



Funded by
the European Union

WOMEN'S SAFETY AUDIT REPORT 2022



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Access to safe and reliable public places, services, and infrastructures are the key areas that allow women, girls, and children to participate actively in public activities and enjoy equal rights and opportunities.

Safety and security are very important components for each individual. However, in the context of gender and social culture in countries like Nepal, issues relating to women's, girls, and children's safety are very crucial whether they be in private or public places. Patriarchal norms and values influence the upbringing of men/boys as well as women/girls and have an impact on their attitudes, behavior, and practices. UN Women's report (2017) on Women's Safety Audit (WSA) identified concerns about women's safety and sexual violence against women and girls. It defines the safety of women and girls as "if a space is made safe for women, it will be safe for everyone."

WSA with the support of UN Women and the Safe City Campaign was introduced in Nepal through some project intervention by Action Aid, Didi Bahini-Nepal. However, Action Aid and Didi Bahini implemented WSA based on their project in 2015. In addition, Uniview Guards Nepal launched the first phase of Kathmandu safe city construction and deployed video surveillance on the main roads of the urban centers in 2016. This inter alia helped in making the people aware of their activities, generated a sense of safety among women and girls, and helped generate evidence provided any safety concerns and issues arose.

Within this background and context, Legal Aid Consultancy Centre (LACC) with support from UN Women Nepal conducted WSA based on 3 municipalities and 2 sub metropolitan cities of Lumbini, Karnali and Far-west province in September 2022. The WSA explored the situation of safety and security concerns of women, girls and children in target groups and areas, an identified the gaps and intervention strategies to improve the safety and security of women, girls and children in the community particularly during disaster preparedness and response including the pandemic.

The findings and recommendations of the audit will bring attention to the following: 1) the target group analytically was more aware of their safety & security 2) make the policymakers and service providers were more accountable at the federal, provincial, and local levels thereby making public places, services, and infrastructure safer for women, girls and Children. 3) the government and other stakeholders take Women's Safety Audit as important integration in their interventions in order to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals – Access to Justice Goal 11 i.e., make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

On behalf of LACC Nepal, I acknowledge my gratitude to the consultant Sandhya Shrestha, GESI Expert (Team Leader) and Karuna Amatya, MEAL Expert (Team Member) for conducting the Women's Safety audit at the project locations. Likewise, my sincere thanks to Ms. Sama Shrestha, Program Specialist, and Navanita Sinha, Head of In-Charge of UN Women for providing technical inputs to finalize the safety audit implementation modality. I would also like to thank Ms. Rakshya Risal, Senior Programme Officer of LACC for her support in conducting this audit. Last but not the least, I would like to thank Ms. Saraswati Yonzon, Program Manager of LACC for reviewing the report and Ms. Bhagyashree Rawal, M&E

Officer of LACC for her support to finalize this study report.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude, particularly to the field resource persons, all respondents including identified project volunteers, community members, and various stakeholders including police, lawyers, health workers One-stop Crisis Management Center (OCMC), municipality members, government officials, service providers, and social workers. Without their help and valuable input, this assignment would not have been accomplished. I would also like to express my appreciation to the service providers who with very limited resources have been playing an important role in improving the safety of women.

This is the first crucial attempt of LACC and the consultants: showing the red flag on the urgent need for Women's Safety and Security Improvement in Nepal. Any suggestions and feedback on this audit report from any corner will be highly appreciated. We wish to engage further in this type of women's safety audit in the future for enhancing women's safety & security and related campaigns.

Anita Neupane Thapalia
Executive Chair
LACC Nepal

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENT	i
CHAPTER 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
1.1 Overall findings of audit	2
1.2 Key findings	3
1.3 Key recommendations	5
1.4 Improve knowledge and information sharing	7
1.5 Capacity development of duty bearer, service provider, and community actors	7
1.6 Improve protection mechanism against GBV from political and economic perspectives	8
1.7 Improvement of GESI responsive infrastructures	8
1.8 Men’s engagement in change social norms and practice	9
CHAPTER 2. BACKGROUND	9
2.1 Women and public space in disaster	10
2.2 Women Safety Audit	11
2.3 Women safety audit in Nepal	11
CHAPTER 3. OBJECTIVE OF AUDIT	12
CHAPTER 4. METHODOLOGY	12
4.1 Consultation workshop	13
4.2 Rapid Situation Analysis (RSiA)	13
4.3 Rapid Stakeholder Analysis (RSA)	14
4.4 Key Informant Interview (KII)	15
4.5 Focus Group Discussion (FGD)	16
4.6 Safety Walk (SW)	17
4.7 Street Survey	18
4.8 Case Study	19
4.9 Participants/field observation:	19
4.10 Literature Review	19
CHAPTER 5. MUNICIPALITY WISE BACKGROUND	19

5.1	Birendranagar Municipality (Provincial level)	19
5.2	Nepalgunj Sub Metropolitan City	20
5.3	Dhandagdhi Sub Metropolitan City	21
5.4	Amargadhi Municipality	22
5.5	Jay Prithvi Municipality	23
	CHAPTER 6. FINDING	23
6.1	Demography of respondent	23
6.2	Safety and security concerns of women in public places	26
6.3	Safety and security concerns	26
6.4	Unsafe time of the day for women and girls	32
6.5	Types of sexual harassment/assault in public places	33
6.6	Main actors/perpetuators make women and girls feel unsafe	33
6.7	Safety and security concerns in disaster & pandemic context	35
6.8	Type of violence/sexual harassment in disaster and pandemic period	35
6.9	Safety walk: an innovative practical tool to do a critical analysis of public spaces- learning for all	37
6.10	Safety and security mechanism	38
6.11	Government support system to protect women	38
6.12	Safety and security mechanisms at the local and district level including the disaster & pandemic period	39
	CHAPTER 7. CONCLUSION	42
	CHAPTER 8. LIMITATION	43
	REFERENCES	44
	CHAPTER 9. ANNEX	46
9.1	Questionnaire	46
9.2	Case study	46
9.3	Municipality wise pictorial information	46
9.4	Participants information	46
9.5	Respondents' information	46

ACRONYM

CBO	Community Base Organisation
CC Camera	Closed-Circuit Camera
CEDAW	The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women
CSCW	Community Psycho Social Counselling Worker
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction Management
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
KII	Key Informant Interview
LACC	Legal Aid and Consultancy Centre
LGBTIQ	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (or questioning), and intersex
METRAC	Metropolitan Toronto Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children
MoFAGA	Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration
NGOs	Non-Government Organization
IEC	Information Education Communication
INGO	International Non-Government Organization
OCMC	One-stop Crisis Management Center
PCVA	Participatory Capacity Vulnerability Assessment
PWD	Person With Disability
REFLECT	Regenerated Freirean Literacy through Empowerment and Community Techniques
RSA	Rapid Stakeholder Analysis,

RSIA	Rapid Situation Analysis
SADDD	Sex Age Disability Disaggregated Data
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN WOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WCSCC	Women Children Senior Citizen Cell
WRO	Women Rights Organisation
WSA	Woman Safety Audit
SW	Safety Walk

CHAPTER 1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (CEDAW) defines ‘any act of gender-based violence that results in or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life’ (Un General Assembly, 1993 Article 1). However, safety issues in public spaces seriously restrict their mobility which affects their daily life. According to Kacharo “et al.” (2022) “violence against women in public space is a serious, worldwide problem. Essentially, as women move from lives confined to the domestic sphere, their very spatial mobility might be perceived to be a form of defiance and deviance.” Women and girls are more affected by disasters and threats including climate change due to gender-specific barriers and inequalities than men and boys based on previous experiences in floods and earthquakes in 2015.

Safety concerns of women and girls¹ in private and public places are one of the major issues based on gender, class, race, age, disability, sexual orientation and religion and are found practiced at home, market, road, public means of transport, workplace, school, college, hotel, service agencies, office, court, health centers, refugees’ camps well as forest, nearby police barrack, community /private forest, in petrol stations, restaurant, grazing area, water & fodder collection areas, narrow streets, etc. Patriarchal norms and values influence the upbringing of men and boys² as well as women/girls and their attitudes, behavior and practice.

Women Safety Audit (WSA) is a participatory research approach to assess the safety & security concerns of women in public spaces and the practice of safety measures to protect them. This audit helps to identify safety and security concerns and protection mechanisms focusing on gender-based violence (GBV), particularly among women and girls.

With support from UN Women Nepal, Legal Aid and Consultancy Centre (LACC) conducted WSA in Nepal based on 2 project wards of each of 3 municipalities (Birendranagar Municipality of Surkhet, Karnali Province; Amargadhi of Dadeldhura and Jay Prithvi of Bajhang, Sudurpashchim province), similarly 2 sub metropolitan cities (Nepalgunj of Banke, Lumbini Province and Dhangadhi of Kailali, Sudurpashchim Province) in September 2022.

Apart from the consultants, LACC focal persons DRR/GESI resource persons and women’s rights activists supported in the coordination, field visit plan, identification of potential respondents as well as some data collection.

¹ Women = Women including girls

² Men = Men including boys

- Birendranagar Municipality: Hasta Regmi-LACC and Jagat KC
- Nepalgunj Sub-Metropolitan City: Sunita Sharma-LACC, Sahida Shah
- Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City: Pushpa Bikram Shahi-LACC, Khagendra Raj Joshi
- Amarghadhi Municipality: Debaki Bhatta-LACC, Padma Gurung
- Jay Prithvi Municipality: Bhuwan Singh Thakuri-LACC, Sita Singh

In total 225 numbers of respondents of the WSA were consulted. They were identified as volunteers for WSA who were among the direct beneficiaries who had attended Orientation of Gender Responsive DRRM, community members (women, girls, men, boys & others), various stakeholders including police, lawyers, health workers of One-stop Crisis Management Centre (OCMC), municipality members, government officials, service providers, and social workers, etc.

A Women's Safety Audit is encompassed as a methodological tool to evaluate safety in public and private spaces from a women's, girls', and children's perspective. However, this study tried to capture the perspective of targeted area men, people with disability, and sexual minorities. The Metropolitan Toronto Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children (METRAC) conducted a safety audit in Canada in 1989. Later it developed a guideline called "Women's Community Safety Audit Guide in 2005. According to METRAC, the WSA is a method to evaluate the environment from the standpoint of those who feel vulnerable and to make changes to reduce opportunities for assault. However, this audit mainly refers to the Safety Audit Toolkit that was developed by Action Aid in 2013 (based on METRA guidelines) and on the basis of the research experience of the consultants.

The tools and methods used for the audit are Rapid Situation Analysis, Rapid Stakeholder Analysis, Key Informant Interview, Focus Group Discussion (FGD), Safety Walk, Street Survey, Case Study, Participants and Field Observation, and Literature Review.

1.1 OVERALL FINDINGS OF THE AUDIT

- i. This audit clearly indicated the gender gap particularly in the SADD (sex, age, disability data) system to understand different needs and impacts, in-depth knowledge on DRR, GBV (protective measures which control women's mobility), and public infrastructure in relation to safety and security of women.
- ii. Policy and practice are gender neutral from gender-responsive analysis in Disaster Risk Reduction Management Act, 2074, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Rules, 2076 (2019). However, while conducting the review of those documents for the purpose of the audit, it has been found that Disaster Risk Management Localization Manual is GESI. An Operational Training Manual for DRM Capacity Building for Local Governments developed by the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA) (gender-responsive) directly impacts practice at the ground level.

- iii. This audit showed the limited knowledge in different type of safety and security concern of women's, DRRM cycle, early warning, information, access to resources and rights among the women and stakeholders. In majority of the sector, there is a lack of implementation of the Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention) Act, 2014 (2071) to protect women, particularly from sexual exploitation and abuse in public places and restricts women's mobility and access to justice.
- iv. Most of the respondents have basic knowledge, capacity and resources on GBV, disaster response and resilience. However, there exists a culture of collaboration in responding to incidents occurring within the area (e.g., flood/earthquake/health hazards/COVID response and GBV). Lack of state commitments is reflected at the national and international level with regards to ensuring the safety and security of women in public places and long-term gender-responsive program towards sustainable development goal 11 and gender equality goal 5.
- v. The tool and methods used in the audit assisted in digging out the safety and security concerns and carrying out the critical analysis of issues and context. Particularly, the informative questionnaire, traffic light tool, and the special safety walk tool made respondents/participants aware on the in-depth analysis of safety and security concerns, the current status of such concerns and exploring available infrastructures and their conditions.
- vi. Although there are various safety and security mechanisms at the local level, it does not come as a surprise to know that the community members and some stakeholders are unaware of the safety and security mechanisms. The WSA team had listed out the safety and security mechanism which became a remarkable tool for the audit team to speak/discuss/get therecommendation from the stakeholders about the effectiveness of those mechanisms. Figure no. 14 indicates the provisions of safety & security mechanisms at the local level.
- vii. Some of the infrastructures, plan and information system are positive sign towards the improvement/ initiation of safety & security mechanism that also improves the images of the provinces. Some of the examples are the smart gender and disable friendly toilet/talk toilet campaign of Birendranagar bus park, Bhanu Park, street lights in city centers, evacuation plan, toilet with ramp, evacuation plan in school, CC Camera, wall paintings, Citizen Charter, Police Beat & patrolling, women auto driving etc., pictures are shown in Annex. Public places and infrastructures such as public toilets, government offices & toilets, hospitals, markets, roadsides, street lights, drainage, footpath, school, park, restaurants, temples, travel to districts, local travel, and police beat were personally observed by the audit term. It was observed that the main city area & park have some street lights and there is an increasing trend in the use of the solar light system. Normally the government building and toilets which we visited are satisfactory, however, some including public toilets are in very bad condition.
- viii. Going through the discussion with the various women and stakeholders regarding the safety concerns of women, it was also highly recommended the need to develop more women in leadership and entrepreneurship so as to bring a transformative change in their lives & livelihood resilience. "If we can develop our skills and earn money, the attitude & behaviours of the society towards us will be very good and will make our life will easier" – FGD in all groups.

