

EVALUATION DEPARTMENT

REPORT 2/2015



Evaluation of Norway's support to women's rights and gender equality in development cooperation

Nepal case study report

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the Evaluation Department

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Swedish Institute for Public Administration (SIPU) in cooperation with
Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and the Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI)

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This report is the product of its authors,
and responsibility for the accuracy of data included
in this report rests with the authors alone. The findings,
interpretations, and conclusions presented
in this report do not necessarily reflect the views
of the Norad Evaluation Department.

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1. Introduction

The Swedish Institute for Public Administration (SIPU), with support from the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in the UK and the Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI) in Norway has been commissioned by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) to undertake a results-based evaluation on the effects of Norwegian aid on enhancing women's rights and gender equality (WRGE). The evaluation will also seek to assess the extent to which the results of Norway's gender programming have been in line with goals set out in the Action Plan for Women's Rights and Gender Equality in Development Cooperation and its four main thematic priorities – political empowerment, economic empowerment, sexual and reproductive health rights and violence against women (VAW). Ultimately, the evaluation will seek to identify lessons learnt that can inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' (MFA's) future efforts to strengthen its planning, organisation and implementation of interventions to promote WRGE.

The evaluation combines a gendered political economy approach, to understand the structural and institutional dynamics shaping Norway's

relative efficacy in promoting WRGE, and an anthropological evaluation approach, to assess gender dynamics 'from below' in order to understand effects on locally embedded institutions and on individual women, men, girls and boys as the ultimate target group of all Norwegian aid.

The four evaluation questions as specified in the tender are:

- 1. Relevance:** To what degree is Norwegian support to WRGE relevant in view of national priorities, needs and possibilities?
- 2. Impact:** To what degree has Norwegian support to WRGE led to the intended results at national and subnational levels?
- 3. Ownership:** To what degree has Norwegian support influenced, positively or negatively, national and subnational processes to improve WRGE on a sustainable basis?
- 4. Alignment:** To what degree is Norwegian support to WRGE in line with the strategic priorities

outlined in the Action Plan for Women's Rights and Gender Equality in Development Cooperation 2007-2009 and the intentions of the Gender Grant?

The study covers all Norwegian support to WRGE in development cooperation in the period 2007-2013, whether directly targeted or gender-mainstreamed. Specifically, it looks at gender-marked aid (gender marker 2 = main objective, gender marker 1 = significant objective, see main report page 10 for full definition). The evaluation includes a desk review, which aims to assess the global dimension of Norway's gendered aid, as well as three in-depth case studies, conducted in Ethiopia, Mozambique and Nepal (all gender pilot embassies) and two remote case studies (Tanzania and Zambia). The selection was based on a layered selection criteria approach, which included looking at countries according to volumes of Norwegian gender-marked aid (2007-2013) and the volume of funds allocated through the Women and Gender Equality Grant, budget line 168.70 (WGE Grant), excluding conflict countries. This report constitutes the in-depth case study for Nepal.

While looking at the overall gender portfolio of the embassy, the country case study on Nepal focuses on two projects that allow the team to assess two previously agreed thematic areas, mainly (1) women's political empowerment and (2) mainstreaming of gender in the energy sector. Selection of the projects for review was done in close collaboration with the RNE in Nepal while ensuring coverage of all thematic areas of focus were covered by the three case studies and responding to previously set and agreed criteria, which included looking at:

- Thematic focus;
- Programme history;
- Volume of funding;
- Diversity of implementing agencies in programmes selected; and
- Diversity in geographical coverage.

The projects selected were:

1. Political empowerment: The Inter-Party Women's Alliance (IPWA), ensuring women's equal representation at all policymaking and decision-making levels.

2. Energy: The National Rural and Renewable Energy Programme (NRREP).

The case study was carried out during a three-week period during December 2014, and included one week in the capital Kathmandu conducting key informant interviews with the Royal Norwegian Embassy (RNE), Norwegian partners and civil society, as well as two one-week-long project site visits to Surkhet and Sanja to conduct district and community level fieldwork. The Case Study Country Team Lead for Nepal was Angélica Arbulú, who worked with Senior National Expert Shailendra Sigdel and National Research Assistant Shubheksha Rana, both from the Foundation for Development Management (FDM) based in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The methodology used was guided by the terms of reference (ToR) and the terms agreed in the inception report. Overall, the exercise can be divided into three phases: a secondary data review phase; an in-country fieldwork phase; and an analysis/report writing phase. During the initial phase, a series of documents were

reviewed, including key global documents such as the Action Plan; official in-country data such as the CEDAW Shadow Report, the UN Women Report on VAW in Politics, the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and country data specific to the RNE and its work, such as the Energia evaluation and annual reports.

