Inclusive and Climate Resilient Urbanization in Nepal project aims to support municipalities in addressing the challenges of rapid urban growth and increasing climate vulnerability through the planning, design, and construction of gender-responsive and climate-resilient public open spaces. The project is initiated in seven municipalities in Nepal. The project focuses on creating safe, accessible, inclusive, and sustainable public spaces that respond to the diverse needs of the community. Inclusive community participation has been ensured throughout every stage of the planning and design process to effectively address local needs and priorities. Different participatory approaches, including community mapping, co-design workshops, and validation meetings, were adopted during the development of the public open spaces to make them more inclusive, responsive, and resilient. Initially, community mapping workshops were conducted to identify and prioritize the open spaces that required development through the active participation of community members from different social groups. Following the prioritization process, co-design workshops were organized to ensure that the proposed spaces reflected local needs and supported the long-term sustainability of the project. Participants included women, men, youth, elder people, LGBTQI++, and people with disabilities, enabling the project team to better understand the significance of the sites, their existing uses, challenges, and the aspirations of local residents. Community members expressed positive reactions throughout the planning and design process, as their active involvement allowed them to share their ideas, concerns, and aspirations for the public spaces. Participants appreciated being included in decision-making activities such as community mapping, co-design, and validation workshops, which helped them feel heard and valued. Many community members showed excitement and satisfaction in seeing the construction of spaces that they themselves had helped identify and design. Their participation also strengthened their sense of ownership and responsibility toward the projects, creating greater enthusiasm for the long-term use, maintenance, and sustainability of the developed public spaces.

	In Chandragiri Municipality, seven public open spaces across seven wards are currently in the design and construction phase, serving an estimated target population of around 10,000 households. Community members have responded positively to the planning process and have become increasingly aware and proactive in voicing their needs, particularly regarding project selection in future planning stages.
Lessons learnt, key messages and results relevant for future EU programming (300 words)	The implementation of the Cities 4 Women: Inclusive and Climate Resilient Urbanization in Nepal project provided several important lessons and key insights for future EU programming from the perspective of Chandragiri Municipality. One of the major lessons learned is that inclusive community participation significantly improves the relevance, acceptance, and sustainability of urban development projects. Engaging women, youth, older persons, marginalized group and people with disabilities through community mapping, co-design, and validation workshops helped ensure that the developed public spaces reflected the actual needs and priorities of local communities. The project also demonstrated that participatory planning processes strengthen trust and collaboration between municipalities and communities. When local people are involved in decision-making from the early stages, they develop a stronger sense of ownership and responsibility toward the projects, which can contribute to better long-term maintenance and sustainability of public spaces. Another key lesson is the importance of integrating gender-responsive and climate-resilient approaches into urban planning and design. Public spaces designed with accessibility, safety, inclusiveness, greenery, and climate adaptation measures can improve the quality of life for diverse community groups while supporting resilient urban development. The project further highlighted the need for technical capacity building within municipalities to effectively implement inclusive and climate-sensitive urban planning practices. From the municipality's perspective, the project has strengthened institutional understanding of participatory urban planning and demonstrated the value of collaboration among local governments, communities, and development partners. The initiative has also created increased awareness among community members regarding inclusive public spaces and their role in social cohesion and environmental sustainability. For future EU programming, the project emphasizes the importance of continued support for participatory planning approaches, local capacity development, and community-led urban interventions that promote inclusiveness, accessibility, climate resilience, and sustainable urban growth.
Replicability (100 words)	The Cities 4 Women approach is highly replicable in other municipalities and communities due to its participatory, inclusive, and climate-responsive planning process. Tools such as community mapping, co-design workshops, and validation meetings can be systematically integrated into a step-by-step planning framework to effectively identify local needs and priorities

across different types of projects. The process has demonstrated that the active involvement of women, youth, elderly people, LGBTQI+ individuals, and persons with disabilities significantly strengthens ownership, inclusiveness, and long-term sustainability of public spaces. With adequate technical support, coordination, and sustained community engagement, this approach can be successfully implemented in other urban contexts to promote inclusive, accessible, and climate-resilient public spaces while also strengthening local governance practices.

The positive outcomes of the project have already encouraged interest from other municipalities to adopt similar participatory planning methods. For instance, within Chandragiri Municipality itself, several other projects have begun to apply this approach, reflecting its practical relevance and positive impact on improving planning quality and community engagement.