1.2 KEY FINDINGS

- i. The audit found that sexual harassment/assault (harassment, teasing, stalking, touching, flashing, staring, etc.) are forms of violence against women that have forced restrictions on freedom of movement and other basic rights. 86% of targeted women, girls, and (in the community) respondents and 80% of stakeholders in the targeted 5 municipalities reported an increase in sexual harassment/assault in public places. 59% of respondents also mentioned the threat (blackmailing, exploitation, threat, etc.). This issue was mentioned as a critical problem by 46% of respondents in a street survey. (See Figure 6.6.)
- ii. The audit revealed that crowded, isolated, festival crowd, temples, concerts, parks, roadsides, narrow streets, school/college, "Chaupadi³" - small hut for menstruation period, forest, water & fodder collection areas, etc.) were the places where 68% of women and girls felt unsafe. Sexual harassment issues are still prevalent in crowded public spaces and isolated areas, according to 77% of stakeholders polled. 43% of respondents in a street survey, mostly young people, said they had witnessed sexual harassment in public places. The lack of lights was cited by 62% of community respondents as the cause of the unsafe environment. (See Figure 6.7.)
- iii. The audit process including the orientation and safety walk also enhances the awareness among the women, girls and some boys/men on the types of sexual harassment/assaults, safe/unsafe places, their self-protection mechanisms like complaints/reporting, developing their own analysis on tolerable/ intolerable, etc. while discussing/asking survey informative questionnaires. The stakeholders are also internalizing those issues/giving weight to reducing GBV.
- iv. The study further discovered the fact that 58% of community respondents feel unsafe and face harassment due to being a woman or a girl, which has been verified by the 84% of the stakeholders who have accepted this fact. The other major reasons are being differentially able people (68%), being a sexual minority (50%), and being poor & vulnerable people (77%). (Figure 6.8)
- v. It is analyzed that the Safety Walk tool has evolved into a new innovative practical tool for critical analysis of safety issues. Participants in the safety walk were asked to observe public spaces in various dimensions using the GESI lenses. They chose public spaces (markets, isolated narrow streets, roadside, schools, parks, festival gatherings, highways, lake/riverside, border areas, and so on) and infrastructures with disabled and gender-friendly lenses (public toilets, market, streetlights, government offices, school, drainages, footpath, shelter,). According to their experiences, 57% felt unsafe, 38% felt okay, and 6% felt safe in public places. In comparison to the data in the table, the majority of participants felt more unsafe in the evenings than during the day. Women and girls want to avoid sexual assault, harassment, rape, and other forms of violence. Figure 6.15 includes additional elaboration on how they felt and what kinds of safety issues were threatened, among other things.

³Chaupadi is a form of menstrual taboo which prohibits women and girls from participating in normal family activities while menstruating, as they are considered "impure"

- vi. The study identified that risk of sexual harassment/assaults/rape has become an increasing issue that is evident from the response from the majority of the respondents. During Covid-19 this threat had increased but owing to family issues and considering it a social taboo they were never disclosed and as such, it remains a hidden story. 77% of the stakeholders are aware of those critical problems which could be occurred during that period. However, there is a lack of government and political commitment, and commitment to carry out in-depth gender analysis and provide financial and human resources and programme.
- vii. From the KII and FGD and informal discussion the respondents brought to attention on the changing trend of abuse and exploitation not only limited to women and girls as an emerging issue. Some men and boys were also treated badly & were subjected to violence by women and girls. FGD participants in particular adolescent boys shared their experience about eve teasing and verbal comment made by girls that made them feel uncomfortable and humiliated. Similarly, social media like Facebook, and TikTok are playing a vital role in creating pressure on men to fulfill women's demands such as new dresses for social functions, food in restaurants, travel, and making TikTok, etc.
- viii. According to the data, key perpetrators are typically men with a negative attitude (82%), boys with a negative attitude (70%) and 73% of women with a negative attitude, all of whom contribute to creating an unsafe environment for girls and women. However, there are few instances of girls making verbal comments and requesting monetary compensation from boys. The perpetrators come from a variety of professional backgrounds, including drivers, lawyers, teachers, friends, service providers, volunteers, laborers, wealthy individuals, alcoholics/drug addicts, and so on. (See Figure 6.12)
- ix. The audit found that within the DRRM system, the capacity of the rescue team was very and similarly the contingency plan, mock drill, and coordination were found to be weak and lacking GESI sensitiveness. For example, women's participation and engagement in overall DRR sectors are low. Until now the rescue team had conducted one mock session with the support of the Super Project, there is a limited stockpile of dignity kits and rescue items supported by UNFPA and other projects.
- x. 70% of women and girls take precautionary measures such as not going out at night or to isolated locations. 30% of respondents stated that they do not leave their homes alone. However, it was clarified during the focus group discussion that they go alone to study, travel, market, relatives/friends' homes, and work that is close to their homes. "We miss skill training, further study, working in big offices, going to movies and restaurants, deciding on marriage age, traveling around," one of the female participants said. Similarly, one of the participants said "parents usually control their daughters with regards to higher education outside their hometown so as to protect them from harm". (See Figure 6.16)

PRE – DISASTER PHASES

- Preparedness
- Early warning
- Prevention

DURING DISASTER PHASES

- Response
- Recovery

POST DISASTER PHASES

- Reconstruction
- Rehabilitation

- xi. The audit team observed that 14% of the respondents started reporting to the police. It is not surprising to see owing to poverty, lack of legal knowledge, family and peer pressure and threats, that there is reporting to the police nor doing anything (62% in Figure 6.21) on issues relating to sexual harassments, assault etc., and even rape. The 14% of community members said that they were afraid to approach the police and 8% said they had witnessed the victim being blamed for the crimes committed against them. (Figure#20). During the focus group discussion and discussion with stakeholders, 28% of the community members said the reporting process was too tedious, cumbersome, time consuming, and required sufficient financial resources. They also responded that in the absence of political pressure, the reports are taken lightly and the investigation is not carried out with seriousness. (36% of respondents Figure 20). The discussion with women police cells and other police personnel revealed that the reporting on domestic violence/sexual harassment/rape was increasing, however, these were influenced by members of the political parties and influential people. The practice of complaining to the helpline or associate organization is increasing and some stakeholders of women's organizations according to their resources and capacity are providing safety & security services to the affected women and girls. 60% of the stakeholders indicated that the key reason behind not reporting is family and peer pressure and that the process was too tedious, time-consuming, and needed sufficient financial resources.

1.3 KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The study shows the significance of the Women's Safety Audit needs to be done throughout the country engaging the vulnerable communities, government officials, experts, stakeholders, and donors to explore and identify the disaster-prone, areas, situations, infrastructure, and systems. This can be a strong baseline for further effective project designing, planning, and budgeting so that violence-free, safe, and secure environments including gender-responsive DRRM can be strengthened especially for women, girls, and children. Eventually, which will contribute to a safe environment the women, girls, and children in the public as well as private life. Besides, the information gathered in this report will provide insights to integrate into GESI responsive lens during the intervention. More importantly, it will support the strategic plan for the government and concerned stakeholders to address the issues of gender-responsive DRRM and GBV initiatives.

Reform and Enactment of Gender Responsive Law and Policies

- i. The relevant stakeholders, including the government, must review the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, 2074, and the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Rules, 2076 (2019), through the lens of the GESI and put them into immediate use through localization at the federal, provincial, and local levels.
- ii. This report strongly urges strengthening women, girls, children, people with disabilities, and marginalized communities so they can take the lead during all stages of a disaster. i.e., pre to, post, and throughout the disaster by identifying the barriers to their equal involvement in all level.
- iii. Ensure safety and security of vulnerable community especially women, girls and children through integrating dimensions of gender. This includes division of labour, gender norms, access to and

control over resources, benefits and voice (meaningful participation in decision making process) in general and particularly in disaster risk reduction sector and resilience work. There must be strong coordination between government, national and international non-governmental organizations (I/NGO, womenrights organizations (WROs), private sector, disability right organizations, LGBTIQ+, community based organizations (CBOs) including representative of vulnerable community.

- iv. Ensure every public place is safe and secure as well as enabling environment for breaking the silence against sexual exploitation and abuse, particularly by women including persons with disability (PWD), and LGBTIQ+ through effective implementation of The Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention) Act, 2014 (2071) and develop necessary legislation and regulations.
- v. 50% (at least 33% as per the Constitution of Nepal 2015) inclusive participation of women (duty bearer, service provider, Women Rights Organizations, DRR expert, GESI expert, PWD, LGBTIQ+, affected/vulnerable community) with the key position in all decision-making structures and level especially disaster risk reduction management (DRRM) cycle (e.g., participatory capacity and vulnerability analysis (PCVA)/ Gender Analysis, designing, planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and learning)
- vi. Reform and enactment of gender-responsive law and policies as well as develop a legal framework on implementation and monitoring of public physical infrastructure (e.g., road, pathway, building, toilet, bridge, rehabilitation centres in line with design standards and guidelines incorporated in building code and by laws and ensure those public infrastructures are inclusive assessable and safe for all particularly to women, PWD, senior citizen.
- vii. LACC in coordination with UN Women should organise debriefing sessions on the findings of WSA in each municipality and initiate policy and practice dialogue and encourage for establishment of an inclusive DRR committee and other relevant structures in the municipality and initiate activities to enhance their capacity. Widely disseminate and distribute published documents to all local government and relevant stakeholders, organizations and communities.

- viii. Establish and strengthen the sustainable inclusive and gender balance committee and existing networks for advocacy of DRRM and GBV with male and female (M &F), GESI Expert, vulnerable community, adolescents), protection experts (if available?), private sector (association of infrastructure construction, teachers, etc.) and LACC focal person (7 to 11 member) for lobbying and advocacy in the ward and municipality level linking it with the province and federal level for improvement of safety and security of women in public places of respected municipalities.

1.4 IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION SHARING

- i. Maintain quality data collection, documentation and sharing system using Sex and AGE Diversity Disaggregated Data (SADDD) and using Gender Analysis Tool in DRRM cycle and protect the safety and security of women, girl, children, PWD and marginalized communities.
- ii. Activate Learning Centers applying ReFLECT approach (Regenerated Freirean Literacy through Empowerment and Community Techniques) at the tole/ward level by local organizations and local government where community members can debate ending or reducing GBV, enhancing leadership development, and safety and security issues.
- iii. Strengthen and regulate the Information, Education, Communication (IEC) system including print, audio and video material, government and private TV, radio including social media with the active participation of women and men.
- iv. Establish a knowledge-sharing forum for youth on GBV and safety and security concerns and mobilize them to promote safety and security in the community and society as a whole.

1.5 CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OF DUTY BEARER, SERVICE PROVIDER AND COMMUNITY ACTORS

- i. Capacity development on GESI responsive DRRM cycle and safety and security of women, girls, children of the elected representatives, duty bearers from different thematic departments (staff, school, college, police, army, health worker, counsellor so on), CSOs working on women/girls right, DRR and GBV, private sector (association of construction, transportation, hotel, school, etc.)
- ii. Capacity building on the GESI responsive DRRM cycle, as well as the safety and security of women, girls, and children for elected women ward members in municipalities who performs as the frontlines at the local level.
- iii. GESI responsive capacity building of DRRM team, stakeholders and community on preparedness, early warning, rescue, vulnerability mapping, stock piling, develop and maintain communication tree, mock drill/simulation session on preparedness, response, recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation, documentation analysis of GESI disaggregated data and resilience livelihood. The

adolescent girls' network, child club, youth club including Mother's Group (Aama Samuha), women groups and father group (Baa samuha if available) must be included in capacity building.

- iv. Include a participatory women's safety walk (including government officials, service providers, WROs, construction associations, media, DRR, and GESI experts, among others) in public places in local government as one of the important strategies to improve the safety and security of women and girls, and include it as an indicator of GESI audits of local governments and other organizations.
- v. Ensure government and non-government actors working in the disaster safety and security of women and girls in particular through analyzing and identifying possible protection threats of post-disaster (e.g., SEA, harassment, physical and mental harm due to conflict in camp, weak communication and protection mechanism, privacy issue due to sharing shelter, so on) into develop strategy and preparedness plan including human and financial resources
- vi. Strengthen the women's group, elected & potential women political leaders and other committees' members on sustainable disaster preparedness planning process, social and financial literacy for group mobilization including savings, access to contingency resources and support and advocate for local government resources with the approach of 3R – Response, Recovery and Reconstruction.
- vii. Develop print materials, radio programmes, wall paintings, street dramas, door to door campaigns, observe international women's day focusing on women's concerns, information, law & acts, etc. on safety and security and ensure access to vulnerable communities in particular women, PWD and LGBTIQ+ with advocacy & lobby skill on developing social connections/networks/media and related organizations.

1.6 IMPROVE PROTECTION MECHANISM AGAINST GBV FROM POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROSPECTIVE

- i. Establishment, and enhancement of protection cluster at the municipal level with designated staff, resources, authority and enabling environment and regulations to work in collaboration with DRR committee and Women Children Senior Citizen Unit including organization working in the area of DRR, GBV and Women Rights.
- ii. Ensure enabling/engaging environment of demanding rights for services and reporting for access to justice and protection of victim/survivor of GBV, sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and their evidences based on mainstreaming protection principle including respectful communication culture and empowerment activities for survivors especially in the context of disaster
- iii. The concerned stakeholders should challenge stereotype gender norms and change mind set of all through awareness raising and training of resilience sustainable economic empowerment opportunity for women in male dominated economic technical skills and tools like driver, plumber, electrician, constructor, field worker, mechanics, and other innovative sectors. This will support to increase their mobility and their confident to resist such kind of safety and security concerns and

report for access to justice particularly during the post-disaster period.

- iv. Exploring and designing the entrepreneur's skill of diversified resilience livelihood opportunities for women and girls to create a conducive environment, and reduce their poverty and fear to improve their safety and security measures adaptation. The changing trend of private sector partnership for women's resilient livelihoods and small businesses promotes women's socio-economic and political leadership.
- v. Improve complaint handling mechanism and accountability towards ending GBV and protection through improved police patrolling and security vigilance and community surveillance for women's safety
- vi. Promote psychosocial counseling mechanisms, skills, and services for GBV survivors, including case management, and empower survivors to take action against perpetrators during disasters and pandemics.
- vii. Local government should coordinate with concerned stakeholders and maximize self-defense training as a useful protection mechanism, particularly for adolescent girls.
- viii. Advocate and lobby with the government and other stakeholders to allocate funds and develop a collaborative approach for strengthening the protection mechanism of women.

1.7 IMPROVEMENT OF GESI RESPONSIVE INFRASTRUCTURES

- i. Ensure government of all levels that construction companies are aware of women's safety and security issues and disable friendly infrastructure and hold them accountable in designing and constructing such infrastructures making it mandatory for such companies to adhere to and follow the legal provision and guidelines including safety concerns of women and PWD.
- ii. Ensure gender responsive budget for gender and disable-friendly infrastructure development with effective and participatory monitoring and evaluation system.
- iii. Government in coordination with stakeholders including the media should ensure that the public, private and state partnerships play an active role in identifying new and/or existing unsafe places and critical safety issues and allocation of budget and subsequent implementation for the safety of women.
- iv. Strengthen surveillance systems in public places such as CC cameras, police beat/patrolling, and installation of street lights which can be integrated into the projects/programme and also promote the community development committee (Tole Bikas Samitee) to initiate such kinds of activities.
- v. Ensure inclusive gender balance with meaningful participation of the community in the public infrastructure development process from designing to completion process with a mandatory clause for the construction company to meet GESI requirements and safety issues with proper monitoring.

1.8 MEN' ENGAGEMENT IN CHANGE SOCIAL NORMS AND PRACTICE

- i. Engaging men and boys in school/college/community for transformation of stereotype social and gender norms and practice towards ending violence against women
- ii. Identify Gender Champions as change agent, mobilize them to discuss GBV and create safe environment for women in public places.
- iii. With support from police and women/men activists, lawyers, psychosocial counselors and gender specialists, carry out innovative and effective interaction awareness programme with service providers like drivers/conductors, night guards/workers, restaurant/hotel workers, laborers, local shopkeepers.
- iv. Effective implementation of legal provision of cyber-crime and protect from misuse of social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc) with proper monitoring system and action against such crime and protection of women and girls in particular through raising awareness on the legal provision of cybercrime and use of the technology.