Participatory and qualitative methods were used during in order to triangulate data and gain insights into how the projects were contributing to women's lives, gender dynamics and gender equality at the beneficiary, organisation and systemic level. Triangulation was further strengthened by reaching out to different types of stakeholders, including women and men of different age groups both in the capital and at district and community level, as well as key actors in national institutions, civil society and other relevant donors, among others. The team adjusted a series of case study instruments to the country, including semi-structured key informant interviews, focus group discussions, on-site observations, community mappings (where relevant) and in-depth case studies.

2. Country profile

2.1 BRIEF HISTORY

No discrimination of any kind shall be made against the women by virtue of sex. Every woman shall have the right to reproductive health and reproduction. No woman shall be subjected to physical, mental or any other kind of violence; and such act shall be punishable by law. Sons and daughters shall have the equal right to ancestral property. (Nepali Interim Constitution)¹

Bordering China to the north and India to the east, west and south, Nepal is a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-religious, and multi-lingual land-locked country. Over the past two decades, it has undergone significant transformation and reform, which directly impact the period under review.

After the referendum in May 1980, the king carried out various promised reforms, leading to the introduction of multi-party democracy in 1990 and the first parliamentary elections

in nearly 50 years which took place in May of 1991. Popular expectations were not fully met, and in February 1996 the Maoists began what is now known as ‘the people’s war’. The Nepalese civil war escalated until October 2002, when the king temporarily deposed the government and dissolved parliament. A week later he reappointed another government, but instability ensued; as a result, popular support for the monarchy began to wane.

On 1 February 2005, the king dismissed the entire government and assumed full executive powers, declaring a ‘state of emergency’ to quash the revolution, *de facto* returning to autocratic rule. Politicians were placed under house arrest, phone and internet lines were cut and freedom of the press was severely curtailed. This gave rise to a popular movement demanding the reintroduction of multi-party democracy and an end to the power of the king. Municipal elections took place in February 2006 but the major parties boycotted them; some candidates were forced to run for office by the army. In April 2006, strikes and street protests in Kathmandu forced the king to reinstate parliament, and a

seven-party coalition resumed control of the government, stripping the king of most of his powers. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed on 21 November 2006.

On 24 December 2007, seven parties, including the former Maoist rebels and the ruling party, agreed to abolish the monarchy and declared Nepal a federal republic. In the elections that followed on 10 April 2008, the Maoists secured a simple majority, forming a government to rule the proposed ‘republic of Nepal’.

On 28 May 2008, the newly elected Constituent Assembly (CA) declared Nepal a federal democratic republic, abolishing the 240-year-old monarchy. With this, the country entered a new political landscape, with the first CA elections leading to 197 women members, nearly 33 percent of the total of 601 seats. These women members came from diverse ethnic cultures, traditions, groups and geographical areas and represented grassroots level, the district and the nation.

¹ http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/text.jsp?file_id=189180, accessed 6 March 2015.

Finally, on June of that year, ex-King Gyanendra left the palace. Ram Baran Yadav of the Nepali Congress became the first President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal on 23 July 2008 and Pushpa Kamal Dahal, popularly known as Prachanda, of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) (UCPN-M) was elected the first Prime Minister on 15 August 2008, defeating Sher Bahadur Deuba of the Nepali Congress (NC).

Failure to draft a Constitution by 2012 led to dissolution of the existing CA. A new interim government was formed with a Supreme Court judge as prime minister. Elections were held; the NC won but failed to obtain a majority. A coalition government was formed between the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist–Leninist) (CPN-UML) and the NC, and Sushil Koirala of the NC was elected Prime Minister with support from the CPN-UML.

Nepal is thus undergoing a complex transition phase after a decade-long internal armed conflict. Since the signing of the CPA there have been a number of historic achievements. These

include maintenance of the ceasefire, the CA elections in 2008, the peaceful declaration of Nepal as a federal democratic republic, the discharge of 4,008 verified minors and late recruits in 2010 and 7,365 personnel from Maoist army cantonments through ‘voluntary retirement’ in 2012 and the clearance of all minefields (UN Country Team 2012). Reintegration of combatants is taking place through a special committee formed of the representatives of major political parties and the government. Institutional reform is now in motion. The CA is in the process of drafting a new Constitution, which was due on 20 January 2015 but did not arrive. However, it should be noted there have been no local elections in 16 years.

2.2 DEVELOPMENT

Nepal’s society is socially segmented along the lines of caste, sub-caste and ethnic or sub-ethnic groups speaking over 92 languages.² Caste, ethnicity, language and religion remain the major sources of cultural identity.

² A total of 123 languages were reported as being the mother tongue in the 2011 National Census (EIU). <http://country.eiu.com/nepal>. Accessed March 2015.