CHAPTER 2

BACKGROUND

Access to safe and reliable public places is a key area for women and girls where they can participate actively in public activities such as school/college, park, street, restaurant, travel, market etc. including economic, social and political activities. Safety issues in public spaces restricts their mobility which in turn seriously affects their daily life. According to Kacharo, “et ...” (2022) “violence against women in public space is a serious, worldwide problem. Essentially, as women move from lives confined to the domestic sphere, their very spatial mobility might be perceived to be a form of defiance and deviance.” Women and girls are more affected by disasters and threats including climate change due to gender-specific barriers and inequalities than men and boys based on previous experiences in floods and earthquakes 2015

The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (CEDAW) defines ‘any act of gender-based violence that results in or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life’ (Un General Assembly, 1993 Article 1). Similarly, The United Nations’ definition on GBV is, “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women...whether occurring in public or private life.” (UNFPA)

Safety and security are very important components for each individual where safety is a being protected from harm and danger but security is the action taken to make them safe. However, issues of women’s and girls’ safety are very crucial whether in private or public place in the context of gender and social cultural biased society like Nepal. According to Jagori (2018), “A safety of women and girls is not only being safe from sexual violence and harassment but also from any fear of experiencing such violence or harassment in her life.”

UN Women’s report (2017) on Women’s Safety Audit identified concerns about women safety and sexual violence against women and girls. It defines the safety of women and girls as “if a space is made safe for women, it will be safe for everyone.” As well “METRAC (Metropolitan Toronto Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children) (2013) defines the WSA as a method to evaluate the environment from the standpoint of those who feel vulnerable and to make changes that reduces opportunities for assault.”

According to UN Women Global Result Report (2017), sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women and girls in public spaces are present in every country, in rural areas as well as cities, and even in online spaces. In the context of Nepal, women and girls do not feel safe in public spaces where they have to encounter various kinds of harassment and assaults, especially in the context of disaster and pandemic. In addition, the Action Aid Nepal WSA report (2019) says “Public harassment has become a normal phenomenon.”

Safety concerns of women and girls in private and public places are one of the major issues based on gender, class, race, age, disability, sexual orientation and religion and are found to be practiced at home, market, road, public means of transport, workplace, school, college, services agencies, hotel,

office, court, health centres, public toilets, refugees camps as well as forest, nearby police/army Barack, community forest, private forest, buffer zone area, petrol station, restaurant, grazing area, water & fodder collection areas, narrow streets. Patriarchal norms and values influence in the upbringing of men/boys as well as women/girls and this upbringing has an impact on their attitude, behaviour and practice. Such upbringing has an effect on their daily life where women/girls are treated as second class citizen. As result, women and girls are identified and misrepresented as sex object and impossible for them to live/survive without men in the family and society at large.

Various studies have also identified women and girls' safety as a major concern in public places, whether in a city or a village. According to Didi Bahini's (2015) Women Safety Audit, 78 percent of the women reported that there was no single safe area in their neighborhood. In addition, the report highlighted that "there is a notion that urban areas are unsafe for women in comparison to villages however, the study revealed that rural women too feel unsafe in and around their homes,".

2.1 WOMEN AND PUBLIC SPACE IN DISASTER

The assessment report of PIN Nepal (2015) states there is a tendency or desire for many communities to “keep issues internal” – especially highly sensitive issues such as rape and trafficking including stigma surrounding various forms of gender-based violence (GBV). 80% women and girls said that they felt more at risk of GBV in their current temporary shelters and 41% pregnant women were the most unsafe group and 62% felt “very unsafe” when using the toilets.

Oxfam research report (2018) talks about importance of public place like camp and says “Lightning make people feel safer: camps need multiple forms of lighting to improve safety, including public, household and individual lights”. As my experience working in flood response 2014 in western part of Nepal, the adolescent girls were feeling unsafe in using the toilet after dark that were located in the camps of the Women Development Office, Surkhet office premises. Through coordination with the protection cluster and electricity department lightning system within the camp were installed which allowed girls to spend some time outside their shelters in evening and safely use toilet during the nights. (2014)

The UNICEF semi-annual report of post-earthquake 2015 states that there have been reports of sexual violence against women and girls and other forms of violence against women in the temporary shelters and camps. A post-earthquake WSA carried out by Didi Bahini in 2015 not only confirmed the aforementioned facts, but also revealed that the new and temporary living conditions in the tents and squatters of the city had increased the vulnerability of girls and women (Didi Bahini WSA Report 2015).

Due to COVID 19 witnessed a surge of gender based violence (sexual, physical, mental violence) against women and girls in Nepal. For example, one women in quarantine was raped by three volunteers.⁴ Online media reports covered news about a migrant pregnant women who during the lockdown owing to COVID-19 faced difficulty in getting a chartered flight from UAE to Nepal. People negatively commented on the character of the woman and her pregnancy when she arrived in Nepal.”⁵

⁴ <https://dineshkhobar.com/article/30539#.XuYRFRE7WMs.facebook>.

⁵ https://www.onlinekhobar.com/2020/06/875199?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=FBpage1

2.2 WOMEN SAFETY AUDIT

The UN Women report also says that women's safety in public spaces is becoming a growing concern in Nepal and has not been considered as a serious issue. According to Action Aid report (2019) "The Women's Safety Audit is one of the important tools to reveal the nature and causes of safety threat in public space." Women Safety Audit (WSA) is a participatory research approach to assess the safety and security concerns of women in public spaces, practice of safety measures to protect themselves from their perspective in particular and society in general.

WSA is useful in advocating for safe and secure public places for women and girls, as well as men and boys, in order to make GESI responsive to government and other stakeholders in their planning, budgeting, monitoring, infrastructure development, and other interventions aimed at creating safe and secure public spaces for women and girls. All stakeholders involved in the WSA process should pay special attention to the inputs provided by women and girls in the community.

2.3 WOMEN SAFETY AUDIT IN NEPAL

WSA was introduced in Nepal through project interventions carried out by Action Aid, Didi Bahini- Nepal with the support of UN Women, and Home Net Nepal's Safe City Campaign. WSA, on the other hand, was carried out by Action Aid and Didi Bahini as part of their project. Furthermore, Uniview Guards Nepal launched the first phase of Kathmandu safe city construction in 2016 and installed CC TV surveillance cameras in the city's main road. This has aided people in making them aware of their activities, providing safety to women and girls, and generating evidence in the event that any safety issues arise.

Within this context, the Legal Aid and Consultancy Centre (LACC) conducted WSA in three municipalities (Birendranagar, Amargadhi, and Jay Prithivi) and two sub-metropolitan cities (Nepalgunj and Dhangadhi). This was made possible with the assistance of UN Women Nepal. The WSA investigated the situation of women's and girls' safety and security concerns, identified gaps and interventions, strategies to improve women's and girls' safety and security in the community, particularly during disaster preparation and response, including pandemic, and audit recommendations that would draw the attention of concerned policymakers and service providers at the federal, provincial, and local levels, and hold them accountable by providing public information.

CHAPTER 3

OBJECTIVE OF AUDIT

The overall objective is to understand and analyse the concerns and mechanisms regarding the safety and security of target women and girls (including excluded group, people with disability, LGBTIQ+⁶) (2019) of target municipality and in the context of disaster preparedness, response and pandemics through GESI lens and recommend a way forward to set the basis for advocacy with local stakeholders.

1. To identify the nature of violence (actual/perceived) in public spaces where women and girls feel unsafe/insecure, assessing the accessibility of existing safety measures, services and infrastructure.
2. To analyse the accessibility, functionality and gaps of safety and security measures and mechanisms in public spaces and recommend the way forward for a safer public places for women and girls;
3. To analyse the policies and practices of duty bearers and service providers towards the safety and security concerns and protection mechanism of women and girls, especially in disaster preparedness and response processes including pandemics.

⁶ LGBTIQ+ = Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer, Asexual. The '+' represents minority gender identities and sexualities not explicitly included in the term LGBTIQ.

CHAPTER 4

METHODOLOGY

WSA applied the participatory approach and captured perspectives, experiences and concerns of women/ girls and men/boys, people with disability and sexual & gender minorities including intersectional vulnerabilities in safety and security.

Both qualitative and quantitative data collection tools and methods were applied which were Rapid Situation Analysis (RSA), Rapid Stakeholder Analysis (RSA), Key Informant Interview (KII), Focus Group Discussion (FGD), safety walk, street survey, case study, participants & field observation, and literature review.

WSA's interest group was women, so different KII questions were used to target women and stakeholders. The approach's objective was to see how women respond based on their own experiences and to observe how stakeholders understand and are aware of the situation of women around them.

In during Super Project consultation, selected volunteers received training on how to use the tools and approaches as well as practical sessions to improve their capacity. This audit promoted a participatory approach by enlisting volunteers in first-hand data collection activities like mapping out public spaces and their routes, taking part in safety walks, conducting KIIs, and conducting sample street surveys to broaden the scope of the study and the municipality's understanding. Below is a quick description of various tools and techniques.

Table 4 1 Field locations for data collection for WSA

Province	Districts	City/Municipality	Ward No
Karnali	Surkhet	Birendranagar Municipality	Province Level
Lumbini	Banke	Nepalgunj Sub-Metropolitan City	Ward 3 & 7
Sudurpaschchim	Kailali	Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City	Ward 1 & 2
	Dadeldhura	Amargadi Municipality	Ward 5 & 7
	Bajhang	Jay Prithvi Municipality	Ward 9 & 10

4.1 CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

The WSA process began with a half-day consulting workshop and presentation that covered the procedure, history, and goals of the WSA. Government representatives, government employees, service providers, women's rights advocates, GESI experts, DRR personnel, and community members (women, girls, men, and boys) from the project area attended the session.

During the workshop participants were divided into four groups. One group did Rapid Situation Analysis and the other three did Rapid Stakeholder Analysis and made presentations and discussions were held in the plenary.



Figure 4.1 Consultation Workshop- Jay Prithvi Municipality, Sudurpaschchim Province

The street survey, safety walk, and KII orientation material were presented in the second half of the consultation workshop for project volunteers and interested stakeholders. It was also possible for people conducting KII to participate in practical training. When the training was over, the participants were aware of their position within the WSA.

4.2 RAPID SITUATION ANALYSIS (RSIA)

The Rapid Situation Analysis method is used to identify the key safety and security concerns using the format given by the consultant. Participants discussed such issues based on their own experience and in the local context and ranked the safety and security concerns using light tools serious issues and concerns were noted down on a chart paper and different coloring method was applied (RED-Intolerable, Orange – Endurable, Green- Tolerable). With the conclusion of the group presentation time was allotted for discussion and clarification.



Figure 4.2 Rapid Situation Analysis

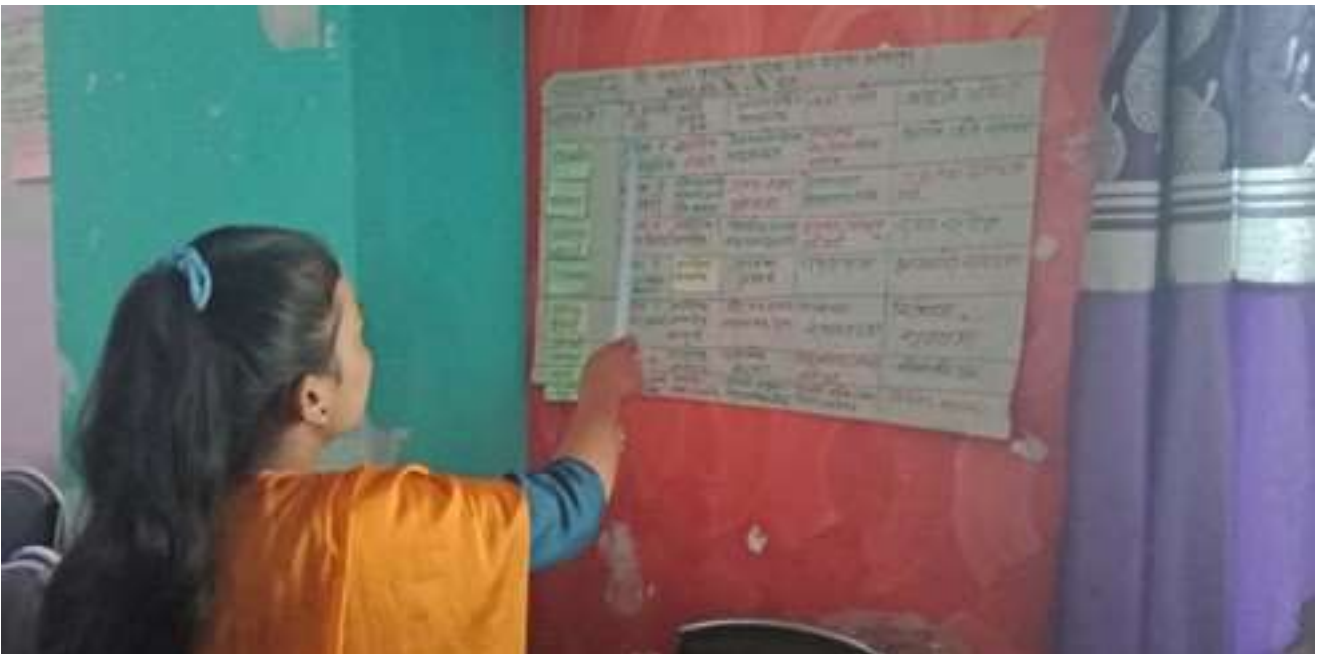


Figure 4.3 Presentation of Rapid Situation Analysis

4.3 RAPID STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS (RSA)

Based on information, knowledge, and the context of the municipality, the Rapid Stakeholder Analysis method was used to discuss and identify the best practices, effective roles for improvement, challenges in policy, legal, and at the program level, as well as the availability of human, financial, and infrastructure resources. Participants were divided into three distinct groups, with each group focusing on a duty bearer, a service provider, and an ally. After the group presentation, there was an opportunity for clarification and debate.



Figure 4.4 Presentation of Rapid Stakeholder Analysis



Figure 4.5 Rapid Stakeholder Analysis

4.4 KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW (KII)

Duty bearers, service providers, women/human rights activists, targeted community women/girls and men/boys from respected municipalities were identified as key informants for KII. KII was conducted using checklists and captured first-hand information from those respective elected representatives, service providers, duty bearers, women/human rights activists, community women and girls as well as a few boys from targeted communities. Some of the GESI experts (facilitated orientation for volunteers identified by project) helped to conduct some KII in respected municipalities. In addition, some volunteers (having basic experience in data collection in research work) also conducted KII after taking part in the orientation on WSA tools and methods that helped to reach more respondents and information. The WSA team followed up with those informants to get additional information during the safety walk and carried out follow meetings and telephone calls. Altogether 45 stakeholders were interviewed as key informants.



Figure 4.6 Practical session of KII

4.5 FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION (FGD)

Two separate focus group discussions representing women's and men's groups in one project ward of each municipality were conducted. The discussion attempted to understand the knowledge, perception, attitude, and experience toward the safety and security concerns of women in their day-to-day life. Guiding checklist, issues for discussion and field observation of surrounding areas were the guiding principles that assisted in deriving the key safety and security issues. The focus group discussion also carried out a role play where issues relating to the safety and security of women were discussed wherein issues faced by women and girls were shared and discussed. Out of 70 FGD participants, 22 were male who indulged in uncovering issues and concerns relating to women and girls.



Figure 4.7 FGD with community women

4.6 SAFETY WALK (SW)

Safety walk was a new experience and an important participatory tool to identify and analyse safety and security concerns of the women/girls' in WSA. The SW was conducted successfully in all the project municipalities. Mapping out of public places was carried out and the participants were informed as to what they should observe and the division of roles among the participants was done. The Consultant also engaged in-the-spot guidance and minutely observed the process. With the conclusion of the SW, a brief discussion and individual sharing of the participant's observations, experiences, and key questions was carried out. Key issues were ranked using the ranking tool and traffic light that highlighted critical and safety issues and areas. From among the 65 participants 15 male participants participated in the safety walk.



Figure 4.8 Ranking after Safety Walk



Figure 4.9 Safety Walk Map – Nepalgunj



Figure 4.10 Ready move for Safety Walk

4.7 STREET SURVEY

WSA designed a sample street survey to collect information from women and girls. Interested volunteers (girls and boys) under the project were oriented and mobilized for surveys with women and girls in public places from all municipalities. This helped in collecting an in-depth understanding of how women and girls felt about safety in those areas. Altogether 35 women and girls participated in the street survey.

4.8 CASE STUDY

A case study in itself is a qualitative data collection method that helps to triangulate the collected information. Personal case studies were collected and collective experiences of the safety and security concerns and protection mechanisms of women and girls of respected municipalities were studied. Some case studies have been developed as quotes and some as brief stories.

4.9 PARTICIPANTS/FIELD OBSERVATION:

WSA process kept an open mind and open eye observation of participants and surroundings during both qualitative and quantitative data collection process including the safety walk. This method helped to collect qualitative information and triangulate the data and realization of the field realities.

4.10 LITERATURE REVIEW

As part of the entire audit process, the literature review is one of the important tools in WSA. Published and unpublished reports and documents were reviewed. Previous WSA report, government policy/guideline/laws at the municipality/province/federal level, research reports including published and unpublished as well as online documents related to the safety and security of women and girls in public places were reviewed.

CHAPTER 5

MUNICIPALITY WISE BACKGROUND

5.1 BIRENDRANAGAR MUNICIPALITY (PROVINCIAL LEVEL)

Birendranagar Municipality is the district headquarter of Surkhet district and is the capital city of Karnali Province. As of March 2022, Birendranagar has a population of 100,458 [Male: 48,771 (48.55%)] and [Female: 51,687 (51.45%)] making it the 17th largest city in Nepal (2022).

The municipality has a number of policies, regulations, acts, and rules, such as the Municipality Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Plan, 2077, and the Birendranagar Municipality Disaster Mitigation and Management Act, 2076. However, there are no laws, rules, or regulations that specifically address the needs of women and girls. There are reports on quarantine and relief that include numerical information about the people and supplies given. However, there aren't any available disaggregated data and images that show how target groups including teenage girls, pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, elderly women, and disabled individuals have their specific needs met.

Increased understanding of women's and girls' rights, particularly those related to gender-based violence, involvement in decision-making, mobility, etc., is crucial since safe spaces for women and girls in public places are a growing source of concern. A new trend in lifestyle, particularly among young people, is a cohabitation culture, drug addiction, and an increase in divorce proceedings. The main cause of this is young migration for higher education, employment, the allure of city life, GBV, freedom of life, and women's property rights. During the data collection for WSA, these topics were discussed with the relevant parties, including women, girls, and other relevant parties.



Figure 5.1 Map of Birendranagar Municipality

5.2 NEPALGUNJ SUB METROPOLITAN CITY

A Sub-Metropolitan City, Nepalgunj is located in the Banke district of the Lumbini Province and borders the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh to the south. It is one of Nepal's developed cities that is booming quickly. There are 138,951 people living there [(Male: 72,376 and Female: 69,324)]. (2016). There is no such policy, regulation, act, or board resolution on its official website that addresses the concerns of women and girls.

Due to its porous border with India and a number of other districts, Nepalgunj is reportedly plagued by the problems of drug addiction, divorce, GBV, and people trafficking. In accordance with a news source from Republica (2022), 434 women and girls who were at risk of being trafficked were rescued from the Jamunaha checkpoint in Nepalgunj on January 1st, 2022 (many of them were from Surkhet, and 11 of whom had experienced sexual abuse). Only 23 of the 525 missing person claims received in 2021 were located, according to Maiti Nepal.

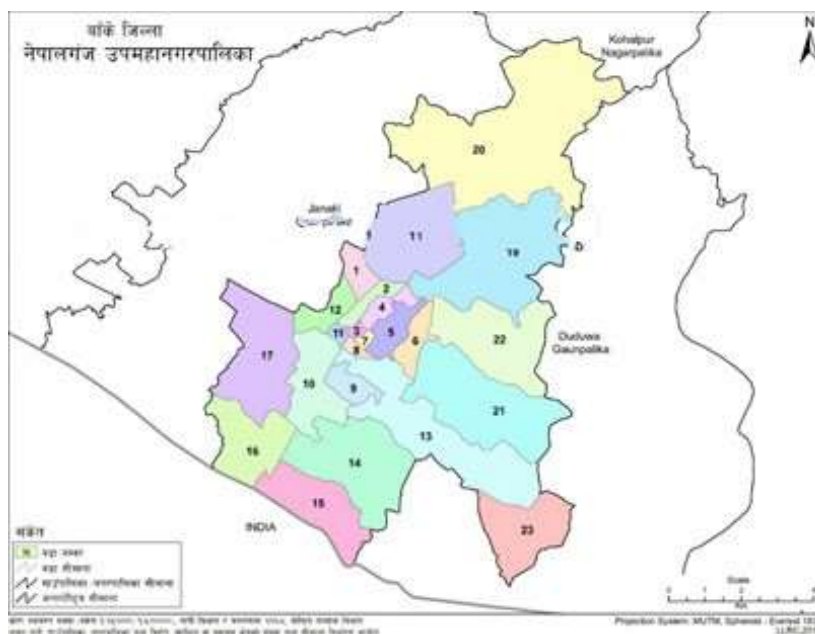


Figure 5.2 Map of Nepalgunj Sub Metropolitan City

5.3 DHANDAGDHI SUB METROPOLITAN CITY

Dhandagadhi is a sub-metropolitan city and the district headquarters of Kailali district Sudurpaschchim Province. It has 19 wards and shares border with Uttar Pradesh, India in the south, Godawari and Gauriganga Municipality in the North, Kailari Rural Municipality in the east and Kanchanpur District in the west.

Numerous policies and regulations, including the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Regulation 2077, GBV, and GESI policy 2077 (2021), have been developed by the municipality with the goal of transforming the community into an equitable society through the adoption of gender- and socially-responsive institutional structures, policies, and regulations⁷ and the active participation of men and boys in the fight against GBV.⁸

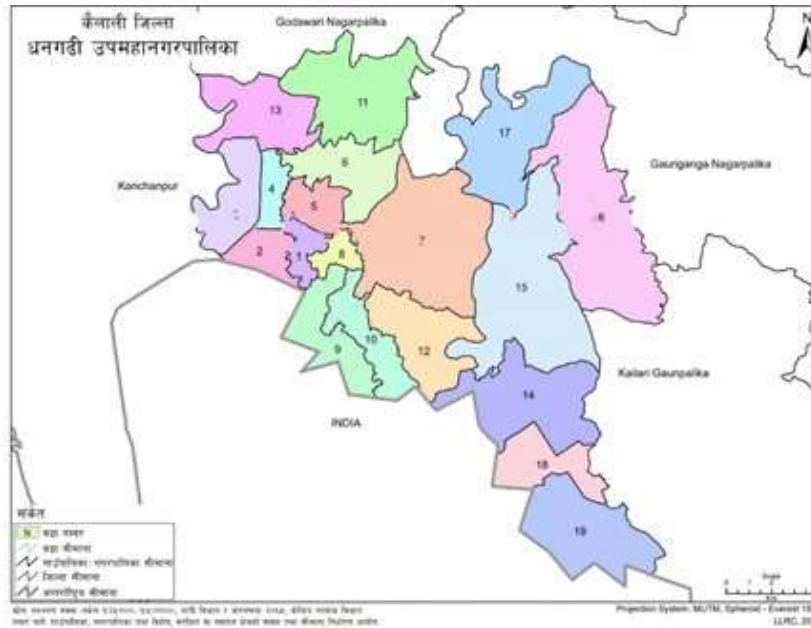


Figure 5.3 Map of Dhangadhi Sub Metropolitan City

5.4 AMARGADHI MUNICIPALITY

Amargadhi is a municipality and the district headquarter of Dadeldhura district in Sudurpaschchim Province. The municipality consists of 11 wards. There are no policies and regulations available on their official website. GESI policy is briefly mentioned under the social development and through some standalone activities attempts to cover violence against women, people with disability, youth, children and marginalized communities including Dalit.



Figure 5.4 Map of Amargadhi Municipality

5.5 JAY PRITHVI MUNICIPALITY

Jay Prithvi is a municipality is located in the district headquarter of Bajhang district in Sudurpaschchim Province which lies on the bank of Seti River. As per 2011 population census, Jay Prithvi Municipality had total population of 22,191 (Male: 10,655 and Female: 11,536). (2022).

One notable initiative of Jaya Prithvi Municipality is the repayment of debts of 15 poor Badi families by 2020. The government built houses for impoverished Badi families as part of the People's Housing Program (2022).

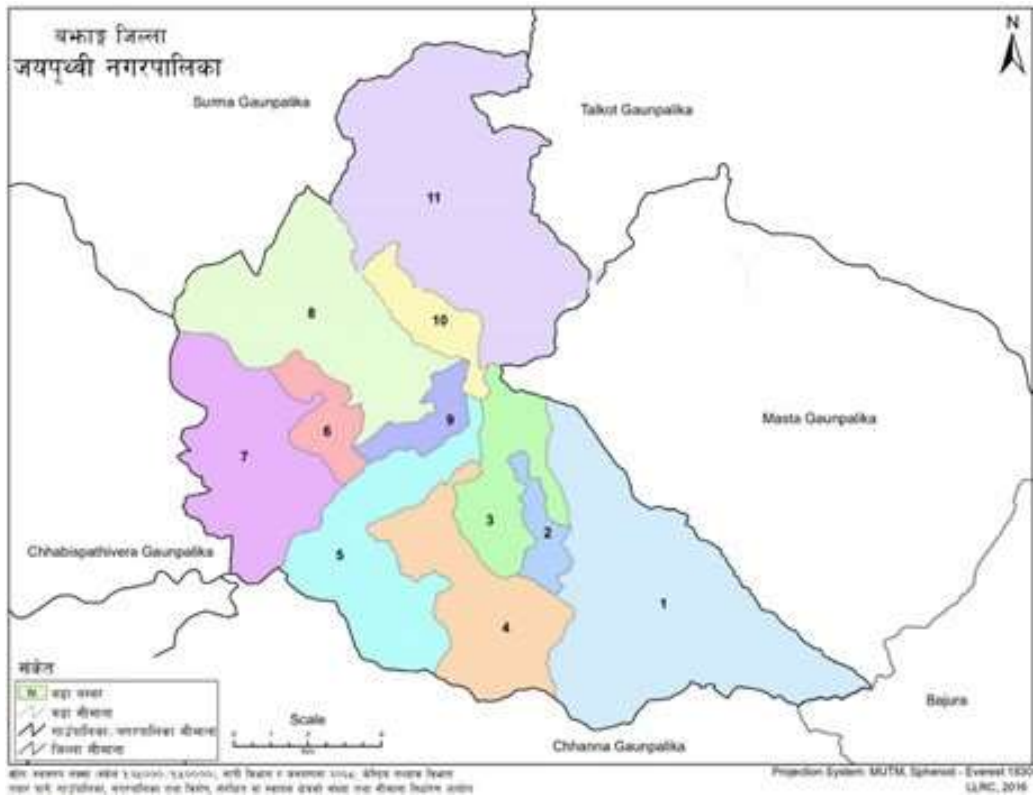


Figure 5.5 Map of Jay Prithvi Municipality

CHAPTER 6

FINDING

This Chapter covers detailed data and analysis obtained from WSA and from the field by using planned tools and methods. The data were analyzed with thematic areas that were related to women’s safety and security concerns and protection mechanisms with qualitative analysis with quantitative figures.

6.1 DEMOGRAPHY OF RESPONDENT

The women were the principal interest group for the WSA. However, during the data collection process, interaction with both males and females including LGBTIQ+ and representatives from the community as well as stakeholders was carried out. The graph below provides a quantitative analysis of community women and men with disaggregated data of age group, caste/ethnicity. Similarly, an analysis of stakeholders’ disaggregated data based on sex and identity has been provided in the figures below.

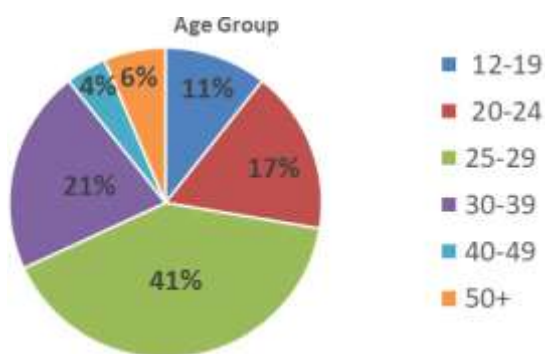


Figure 6.1 Disaggregated age status of community participants.