A total of 41.4 percent of the population in Nepal is estimated to be multi-dimensionally poor; an additional 18.1 percent are near this line.³ While the country’s headcount poverty rate is 25 percent, there are significant differences across groups: among the four major caste and ethnic clusters,⁴ the Hill Brahmins’ poverty rate is at only 10 percent; the rate stands at 44 percent for the Hill Dalits (or ‘untouchables’) (UNDP and NPC 2014).

Nepal’s Living Standards Survey (NPC 2011) shows a clear association between caste and ethnicity and levels of income, revealing a picture similar to that of the Human Development Index (HDI) (see below). As a group, the Brahmins/Chhetris have the highest income per capita, followed by the Janajatis and the Dalits. The per capita income of Hill Brahmins is 1.7 times higher than that of the Dalits in general, and two times higher than that of the Madhesi Dalits. Overall, the human poverty

³ The most recent survey data publicly available on Nepal’s Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) refer to 2011 (UNDP and NPC Human development report 2014).

⁴ Brahmins/Chhetris, Janajatis, Dalits and Muslims.

situation has improved, though; the disparities among geographical regions and ethnic groups remain entrenched although there are indications that these gaps may be narrowing.

Nepal's HDI⁵ value for 2013 was 0.540 – in the low human development category –positioning the country at 145 out of 187 countries and territories (UNDP 2014). Between 1980 and 2013, Nepal's HDI value increased from 0.286 to 0.540, an impressive average annual increase of about 1.94 percent. However, when the value is discounted for inequality, the HDI value falls to 0.384, a loss of 28.8 percent owing to inequality in the distribution of the dimension indices. The Inequality-Adjusted HDI for Nepal is equal to 27.8 percent.

Significant progress has been obtained on most Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), with increases in literacy and school enrolment, increases in average life expectancy and reductions in child and maternal mortality

5 A summary measure for assessing long-term progress in three basic dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living.

some of greatest achievements. Nepal is expected to achieve its target for maternal mortality, with progress towards this so impressive the country was granted an MDG Achievement Award in 2010. However, gains are disproportionately concentrated away from the disadvantaged: 92 percent of the wealthiest Nepali women receive antenatal care from a skilled provider in comparison with only 33 percent of the poorest, with only 11 percent of the poorest receiving skilled delivery services compared with 82 percent of the wealthiest women (UN Country Team 2012). There are also significant urban–rural disparities, with 53 percent access to improved sanitation for the urban population compared with 36 percent in rural areas; access to improved drinking water is at 93 percent and 88 percent, respectively. Nevertheless, Nepal is expected to be on its way to achieve six out of eight MDGs by 2015 (*ibid.*).

The MDG targets related to full employment remain distant, Nepal's youth in particular face very serious challenges in terms of employment. This is particularly the case for female youth, with those living in geographically remote areas

and those belonging to traditionally marginalised social groups worst off. The unemployed are pushed to seek work abroad, exposing many to unsafe labour conditions and exploitation. Nearly one-third (32 percent) of Nepal's youth aged 15-29 years are migrants (UN Country Team 2012).

The country's Gini coefficient was the highest in Asia until 2008, when it was estimated to be 0.45, but had fallen to 0.32 in 2011. However, progress has been uneven and inequalities remain a challenge on Nepal's development path.

2.3 SITUATION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

2.3.1 Gender and economics

Nepal's Gender Inequality Index (GII)⁶ value of 0.479 puts it at number 98 out of 149. A total of 17.9 percent of adult women have reached at

6 The GI reflects gender-based inequalities in three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment and economic activity. Reproductive health is measured by maternal mortality and adolescent birth rates; empowerment is measured by the share of parliamentary seats held by women and attainment in secondary and higher education by each gender; and economic activity is measured by the labour market participation rate for women and men. The GI can be interpreted as the loss in human development owing to inequality between female and male achievements in the three GI dimensions.

least a secondary level of education compared with 39.9 percent of their male counterparts. For every 100,000 live births, 170 women die from pregnancy-related causes. The adolescent birth rate is 73.7 births per 1,000 live births.

The 2013 *Global Gender Gap Report* (WEF 2013) states that both women's labour force participation and their wage equality have improved, but participation remains relatively low in both the public and the private sector, with female participation in the labour market at 54.3 percent compared with 63.2 for men (UNDP and NPC 2014). Unemployment and poverty push an estimated average of more than 1,700 Nepali labour migrants to depart the country each day (Ministry of Labour and Employment 2014). According to government estimates, incidence of poverty would jump from 19.3 to 35.3 percent if remittances stopped. Lack of opportunities leads women to increasingly seek foreign employment,⁷ and low literacy and lack of adequate

7 According to data on labour permits issued, men account for the bulk of labour migrants over the past six years, at 95.1 percent. However, there has been a significant increase in the number of permits acquired by women, at 239 percent over the six-year period, compared with nearly 133 percent for men (Ministry of Labour and Employment 2014).