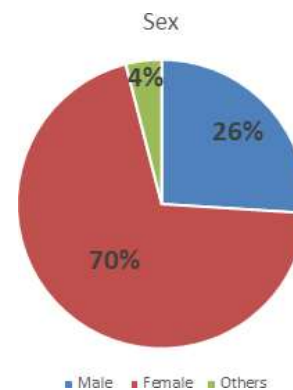


Figure 6.2 Disaggregated sex of community respondents

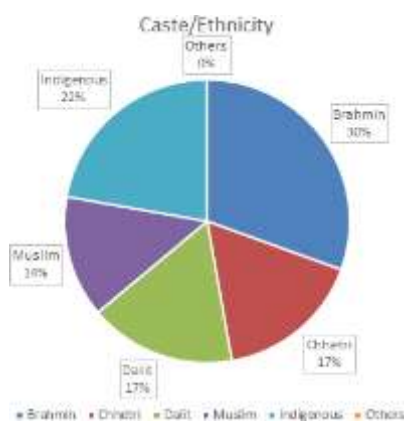


Figure 6.3 Caste and Ethnicity of the community respondents

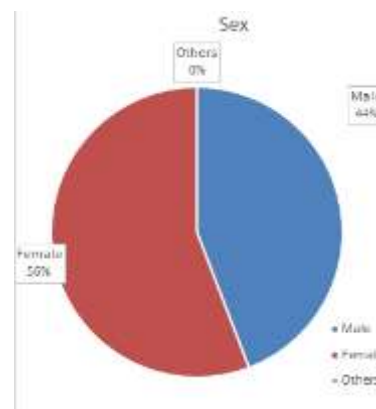


Figure 6.4 Sexes of community respondents

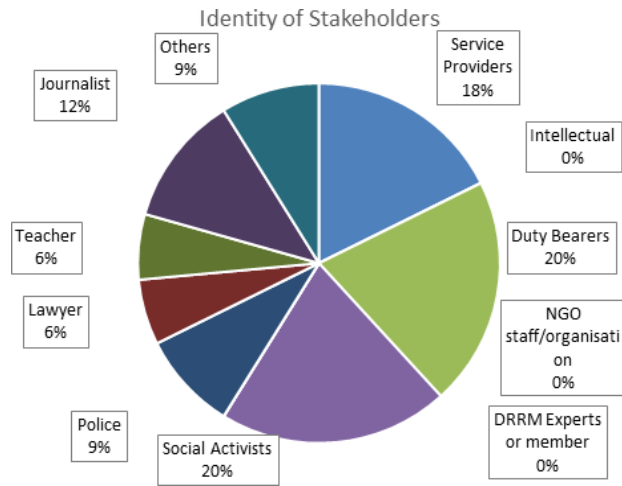


Figure 6.5 Disaggregated Status of Stakeholders from various sectors

6.2 SAFETY AND SECURITY CONCERNS OF WOMEN IN PUBLIC PLACES

There is a number of international and national policies and laws to control GBV, especially focusing on women and girls. Government at different levels including local government, NGOs, Women’s Right Organization including community-based women/adolescent groups are organizing various activities to create awareness, generate human resources and build institutional capacity and enhance access to justice to end GBV. Nevertheless, GBV has been part and parcel of the everyday life of women and girls both in the private and in the public sphere where their safety and security concerns are vital so that they can live a life with dignity and equally enjoy all the rights that men and boys enjoy.

The WSA focuses on the safety and security concerns of women and girls in public places including public infrastructures in urban and rural areas. Although the audit does not focus on the safety issues of families within the private sphere, 80% of the community members and 86% of the stakeholders (Figure # 4) respondents during the audit raised the issue of the increasing trend of domestic violence as a matter of high safety concern.

6.3 SAFETY AND SECURITY CONCERNS

Through the KII, FGD, rapid situation analysis, and informal conversation between the community women and stakeholders, it was observed that the level of understanding of safety and security concerns between these two groups differed. Based on their knowledge of these issues, their experience and their internalization of such issues it is found that the women and girls are habitual to tolerate any such kind of verbal abuse.

Although, the majority of the respondents even the women are aware of GBV, however, are unaware of the type of violence they are facing. Therefore, the checklist model questionnaire developed has assisted the respondents in identifying the type of safety and security issues occurring in their day-to-day lives and as a result, this has helped them to discuss and share their experience during the pre and post-data collection process. The majority of the female participants informed the team that the questionnaire

helped them in raising their awareness of safety and security concerns.

Under the safety and security concerns, two different types of KII questionnaires were designed so as understand how women based on their experience responded to such issues, or what they had witnessed or heard and also to assess the stakeholders' degree of awareness and internalization of the situation of women. This method helped in assessing the status of the stakeholders and community women's understanding and knowledge about the safety and security concerns of women. This has helped raise the awareness of the stakeholders making them more capable and accountable for responding to such concerns thereby creating a safer community for women and men.

Even some stakeholders and boys who are concerned about the issues and are knowledgeable on the issues of GBV are aware of the diversity of GBV in their area. The major finding of this WSA is that women and girls are victims of sexual harassment and assault, (hassling, eve teasing, stalking, touching, flashing, ogling, etc.) in public places.

80% of targeted women and girls and some boys of the targeted 5 municipalities (Figure 6.6) substantiate the issue of safety risk. 80% of stakeholders' respondents are not in a position to ignore this critical problem. 28% of women and girls and 67% of stakeholders' respondents indicated the increasing trend of robbery or having their money or possessions stolen and 18 % of community respondents delved into the issue of threat (blackmailing, misuse of social media, murder, forced marriage/love, family pressure, mental torturer, etc.) which according to them are not coming out in the open. 68% of stakeholders and 42% of the community respondents highlight that assault towards women and girls had increased during the disaster and the pandemic. Where girls and boys who do not want to live a life in poverty too during a disaster are more vulnerable to such crimes. The women, girls, and men participating in the FGD were seriously concerned about the increasing trend of sexual harassment, blackmailing/threat, drug addiction, robbery, cybercrime, divorce cases, migration, suicide, etc.

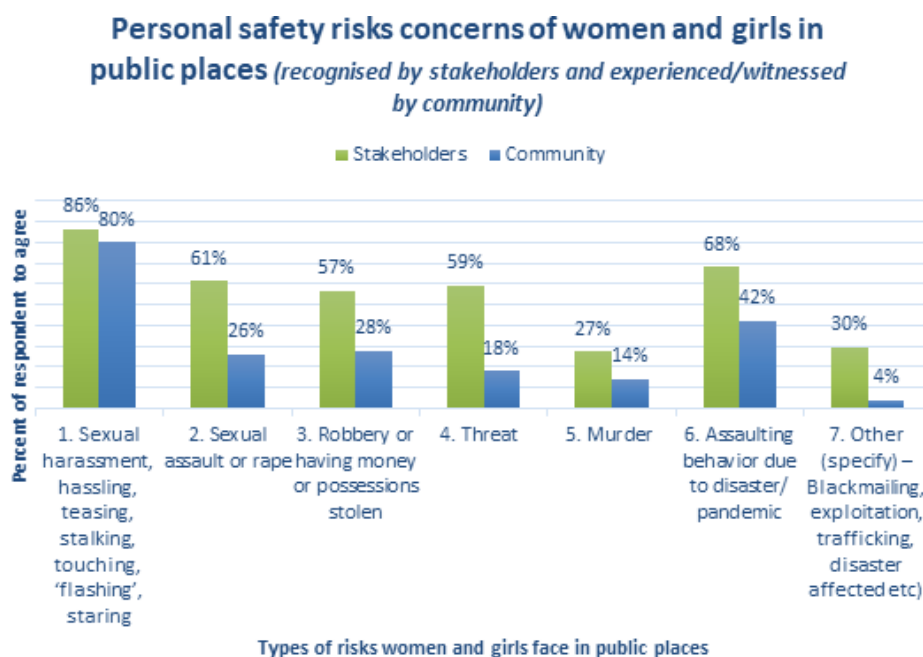


Figure 6.6 Factors which contribute unsafe environment for women & girls

Respondents to agree on lack of infrastructure affecting safety of women (recognised by stakeholders and experienced/witnessed by community)

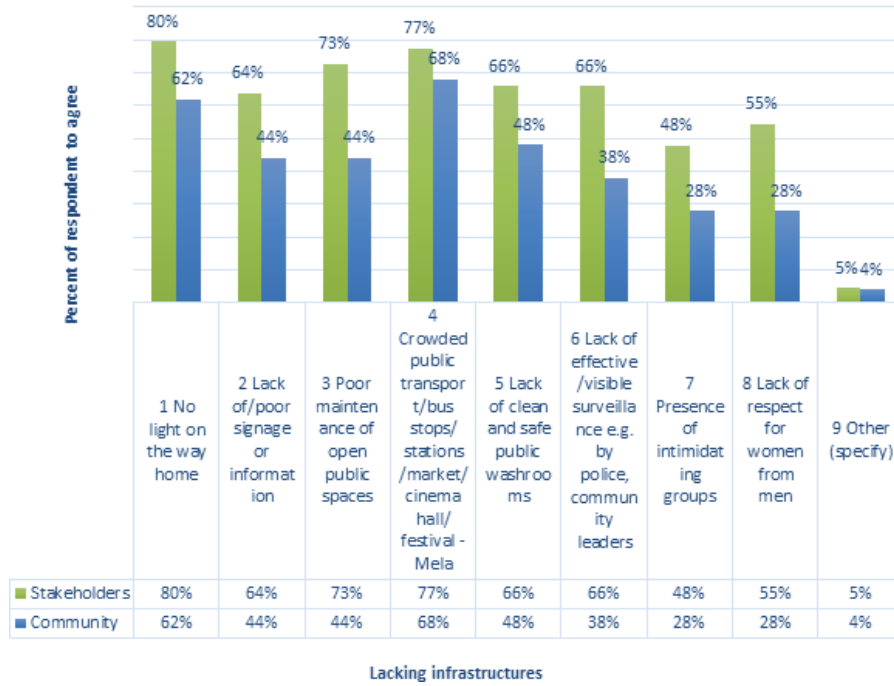


Figure 6.7 Respondents agree on the lack of infrastructure affecting the safety of women

The respondents were comfortable in discussing the factors of unsafe environments and provided sufficient examples which were also one of the major concerns of the women and girls and participants of the FGD: the 5 key factors creating an unsafe environment for women and girls are (Figure # 5): The descriptions are given below as per Figure 5.

1. Crowded public space (market, transport, market, crowded festival area, school/college, concert playground, park, roadside – 68% of the respondents of the women and girls felt unsafe in those places. 77% of the stakeholders’ respondents highlighted the problems in crowded public spaces.
2. 62% of the respondents gave the reason for being or feeling unsafe was due to the lack of sufficient streetlamps in the surrounding areas. In our observation, the main market area has a good lighting system but nearby and surrounding areas do not have sufficient street lamps. 80% of stakeholders’ respondents also agreed that the reason for the unsafe environment was due to lack of sufficient lampson the road and streets.
3. 48 % of the respondents highlighted the lack of clean and safe public toilets, and even the majority of the government offices lack clean toilets with no proper locking system in the bathrooms. One of the consultants traveling to Dhangadi from Amargadhi experienced a similar problem and opined that it was a problem for them to go to the markets, and undertake travels to city areas since the market and city areas do not have sufficient clean toilets.

4. 38 % of the respondents said that the majority of the places are unsafe because the area lacks effective and visible surveillance and vigilance by the security forces, lack of CCTV, and ineffective community leaders whereas 44% of the respondents claimed that the area lacked proper billboards and hoarding boards displaying information and messages on issues such as violence, robbery, and also warning signs of portent danger in isolated places. The audit during its field visit observed very limited provision of CCTV cameras in public spaces. For example, there is only one CCTV camera in the district police office in Jay Prithvi municipality of Bajhang district.
5. 44% of the respondents discussed the problem of poor maintenance of open public spaces and even provided examples such as insufficient street lamps and even if there were street lamps some of them were inoperable. Some even cited that the street lamps were damaged for the purpose of causing theft. The respondents talked about open drainage, dreadful roads, transportation, footpath, toilets that were not disabled friendly lack of safety walls along the roadside and unmanaged garbage on the streets, poorly managed public toilets crowded transport. These issues in the context of Nepal are more critical during the disaster and are commonly seen during the management of camps at times of disaster. Likewise, the drainage in the market area of Amargadhi which is very poorly managed poses a threat and risk to PWD, senior citizens, children, and pregnant women.

Figure 6.8 indicated: “Being a woman and girl, we are harassed since we are considered to an objects to be harassed culturally and socially”. 58% of the women and girls agree to the fact that they are branded as objects and are thus subjected to harassment and this fact has been seconded by 84% of the stakeholders. 48% of the respondents who were women and girls said that the harassment issue was more confined to them being poor and vulnerable. 77% of the stakeholders accepted they were being harassed because they were poor. Likewise, other reasons for harassment were being a Muslim, Dalit, sexual minority, single woman, or widow. Figure # 6 shows that the identity factor is one of the reasons for safety and security.

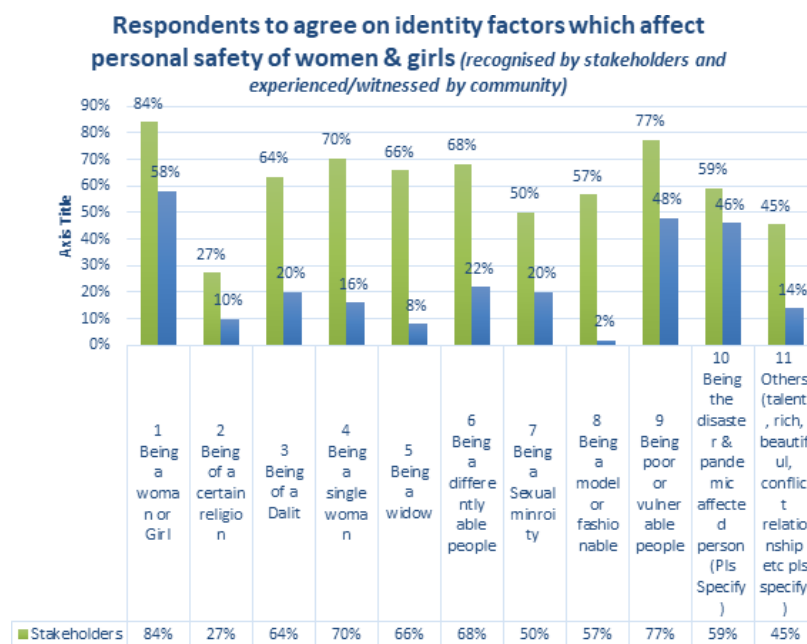


Figure 6.8 The identity factors which affect personal safety of women & girls

While discussing sexual harassment in public spaces: 52% of the women and girls' respondents as shown in Figure # 7 said sexual harassment occurred mostly the way to their schools and colleges which was seconded by 68% of the stakeholders. Similarly, women's human right to mobility in a safe and violent-free environment was restricted in the market which was around 40%, roadside 36% and 34% in public transportation. The figures depict the low respect towards women and girls that is still prevalent in society. The risk for young girls can also be observed in the residence of friends or relatives. 48% of the stakeholders agreed to the fact that there are incidences of harassment at such residences.

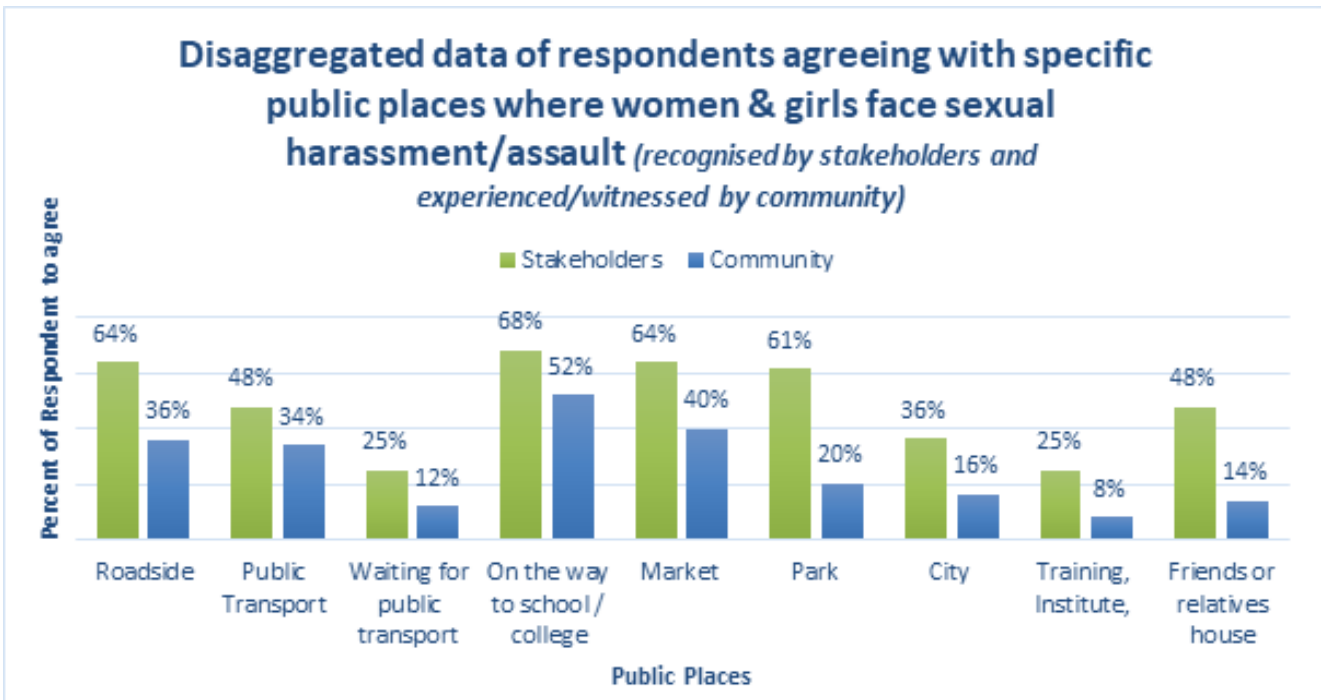


Figure 6.9 Specific public spaces where women & girls faced sexual harassment/assault

6.4 VULNERABLE TIME OF THE DAY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

The safety concern is applied 24 hours a day, seven days a week, especially for women and girls. Women and girls, on the other hand, stated that they do not normally walk alone at night. As shown in Figure #8, 40% of respondents reported feeling insecure and unsafe at night, while 30% reported feeling insecure and unsafe in the morning and evening. Morning schools and colleges for adolescent girls, fodder collection, and traveling to markets to sell their products have all been deemed unsafe by adolescent groups. During the day, the isolated area is also considered unsafe. Verbal harassment is a common occurrence that can occur at any time of day. According to a street survey conducted among young girls and women, 77% of respondents believe it is unsafe at night, 51% believe it is unsafe in the evenings, and 43% believe it is unsafe in the morning as well. The majority of women (particularly adolescent girls) avoid going out at night because they do not feel safe, and their families also discourage them from doing so.

Unsafe Time

■ Early Morning ■ Day ■ Evening ■ Night

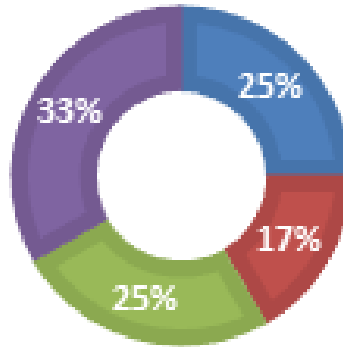


Figure 6.10 Unsafe time of the day for women and girls

6.5 TYPES OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT/ASSAULT IN PUBLIC PLACES

The stories behind the survey have lots of experiences to tell not only from a women’s perspective but also from the stakeholders and men. This was also discussed at length during the FGD, safety walk, and street survey. The cycle of development is rapidly changing and this change also witnesses the increase of sexual harassment in different forms.

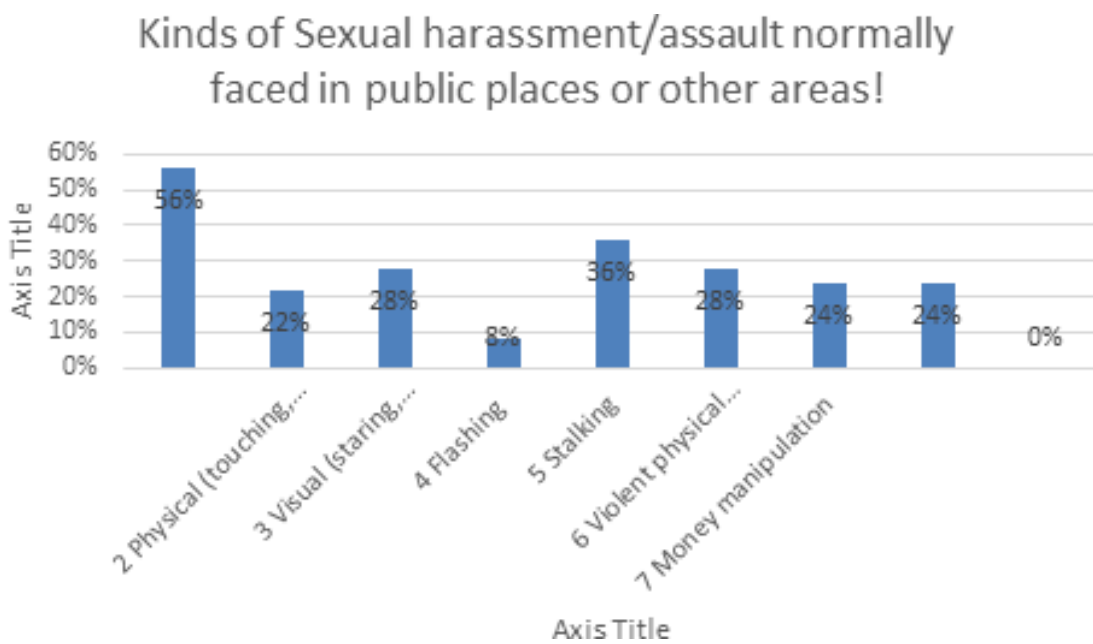


Figure 6.11 Types Sexual Harassment/Assaults in Public Places

Women are frequently worried and unaware of such harassment because they must travel to and from work on a regular basis. According to Figure 6.11, 56% of respondents say that verbal harassment (comments on their appearance, figure, dress, love, singing, whistling, etc.) occurs almost every day. 36% of respondents reported being stalked, which made them feel vulnerable and unsafe. The majority of the time, adolescent girls believe they are being stalked. Physical groping and touching have become commonplace in crowded or isolated environments. The women and girls are reluctant to talk about their experiences with such violence, but when asked if any of them or their friends have been physically groped, they open up and tell their stories. These critical issues were also raised during the focus group discussion. 40% of respondents experienced, witnessed, or felt an increase in sexual assaults during the disaster and pandemic that affected women and girls. Adolescent participants in the Birendranagar FGD shared that when they traveled to schools and colleges during the winter season, they usually traveled in groups or sought assistance from family members.

6.6 MAIN ACTORS/PERPETRATORS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING WOMEN AND GIRLS FEEL UNSAFE

The majority of municipalities and stakeholders reported an increase in divorce cases on a daily basis. The reason for this is their assertion of individual rights and involvement in income-generating activities (migrant workers), which has reduced people's tolerance to some extent. Some of the elderly and women during the focus group said: "our rules and regulations are drafted in such a way that it is women-centric and supports and encourages women to misuse the law and seek divorce to acquire the property, the living together relationship and the outlandish living style has been the cause for the increase of divorce in the society".

Similarly, Nepalgunj and Surkhet have seen the emergence of drug addiction, an increase in divorce cases, and living together relationships. Women, girls, boys, stakeholders, and duty bearers (lawyers, journalists, government officials, health workers/OCMC, and police) discussed these issues. One of the respondents from among the stakeholders stated that there were approximately 20 rehabilitation centers for drug addicts, one of which was for women and girls in Nepalgunj, and that the number of drug addicts was also increasing.

The majority of those who committed such crimes were men and boys. Zero tolerance policy, increased educational opportunity, mobility and participation in economic activities by women and girls, the influence of open market society, and materialistic life have all fueled such attitudes and practices.

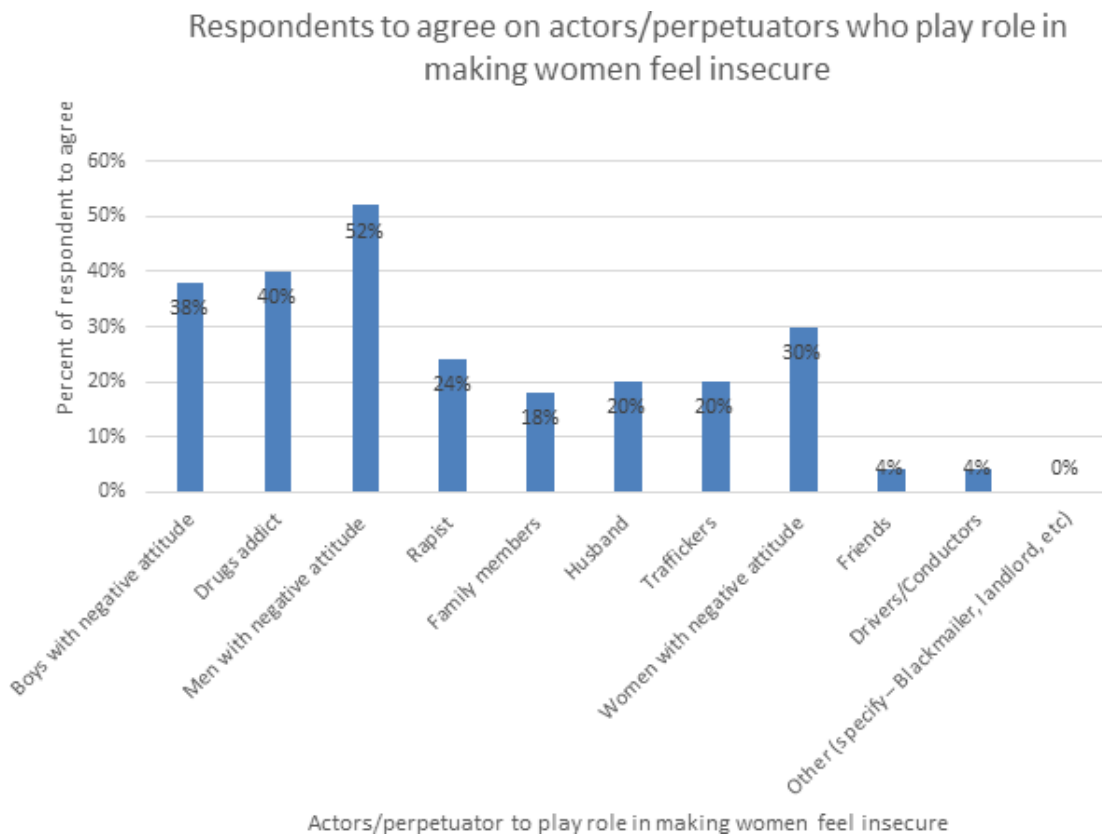


Figure 6.12 Actors/perpetrators play role in making women feel insecure

The data in Figure 6.12 showed that 82% of the respondents felt unsafe by men who had negative attitudes and perspectives towards them and 70% of the respondents felt unsafe by boys having a negative attitude, whereas 73% of the respondents also feel that women with a negative attitude are also contributing in creating an unsafe environment for girls and women. However, during the FGD, the respondents claimed that there were a few instances and practices of girls passing verbal comments and seeking monetary gains from boys. During the data collection process, a few respondents shared their personal experiences of abuse and harassment, and misuse of power by men to exploit women and girls.

One of the respondents shared her story and said “I am a physically disabled person and have been ill-treated by my husband and in-laws. Because of their ill-treatment, I could no longer stay with them and hence started to live with my mother. When I participated in one of the programs organized by an organization for the disabled, I was stared at by a person which made me uncomfortable. Later the person started to pass snide remarks and comments to me and wanted monetary gains from me. When I rejected his proposal, he started to blame me, and later I had to block his telephone number.”

“I converted my personal experience into my personal power. I would like to thank those people who harassed me because that gave me the power and strength to say “NO” to harassment. Such experiences have made me stronger and help me when providing counseling to survivors of GBV.” She further gave an example and said “Once when I said “NO”, the person started to raise questions on my professional work since I was a temporary junior staff in that organization.”

6.7 SAFETY AND SECURITY CONCERNS IN THE CONTEXT OF DISASTER AND PANDEMIC

The disaster dramatically changes the lives of people and makes them more vulnerable. 42% of the respondents (Figure # 4 above) felt or had thought that the people impacted by the disaster and the pandemic were subjected to inappropriate behavior by the concerned stakeholders and 68% of the stakeholders accepted this to be a normal problem. 46% of the (Figure #6 above) of respondents strongly argued that the personal safety of women and girls is even more painful during the disaster and pandemic which has been seconded by 59% of the stakeholders' respondents. The problems of safety and security are unsafe environment and proper protection, basic needs problem, and health and livelihood issues. Loss of property and livelihood by the poor people puts them in a critical situation, women and girls are forced to work for low wages, they are involved in the unethical profession such as prostitution, or have to migrate to the city area where they are exploited and are vulnerable to trafficking. For example, in order to control the human trafficking of minors and children, the government after the 2015 earthquake brought and implemented a policy for adoption for those affected districts. Similar issues were also raised in most of the FGD and informal discussions.

In the absence of a legal document such as citizenship and vital documents, a person becomes stateless where the person is not recognized or treated as a bonafide citizen restricting the person's right to enjoy the basic rights including vital registration, other government services and this enjoyment of rights become even more critical and is limited during the disaster when the person has to access relief items. Even for nominal financial activities, the person has to rely on cooperatives as their alternative to banking services, and may in the absence of those documents, they may become victims of fraud. According to Bradley T and Martin. Z (2021) "Women lack the protection of friends and family members, and their economic struggles make them vulnerable to sexual exploitation and prostitution, again sometimes by authority figures with protection mandates". The data shows that most type of violence and sexual harassment is perpetrated during the disaster and pandemic. As shown in Figure #11, 75% have undergone mental and physical torture, 65% child marriage and abuse, 64% sexual harassment and assault and 52% have been victims of human trafficking.

6.8 TYPE OF VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT DURING DISASTER AND PANDEMIC PERIOD

It has been reported by various media and newspapers that various types of violence particularly sexual harassment are a global phenomenon that occurs during disasters and pandemics. The audit team had the opportunity and experience to work on this issue with the protection cluster committee during the flood response in Karnali province and during the response and recovery from the 2015 earthquake. This opportunity helped the audit team to discuss with the community and stakeholders the various types of harassment and violence. Figure 6.13 and 6.14 shows that 30% of the community and 59 % of the stakeholders focused on more violence and stressful life and sexual assaults. It was a difficult issue for the community people to discuss since it brought back painful memories. While discussing the various causes, the truth could not be ignored by the stakeholders which is reflected in Figure 6.14.