skills mean most of them are working in domestic work in vulnerable situations. Reputable sources claim 5,000-15,000 people, mostly women and children, are trafficked from Nepal each year.⁸

2.3.2 Political empowerment

In 2006, the CA passed a special resolution to ensure 33% women's participation in all state structures. After the next elections, therefore, there was – for the first time – 33% representation of women from all regions and castes (up from 2.9 percent in 1912 in the then-parliament). However, this proportion decreased to 29.9 percent after the 2014 elections. Although affirmative measures are taken in CA elections, women are still invisible in overall political decision-making structures. Nepali women are also not present in international organisations or international delegations (Forum for Law and Development 2011).

8 <http://nepal.iom.int/jupgrade/index.php/en/iom-nepal>, accessed 3 February 2015.

2.3.3 Legal reforms

Religion and customs play a vital role in people's lives and often determine their status. In Nepal's patriarchal society, women are assigned traditional roles and often have very little power over decision-making, both in private and in public spheres. As such, and although women constitute more than half of the total population of Nepal, they are treated as a 'minority', reflected in the fact that most quotas are for 'women and other minorities'.⁹

Nepal has made much progress towards promoting gender equality through its legislation. The Constitution of 1990 contained a guarantee that no person should be discriminated against on the basis of sex, and in 1991 the government ratified CEDAW. In addition, the government implemented some reservation policies in the administrative and security sectors, and as a result participation of women has increased to 3.22 percent in the army and 7 percent in the police. The percentage of female staff in the civil

9 Government quotas both in terms of budget at Village Development Committee (VDC) level and representation in the CA are for women and other minorities.

service is also on the rise, although at the policy-making/decision-making level their presence is still very low (3.6 percent in Special Class and 2.3 percent in Class I. At Class II and III officer level, the ratio is around 3.4 percent and 8.3 percent, respectively (UNDP 2012)). Of all teachers, 47 percent have to be women, and all public offices have quotas. Other gender-friendly pieces of legislation and provisions include the Gender Equality Act (2006), the Human Trafficking and Transportation Control Act (2007) and the 12th Amendment of the Country Code to criminalise witchcraft and the Domestic Violence Control Act (2008). Abortion is no longer a criminal offence. 'Legislative reform in the area of gender equality has kick-started a gradual transformation in the areas of gender equality and women's empowerment, ensuring greater economic security for women, protecting them from violence' (UN Country Team 2012:2).

The Interim Constitution made significant progress in terms of women's rights. For example, it included some reproductive health rights as well as the equal right to property. Despite efforts to improve and reform the law,

however, consequent social changes and transformations in the lives of women have not yet been realised. For the most part, women continue to be perceived as dependent on a male member of her family, first her father then her husband. For example, while child marriage has been declared punishable by the law, it is still prevalent. Neither the Interim Constitution nor the proposed draft Constitution provides equality in terms of conferring citizenship to the spouse and children (currently citizenship can be obtained only through the father).

Patriarchal norms, values and the inequitable character of the sociocultural system continue to define and redefine social relationships in many ways. Caste, ethnic and gender discrimination are consistently identified as being at the core of challenges facing Nepal's most vulnerable groups. These norms are practised not only across groups but also within them, making some subgroups, such as women, girls, minorities and the disabled, particularly vulnerable. Dalit women suffer dual discrimination first for being Dalit and within that group again for being women. According to a study supported by the UN Children's Fund

(UNICEF), 1.63 percent of the entire population in the country were persons with disabilities, and 46.4 percent of these were women. Prevailing gender stereotypes in society compound discrimination against women with disabilities. For example, a woman's beauty is considered vital to her and her prospects for marriage and is considered tarnished when she is disabled, with her own family sometimes regarding her as asexual. A full 60 percent of men with disabilities are married versus only 20 percent of women with disabilities.

For the past 10 years, the government has been allocating money to each Village Development Committee (VDC) of which 15 percent should go towards women, but women have very little say on how this money is used.

2.3.4 Gender-based violence

Women and girls in Nepal are exposed to a variety of forms of violence. One study claims 48 percent of women have experienced violence at some time in their lives, with 28 percent reporting experience of violence in the past 12 months (OPMCM *et al.* 2012). Emotional

violence (40.4 percent) is the most commonly reported type of violence followed by physical violence (26.8 percent), sexual violence (15.3 percent) and economic abuse/violence (8 percent). Another study found almost one in 10 girls (9.8 percent) reported experiencing sexual violence and nearly one in 10 adolescents aged 15-19 experienced physical violence during pregnancy (HimRights 2012). More often than not, it is someone she knows, such as a husband or another male family member, who perpetrates the violence.¹⁰

Various contributing factors have been identified, including legal subordination, economic dependency and cultural norms that determine the social position of women *vis-à-vis* men. Lack of education and knowledge of sexuality, marriage practices, particularly early marriage,¹¹ together with lack of family and legal support for women (Deuba *et al.* 2005; Paudel 2011; Puri *et al.* 2007, 2010, 2011) further exacerbate women's

¹⁰ <http://unicef.org.np/about-us/children-in-nepal>, accessed January 2015.

¹¹ According to UN data from 2011, 28.9 percent of girls aged 15-19 were married, divorced or widowed, compared with 7 percent of men (<http://genderindex.org/country/Nepal>, accessed February 2015).

vulnerability. Another important factor is men's perceived entitlement to sex and violence as a mechanism to discipline the wife. The Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2006 found 21 percent of male respondents felt a husband might be justified for beating his wife (New ERA 2006).

As a result of such determinants, women and girls in Nepal suffer from a variety of types of violence at the individual, family and community level, including sexual exploitation (trafficking, forced sex, sexual harassment), domestic violence (i.e. spousal abuse), family abuse (polygamy, child marriage, widow abuse, dowry related violence, emotional and mental abuse, abuse from the mother-in-law), accusations of witchcraft (*boxi*) and bonded labour (*kamalari*). Dalit women face multiple discriminations, including a higher risk of being accused of witchcraft than non-Dalit women.

Although Nepali law prohibits some harmful customs and rituals, pervasive traditional practices continue to contribute to women's risks of suffering violence, including the *deuki*

tradition, which involves families offering young girls to temples for ceremonial purpose, or the *Jhuma* tradition of sending second-born daughters to monasteries as an offering to ensure the wellbeing of the girl's family. Menstrual seclusion (*chaupadi*) is a social tradition for Hindu women in the Mid-Western and Far-Western Development Regions of Nepal that prohibits women from undertaking daily activities during the time of menstruation because they are considered impure. During this time, women are kept out of the house – usually living in outdoor sheds/barns. This lasts 10-11 days when an adolescent girl has her first period and four to seven days for every following one (Hawkes *et al.* 2013).

An estimated total of 200,000 Nepali girls and women have been sex trafficked to India (Sethuraman 2008). Half of those trafficked are under 16 years of age when trafficked and a quarter are below 14 years of age (Hasselman *et al.* 2006). It is estimated that some 13,000 girls are being sexually exploited in Kathmandu.¹²

¹² <http://unicef.org.np/about-us/children-in-nepal>, accessed January 2015.

The context of gender-based violence, driven by social, cultural, religious and gender norms, has been compounded by years of political conflict, which increased the risk of violence (Dhakal 2008), particularly through rape, trafficking, sexual slavery, displacement and economic hardship (OPMCM *et al.* 2012). A recent report by UN Women as well as the Shadow CEDAW report highlights the prevalence of violence against women in politics, which it says is ‘absent from public discourse... Its lack of recognition results from the prevailing patriarchal mind-set and the culture of silence within political parties, government agencies and more broadly, the society’¹³.

The most recent DHS in Nepal (2011) found that three-quarters of women who had experienced physical or sexual violence at some point in their lives had not sought any help – and two-thirds had never even spoken about the violence. This was particularly acute among women who had experienced sexual violence,

with only 7 percent having reported the assault. Of those who did seek care, only 4 percent of respondents sought care from the police; 3 percent sought medical services. The majority had relied on friends and family for care and support (New ERA 2011).

¹³ <http://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/institutional-document/32237/cga-nep-2010.pdf> accessed on February 2015