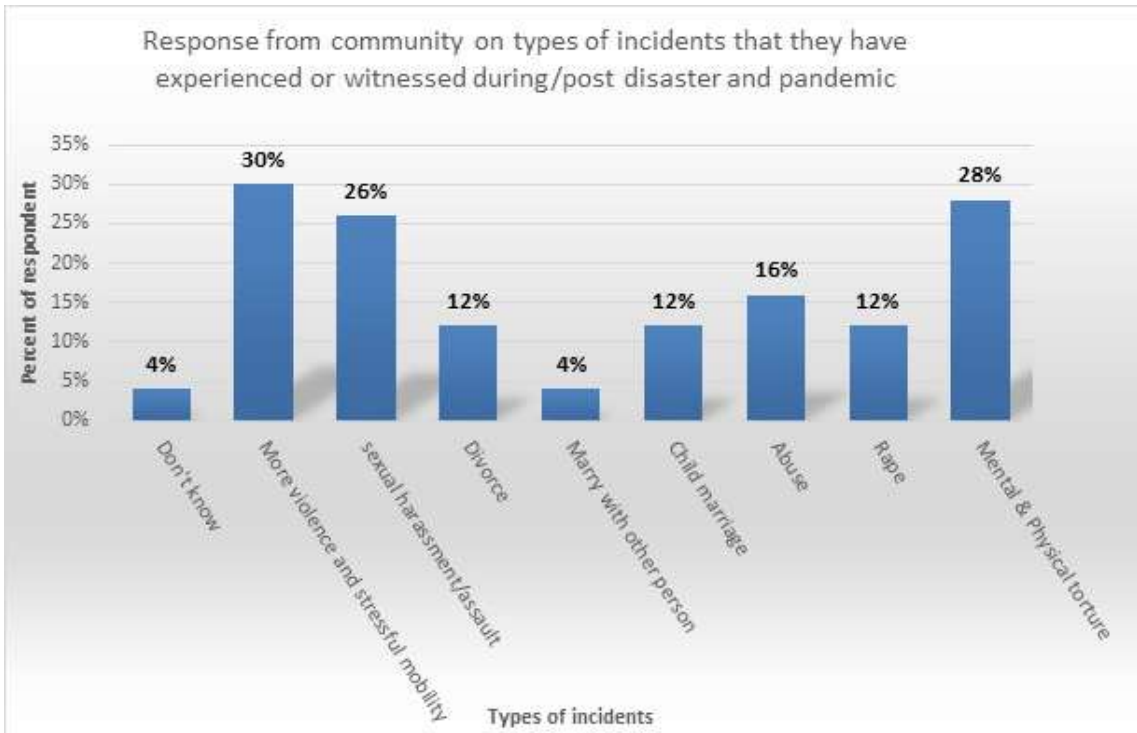


Figure 6.13 Response from community on types of incidents that they have experienced or witnessed during/post disaster and pandemic

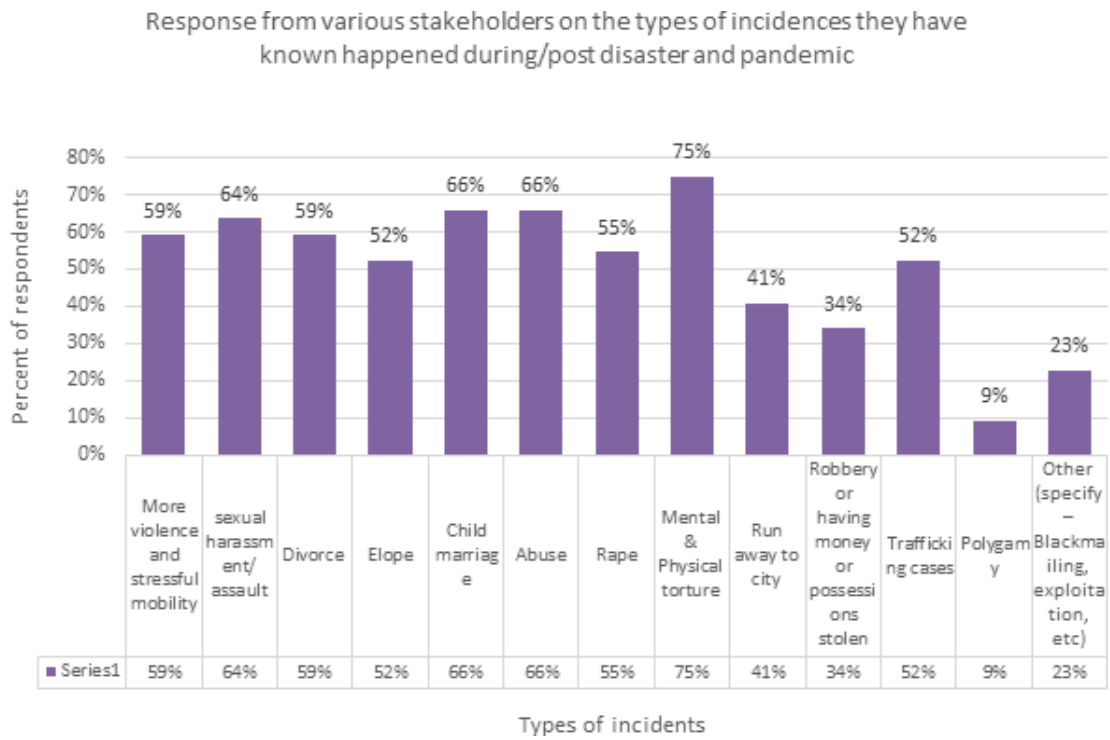


Figure 6.14 Response from various stakeholders on the types of incidences they have known happened during/post disaster and pandemic

6.9 SAFETY WALK: INNOVATIVE PRACTICAL TOOL TO DO CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC SPACES - LEARNING FOR ALL

Safety Walk-in itself is a new initiative for all where it becomes interesting for all participants to identify and analyze the safety issue of all particularly women and girls and PWD.

In order to observe and analyze the safety issues and concerns of women and girls in public spaces, particularly during the night, the safety walk was divided into 9 types of safety concerns. However, all the safety walks were conducted during the afternoon around 4 to 5 PM. After the conclusion of the consultation workshop, an orientation on safety walk was organized where participants were asked to identify areas of observation and sketch of the map including their division of role.

Safety Walk report (Figure 6.15) showed that 57% of the participants felt unsafe, and 38% of the participants said it was all right whereas 6% of the participants said that compared to the previous years it was safe. However, most of the participants felt unsafe after nightfall. Most of the participants felt the traffic light tool to be very useful and said “we used to frequently walk in those areas but never had we minutely observed it like we did today.” Similarly, some of them said, “we learned how to observe and analyze safety concerns of women and girls in public spaces even general issues. We can perform this activity without any additional cost and we shall raise our voice to the concerned stakeholder to make those places safe”.



- Overall impression of safety walk
- Lighting
- Infrastructure
- Crowd Areas
- Isolated Spaces
- Signe/information
- Intimidating Groups
- Informal/ Formal Surveillance
- Others

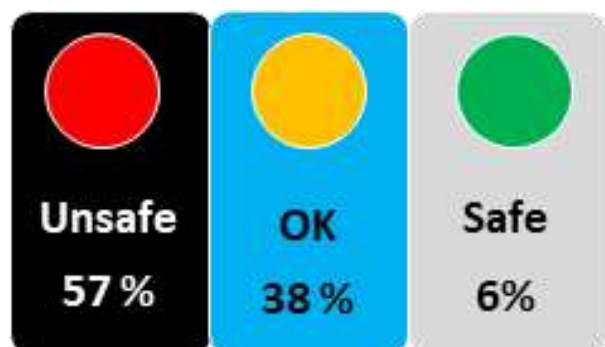


Figure 6.15 Women Safety Walk Report and use of Traffic light tool

6.10 SAFETY AND SECURITY MECHANISM

In the respondent's community, the reporting of safety and security issues of women to the police is very low. The finding of the audit showed that 80% of the community respondents said they did not report their personal cases to the police. 50% of the respondents and 40% of the respondents said they preferred to settle the issue with support from their families and relatives respectively (Figure # 15 below). The practice of complaining to the helpline or associate organization is increasing, and some stakeholders of women's organizations according to their resources and capacity are providing services of safety and security to the affected women and girls. 60% of the stakeholders indicated family and peer pressure was the main reason for not reporting to the police and 60% of the stakeholders accepted that the process was too tedious, cumbersome, and time-consuming demanding lots of financial resources.

6.11 GOVERNMENT SUPPORT SYSTEM TO PROTECT WOMEN

The state is responsible for the protection of civilian human rights. GBV is one of the most serious areas of human rights violation, with women, girls, and children being particularly vulnerable. To address this issue, the government has established one OCMC at each district level, despite the fact that such structures do not exist in the federal system. The system employs an integrated approach to avoid potential violence while providing smooth service. OCMC with a government hospital works in coordination with the health sector, police, local government, court, safe houses, and other service centers including individuals, families, and communities to protect their basic rights as well as provide access to their health and mental care and access to justice.

Although the study identified some positive initiatives in the interviews and observation, however, there are a number of issues that needs to be improved. (See annex 1)

6.11.1 Exploring the Actions to be Safe at the Community Level – Protection Measures

The existing patriarchal society restricts women and girls' movement during the night. 70% of women and girls avoid going out alone after nightfall or in the late evening and avoid going to isolated dark places (60%). The women and girls prefer going to the market and observing festivals but owing to the threat of sexual assaults they refrain from going to crowded places (30%). Even their families do permit them to go out in the late evenings and nights. This fact is verified by the unsafe time analysis, the lightning, focus group, street survey and KII with community women and girls as well as with the stakeholders. The electric rickshaw female driver of Dhangadhi does not ply her vehicle dark. She said she "started driving from morning till the evening up to 7 PM or maximum 8 PM because she felt unsafe driving in the dark. However, to date no untoward incident has occurred in her profession."

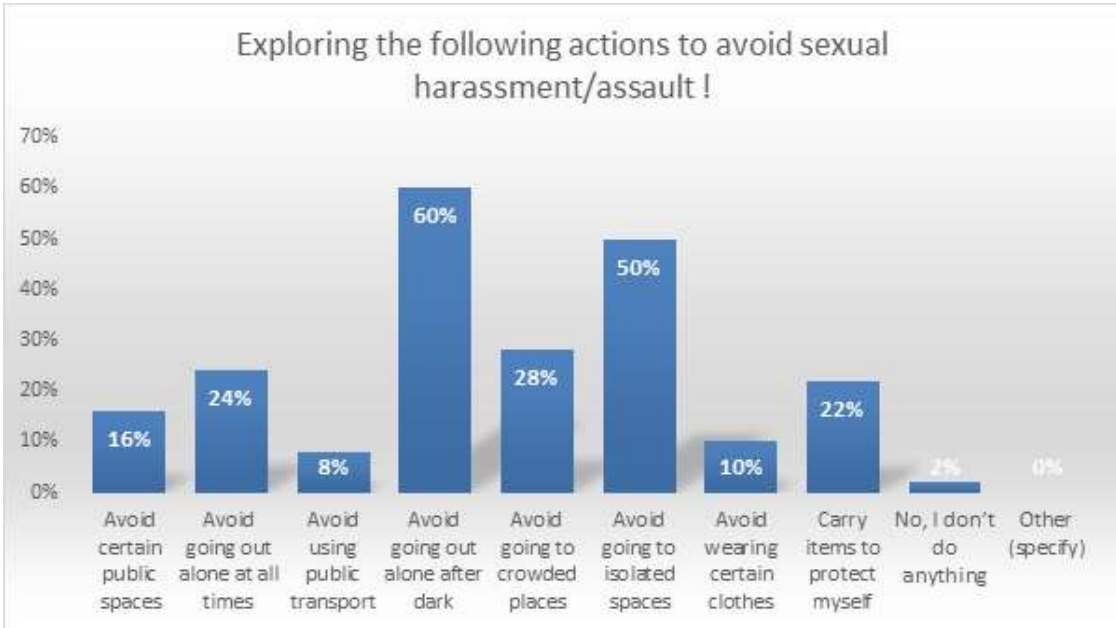


Figure 6.16 Protection Measures taken by the community members

6.12 SAFETY AND SECURITY MECHANISM AT THE LOCAL AND DISTRICT LEVEL INCLUDING DURING THE DISASTER AND PANDEMIC PERIOD

There are various safety and security mechanisms at the local and district levels, but most community members and stakeholders are unaware of them. concerns and issues. The WSA team lists the safety and security mechanisms that have become a remarkable tool for the audit to speak, discuss, and obtain recommendations on the effectiveness of those mechanisms from stakeholders. Figure 6.17 shows how the provision of safety and security mechanisms can be improved.

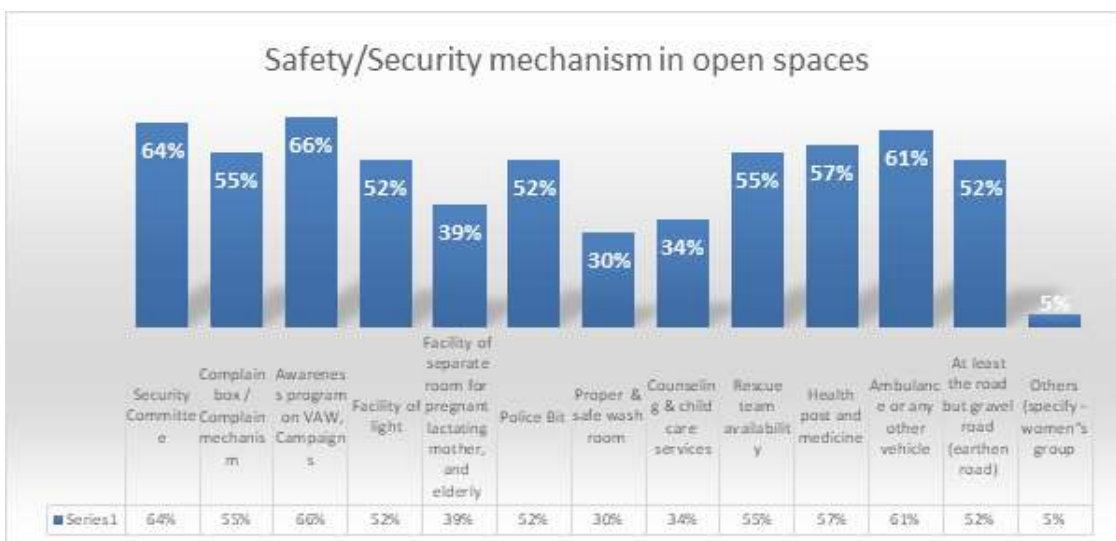


Figure 6.17 Types of safety and security mechanism



Figure 6.18 One-stop Crisis Management Centre (OCMC)



Figure 6.19 Service from OCMC for survivors of GBV

In all those districts there are many organizations that are working or raising the issue of women’s safety and security or are participating in various campaigns like GBV, talk-toilet, hand washing campaign, International Women’s Day (March 8), HIV AIDS day, 16 days activism against VAW/GBV, etc. Here are some good indicators of safety and security mechanisms at the local level. 64% of the respondent stakeholders have participated and are aware of the awareness programs relating to VAW/GBV conducted by various organizations. 57% of the stakeholders claim that security committees are normally established during the disaster and pandemic period. At the local level, they have Area Development Committee (Tole Bikas Samiti) which need to be strengthened. In addition to this, there are ward level authorities, management committees on health, school, forest, water, road and drainage management

the committee, disaster and pandemic management committee, etc. According to the Consultants' previous experience regarding the flood response in Surkhet in 2014, women and girls in comparison to other times felt insecure and unsafe in the temporary camps since they had to stay open and temporary shelter with various types of people and at times had to share the shelter with men. Even though the places were patrolled by security forces, the adolescent girls could not sleep properly in the shelter because of safety and security concerns. To mitigate this problem, the girls formed a group among themselves and took turns providing surveillance.