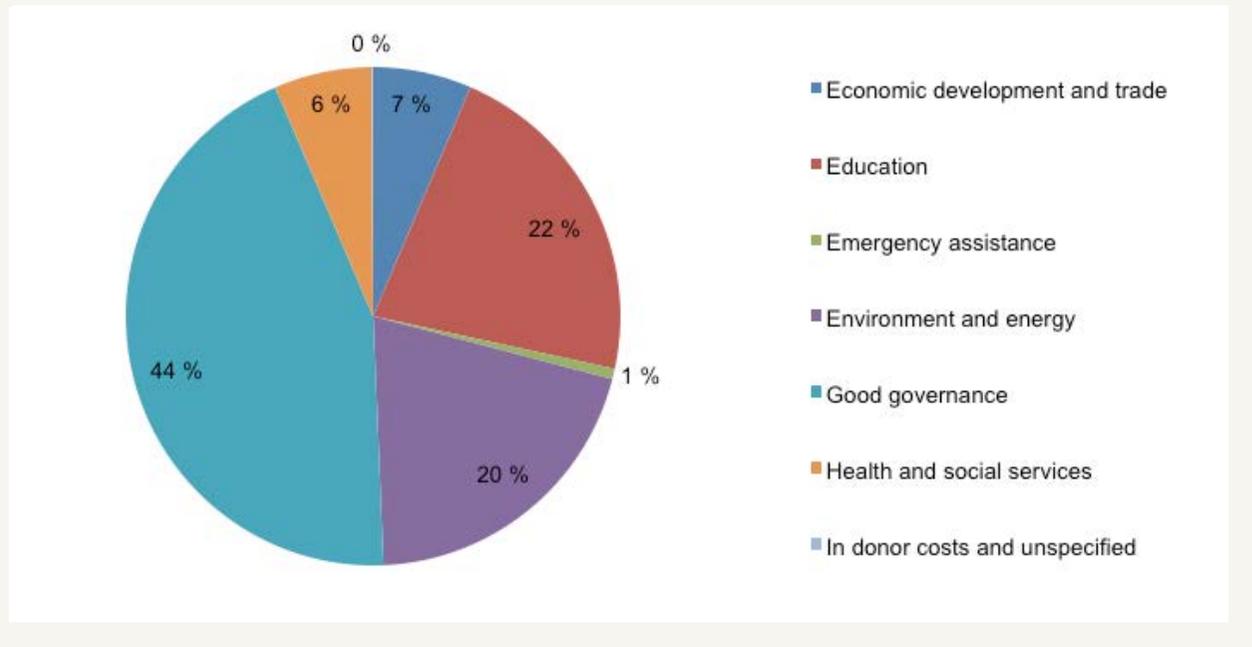
3. Norwegian support to WRGE

Norway seeks to contribute to social and economic development in Nepal through our political dialogue and development cooperation. Norway and Nepal have agreed to three key areas of development cooperation: (1) energy, (2) education, and (3) democracy and inclusive governance. Throughout all three key areas of cooperation, Norway promotes gender equality, human rights, sound environmental management and economic transparency. (RNE in Nepal Brochure on Development Cooperation)

3.1 OVERVIEW OF NEPAL'S WORK ON WRGE WITH NORWAY

Nepal is one of Norway's 12 development cooperation focus countries, where the latter seeks to promote long-term poverty reduction, democracy and human rights. The key areas of cooperation in the period under review (2007-2013) were good governance, education and renewable energy (see Figure 3). During this period, Norway granted a total of over NOK 1.75 billion in development aid to Nepal.

FIGURE 3: NORWEGIAN OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO NEPAL, 2007-2013, BY TARGET AREA (%)



Source: MFA/Norad 2015

The RNE in Nepal works across all of Norway's WRGE strategic priorities as set out in the Action Plan for Women's Rights and Gender Equality in Development (2007-2009) – that is, women's economic empowerment, women's political empowerment, violence against women and sexual and reproductive health, with a strong focus on the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community.

The RNE's focus during the time under review was on providing support to political empowerment, an area of particular relevance given the elections held in April 2008 and November 2013 and all the changes taking place in the national political context. In terms of priorities in the area of WRGE, the focus has been on Security Council Resolution 1325¹⁴ and in particular on the development of a National Action Plan and advocating for justice for survivors of sexual violence, very much in line with the priorities identified in Norway's Action Plan, which identifies support to the Implemen-

tation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security as a priority.

Some support was provided through the association of women journalists of Nepal (Sancharika Samuha) to help increase awareness and by highlighting women's issues on the radio, television and the print media, with a particular emphasis on cultural attitudes that may contribute to gender-based violence. The RNE also supported the election and Constitution-drafting processes by providing capacity-building for women politicians and the support of a legal expert, helping the different constituencies understand the different options and their implications for women, strengthening their ability to advocate and participate in an effective manner in the process. This work is intrinsically linked to its work in the area of political empowerment, where Norway helped map out existing opportunities to secure the sustainability of gains for women, having identified proportional representation as key element for this.

The foreword of Norway's Action Plan recognises as the most important force for change 'women

who organize and mobilize resources and challenge discriminatory attitudes and structure in their societies' (MFA 2007 pg. 6). Norway's gender portfolio in Nepal is very much aligned with this principle, as well as with the stated goal to ensure WRGE be explicitly and comprehensively incorporated into Norway's development and cooperation efforts, with the inclusion of gender in the energy sector being a clear example of this.

The RNE sought to strengthen political leaders and civil society by providing its support to the IPWA (one of the projects under review in this case study), a forum for women politicians from all key political parties to advocate for women's issues, as well as through and to Sankalpa, an umbrella organisation for 11 different civil society women's groups that includes socially excluded groups such as Dalits, single women, Muslim women, Janajati women, displaced women, disabled women, etc. Support to build expertise and capacity in civil society and the media is also highlighted as a goal in the Action Plan document.

¹⁴ Norway chaired the Peace Support Working Group, a coordination group for Resolution 1325.

Lastly, in the area of sexual and reproductive health rights, a key area of work in Nepal has been in the area of advocacy for the rights of the LGBT community, which included significant work towards changing discriminatory norms and practices which negatively affect the LGBT community and challenging cultural practices that contribute to violence against women and girls, as well as providing legal aid and advise on specific cases linked to GBV.

Although no specific changes took place as a result of the 2007 Action Plan, there is a sense that the plan continues to serve as a mechanism to ensure a focus on gender, especially after Beijing, when there was a shift towards mainstreaming gender and a loss in gender-specific funding. The RNE takes Oslo's priorities and the Action Plan as a starting point when putting together its portfolio.

Norad undertook a gender review in May of 2010. It recommended the drafting of a country-level gender action plan, which was drafted shortly after (the Nepal Gender Action Plan 2010-2012) and it incorporated some

other key recommendations stemming from the review. This was reviewed and revised again to cover the 2013- 2015 period.

The gender review positively highlighted the RNE's use of the media to advocate for WRGE, largely with funding from the Women and Gender Equality Grant (budget line 168.70). Norway's support was considered instrumental in strengthening the Gender Equality in Citizenship Campaign, as well as other campaigns against gender-based violence.

The greatest progress can be seen in the area of energy, a strategic area of interest for the governments of both Norway and Nepal. The gender review had highlighted the very limited focus on WRGE in the sector as a key weakness, shortly after, the 2011-2020 Energy Strategy was developed which incorporated specific references to gender and proposed a mechanism to address gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) in a more systematic manner. While the specific recommendations of the review were not followed, the RNE has supported the GESI element of the Nepali NRREP (one of

the projects under review in this case study) and achieved full formal integration of the gender perspective into the work of the energy sector, together with many other achievements (see Section 4.3.)

Other recommendations included in the review, for example a recommendation to strengthen the RNE's capacity for gender through tailor-made trainings and the recommendation to strengthen reporting systems to facilitate documentation of results, seem to have gone largely unaddressed. Table 1 presents a full list of recommendations stemming from the review and how these have been addressed.

TABLE 1: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GENDER REVIEW

Recommendation	How addressed
<p>The review team support the RNE's current attempts to make an Action Plan for WRGE to cover all efforts. Such a plan might assist the RNE in finding synergy effects between the different programmes and policies, especially between energy, education and governance.</p>	<p>A Nepal Gender Action Plan was developed in response to the recommendation to cover 2010-2012. This made specific reference to many of the review's conclusions and recommendations. Another Nepal Gender Action Plan was developed to cover the period 2013-2015.</p>
<p>Part of the Action Plan could include follow up on this report. It could be reviewed with the assistance of Norad after, for example, one to two years.</p>	
<p>The gender review report could be shared with key partners and potentially be used for workshops or seminars with Norway's key development partners.</p>	<p>It was shared during the regional gender network meetings under the pilot initiative.</p>
<p>Depending on capacity, the RNE could consider taking a lead among likeminded donors in promoting WRGE (the RNE had been chair of the Security Council Resolution 1325 committee for two years, and the team supported its wish that somebody else take over).</p>	<p>The RNE passed over chairmanship of the 1325 group to UN Women in 2012, but has continued to provide support to UN Women in this role. There is no donor gender group in Nepal.</p>
<p>Continue to support local Nepali WRGE channels like women's media and watchdog organisations, including Gender Budgeting watchdogs.</p>	<p>Women's media was supported; no indication that support to gender budgeting watchdogs was provided.</p>
<p>Try and identify gender equality change agents in every sector and project/programme.</p>	<p>The RNE's Gender Action Plan makes clear reference to the identification of change agents. It is unclear how much this has translated into reality given that reporting does not go into that level of detail.</p>
<p>Identify a pool of local WRGE experts that can be called on for gender assessments and reviews, including training of male WRGE experts.</p>	<p>CVs of gender experts have been collected and used for reviews and/or evaluations. They have also been shared with the wider international community when requested.</p>
<p>Specific initiatives like exploring to what extent conditions on women's representation should be attached to funding, for example 50 percent representation in all project/programme activities and employment in partner organisations.</p>	<p>No indication that has been addressed.</p>
<p>Programme recommendations: energy</p>	
<p>If Norway decides to support a new phase of ESAP, a gGender aAudit could be performed, built on the Ministry of Finance's GRB nd a specific gender targets and indicators set. A Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) analysis of the upcoming programme should be conducted. A gender/energy expert should be engaged to input into the new programme document. In the new phase, technical assistance on integration of GESI should be part of the new budget of the joint donor group.</p>	<p>While a gender audit was not reported, a national gender expert with gender sensibility and skills was recruited. Norway supports the GESI element of the new national energy joint donor programme.</p>