59% of the respondents with conviction said that there are provisions of ambulances in the hospitals and private sectors and there are provisions of health posts and health centers and are hoping that there will be an increase of police posts at various locations.

The stakeholders claim that there is a disaster management committee who do not wait when events happened – all come in one platform and action starts as the above list of security mechanism exists which may or may not be effective.

6.12.1 Reason Behind not Reporting to the Police

Reporting mechanisms such as the National Women Commission, police, NGOs working on GBV, VAW, OCMC, courts, and hotline services have been established at the federal level. However, these initiatives are very limited and vary from one municipality to another. Owing to their socio-cultural attitude towards women and girls and their sexuality and family honour, the practice of reporting is very low. Women and girls are not only subjected to threats from perpetrators but are also subjected to pressure by the family, and community at large. This is not only owing to the patriarchal thought, belief and practice to maintain family honor but also because of the issue of power, money and time.

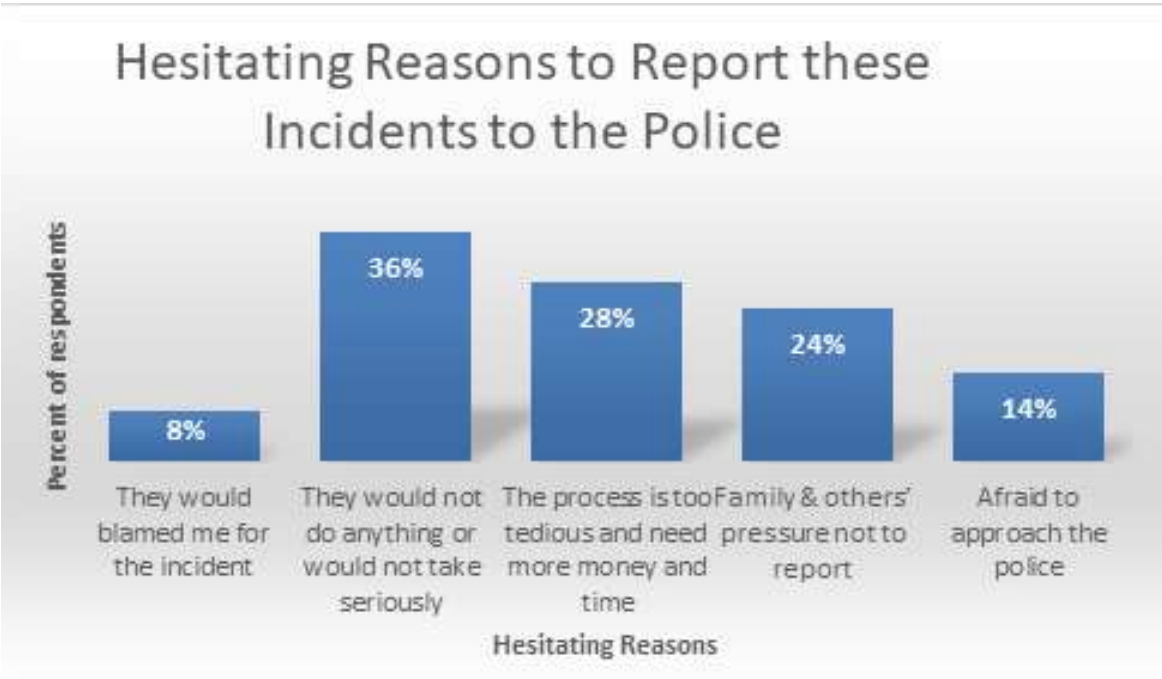


Figure 6.20 Reasons to not report incidents to the police

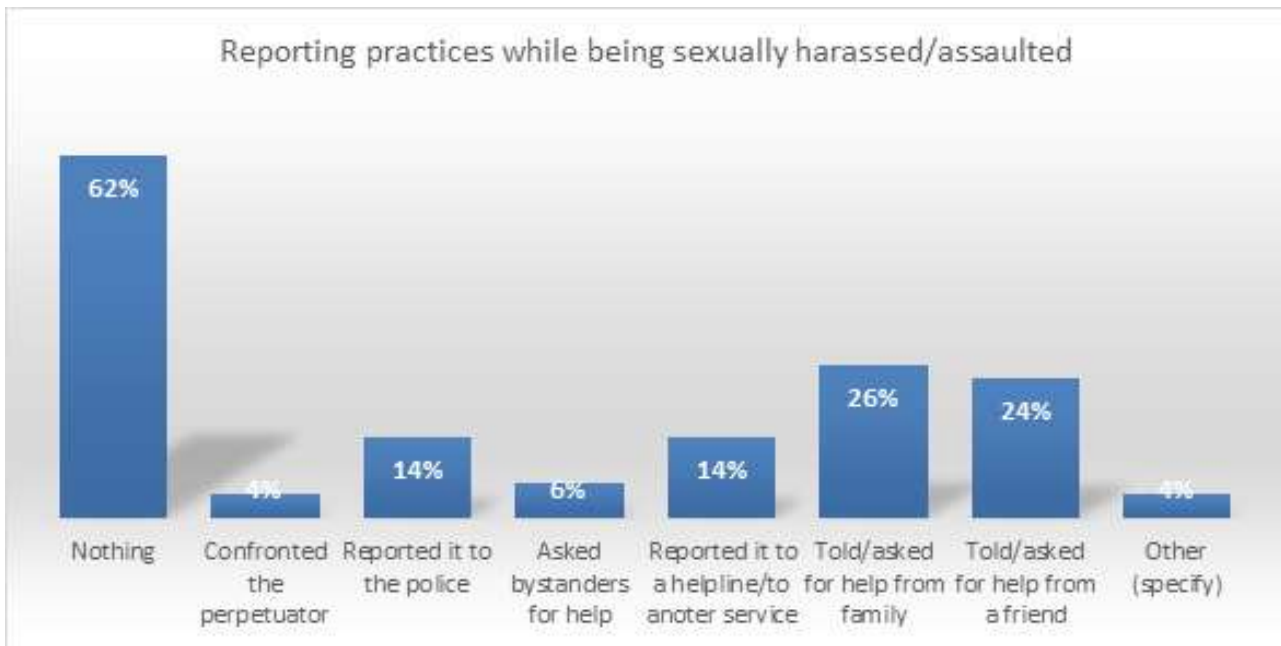


Figure 6.21 Reporting practices while being sexually harassed/assaulted

From the above data of the respondents, although it is evident that such incidents are not tolerable, there is no practice of reporting such incidents. One of the presumptions is that the family and the women and girls would like to share their personal details or the case with other people (this is verified by 60% of the respondents not reporting to the police) but with regards to other incidence or reporting we can get lots of answers. Women and girls are seeking help from their families (50%) and from their friends or group (40%). The practice of complaining to help line or associate organisations for help.

While exploring the reasons for not reporting, it is not surprising to see the high reason for not reporting is family pressure (60%), the process within the government mechanism being tedious, cumbersome, time-consuming and demanding sufficient financial resources (40%). The discussion with the women's police cell and other police personnel claims that the reporting of domestic violence, sexual harassment and rape is increasing, however, these are influenced by members of the political parties and influential and affluent people. There are instances of withdrawal of cases upon entering into the monetary agreement. The key reasons for this are ignorance about government legal services and facilities, family and peer pressure to maintain family prestige in society, the social stigma attached to the survivor, challenges in gathering evidence, political influence, and coercing and threatening the victim not to report.

CHAPTER 7

CONCLUSION

Women Safety Audit (WSA) is a participatory research approach to assess women's safety and security concerns in public places and practices of safety measures to be adopted to protect women. Looking at the importance of this approach, Legal Aid Consultancy Centre (LACC) conducted WSA based on 3 municipalities and 2 sub metropolitan City of Lumbini, Karnali and Sudurpaschchim Province of Nepal with the support of UN Women Nepal.

The main purpose of the study was to identify the nature of violence against women in public places, analyze accessibility, functionality and gap of safety and security measures and mechanisms and recommend a way forward through a GESI and disaster lens.

Both qualitative and quantitative data collection tools and methods applied were Rapid Situation Analysis (RSA), Rapid Stakeholder Analysis (RSA), Key Informant Interview (KII), Focus Group Discussion (FGD), Safety Walk, Street Survey, Case Study, participants & field observation and literature review were conducted. The tools and methods used in the audit played an important role in the process of digging out the safety and security concerns and carrying out a critical analysis of the issues and context.

Among all those tools, the Safety Walk tool became an innovative tool for the project volunteers and other participants. They were aware and felt the importance of carrying out an in-depth critical analysis of the safety and security concerns. In this process, the project volunteers were able to explore the infrastructures available and the conditions that were affecting their lives and livelihood.

This Audit showcased various types of intolerable attitudes and behaviors of the people in public places and the existence of poor infrastructures such as public toilets, government offices and toilets, hospitals, markets, roadside, street lamps, drainage, footpath, school, park, restaurants, temple, local travel, police beat, and police patrolling system. All these have been affecting and making women's life vulnerable and has restricted their rights to enjoy their rights.

This audit was supported to capture the perspective, experiences, and concerns of women and of some men from the targeted community and stakeholders who represented duty bearers, service providers, intellectuals, women rights activists, DRRM experts, NGO staff, police, health workers, lawyers and social workers. The audit identified gaps in various sectors through a GESI lens, policy and practice, knowledge, capacity, effective reporting mechanism and access to justice.

This Audit also provides specific recommendations to improve policy, practice, ideas and beliefs to improve the safety and security concerns of women in coordination with the community people, duty bearers, service providers and to develop smart households and provide free safe public places and to develop clean and safe public infrastructures so that women can enjoy their life and livelihood which inter alia will contribute to the save environment of private life.

This audit can be a strong baseline and assessment for further effective project design for creating a safe and secure environment and integrating into the project through a GESI-responsive lens. This will be remarkable contribution towards the country's commitments on Global Sustainable Development Goal 5, 10, 1a 1, and others.

CHAPTER 8

LIMITATION

WSA was conducted in 5 geographical locations focusing on the surrounding area of the city area and limited to the district headquarter and two wards of each municipality of the 5 provinces.

- Because of the limited time, human resources, and participants' engagement, the safety walk could not be organized in the late evening.
- Public place harassment which is also a very important part of the safety and security concerns of women, girls, and children, very limited places covered during the safety walk.
- WSA was limited to linking disaster resilience to women's livelihood

REFERENCES

- (SDD), S. D. (2013). Making Cities and Urban Spaces Safe for Women and Girls (Safety Audit Participatory Toolkit). Action Aid.
- ActionAid. (2019). Safe City Program, Women Safety Audit Report. Action Aid.
- Archive, N. (2022, September 20). Nepal Archives. Retrieved from <https://www.nepalarchives.com:https://www.nepalarchives.com/content/jayaprithvi-municipality-bajhang-profile/>
- body, E. (2021, March 1). Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policy. A Local Gazzete,. Dhangadi, Sudurpachhim, Nepal: Dhangadhi Sub Metropolitan City.
- Deribe Kaske Kacharo, E. T. (2022). Safety and security of women and girls in public transport. Urban, Planning and Transport Research, 1. Retrieved 9 24, 2022, from <https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rupt20>
- Industry, N. C. (2016). <https://www.nepalgunjcci.org.np>. Retrieved September 19, 2022, from <https://www.nepalgunjcci.org.np/district-profileinformation-109.html>.
- Jagori. (2018). A Rapid Study on Women's Safety in Public Space. Jagori.
- Martin, T. B. (2021). Gender and Disaster: The impact of natural diaster on vlence aganst women. Journal of Asian and African Studies (ZAAS), 4.
- Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration. (2077 B.S.). Disaster Risk Management Localization Manual.
- MORTLAKE, T. &. (2019). Health and Well Being. TERANG & MORTLAKE. Retrieved September 25, 2022, from <https://www.tmhs.vic.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Monthly-newsletter-May.pdf>
- Municipality, B. (2022, September 19). Birendranagar Municipality. Retrieved from <https://birendranagarmun.gov.np/ne/node/5>
- Nepal, A. A. (2019). Safe City Progra, Women Safety Audit. Action Aid.
- Nepal, M. (2022). Traffikcing in person. US Embassy. Retrieved from <https://np.usembassy.gov/2022-trafficking-in-person-report/>
- Nepal, P. (2015). Her Safety Assessment Report. PIN nepal.
- Oxfam. (2018). Shining a Light. Oxfam.
- RSS. (2022, January 1). 434 at risk of trafficking rescued. Retrieved November 5, 2022, from My Republica: <https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/434-at-risk-of-trafficking-rescued/>

Shrestha, S. (2014). Lightning make adolescent girls safer in camp. Karnali, Nepal.

Singh, B. P. (2022, January 18). The Kathmandu Post. Retrieved 9 4, 2022

Singh, S., Singh, B., Sharma, M., & Khadka, N. (2015). Safe Communities: Free from Violence Against Women and Girls. Didi Bahini.

UNFPA. (n.d.). UNFPA. Retrieved 9 24, 2022, from <https://www.friendsofunfpa.org/>: <https://www.friendsofunfpa.org/what-is-gender-based-violence-gbv/#:~:text=The%20United%20Nations'%20definition%20of,in%20public%20or%20private%20life.%E2%80%9D>

Women, U. (2017). Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Result. Flagship Program.

Women, U. (2017). Safety Audit Findings: Risk in the Safety of Women. UN Women.

Women, U. (2017). Safety Audit Findings: Risks in the Safety of Women. UN Women.

CHAPTER 9

ANNEX

9.1 QUESTIONNAIRE

- Key Informant Interview
- FGD
- Street Survey
- Rapid Stakeholder Analysis
- Rapid Situation Analysis and Ranking
- Safety Walk

9.2 CASE STUDY

- Story of the Auto Drivers-Final
- Community Police Partnership- a brief
- XX

9.3 MUNICIPALITY WISE PICTORIAL INFORMATION

- Birendranagar Municipality
- Nepalgunj Sub Metropolitan City
- Dhangadi Sub Metropolitan City
- Amargadhi Municipality
- Jay Prithvi Municipality

9.4 PARTICIPANTS INFORMATION

9.5 RESPONDENTS INFORMATION