→

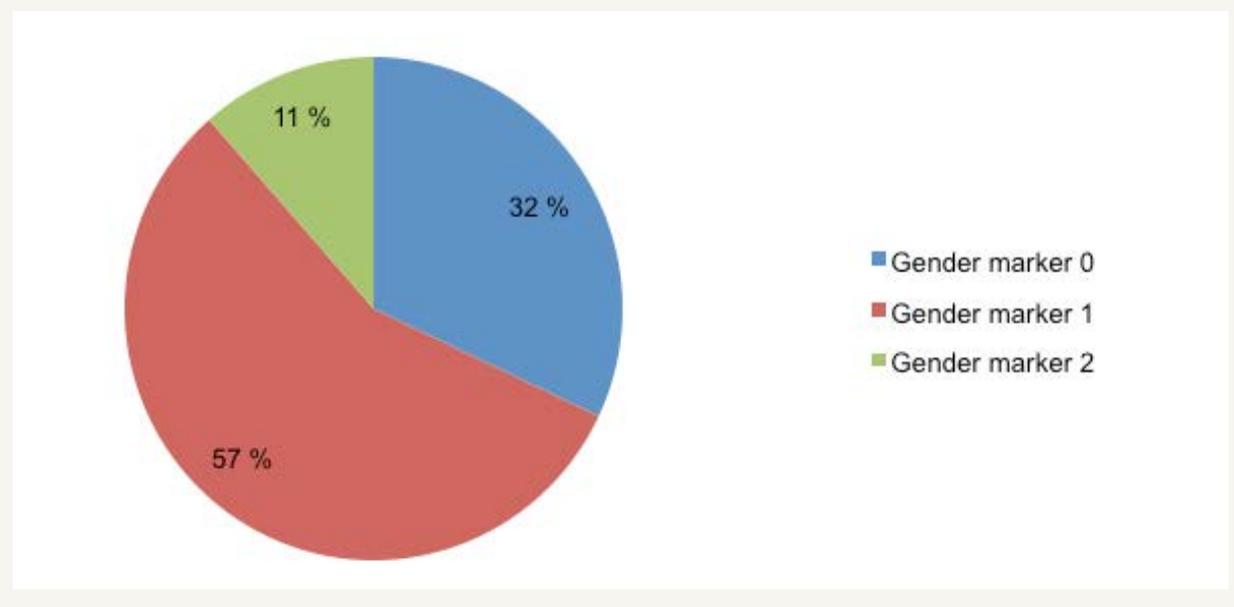
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Recommendation	How addressed
<p>Developing at least one pilot energy programme for women. This could be linked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Utilizing increased energy supply for women to in economic activities (power for empowerment). The team understands that the RNE has already initiated this. 2. Exploring how girls' training, education in energy technology and research on GESI aspects of energy can be supported (this can also be explored through Norway's research programme, the Norwegian Programme for Development, Research and Education, and/or Norad's Programme for Master Studies. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The GESI element incorporated into the NRREP acts as a pilot. It also has an important element to promote economic empowerment through income-generating activities. 2. While this is referred to in the NRREP programme document, no progress was reported.
<p>Make use of methodology and lessons learnt from other countries like on regional and international networks on gender and energy. Special efforts should be made to include WRGE in the planning and development of a new energy strategy by the RNE.</p>	<p>While this specifically was not reported, the RNE benefited from Norad's Framework Agreement with Energia and its lessons learnt in the other countries where it was piloted. An Energy strategy, which very clearly identifies GESI, was developed to cover the 2011-2020 period.</p>
<p>Special efforts should be made to include WRGE in the planning and development of a new energy strategy by the RNE.</p>	<p>An Energy Sstrategy, which very clearly identifies GESI, was developed to cover the 2011-2020 period.</p>
Governance	
<p>There is a good opportunity for linking the Media Initiative, Rights and Social Transformation work of bringing CA members to districts to be accountable to constituencies with the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) Local Government and Community Development Programme (LGCDP).</p>	<p>No indication this has been addressed.</p>
<p>The GESI strategy needs to be monitored and included in the minimum performance indicators of the LGCDP.</p>	<p>While the LGCDP was not part of this case study, it was observed online that the project includes a GESI policy.</p>
<p>Continue to work on identifying barriers to women's participation in local governance and the VDCs in a meaningful way. Assess if there are training needs at local level, or encourage MoFALD to cooperate with non-governmental and community-based organisations working with local empowerment initiatives of women.</p>	<p>RNE supports IPWA and Sankalpa with a focus on capacity-building at local level. Partners define the methodologies and content.</p>
Embassy administration and reporting	
<p>Tailor made gender trainings, for example on gender and energy or gender and climate change, could be ordered by the RNE and provided by Norad in close cooperation with Nepali gender experts.</p>	<p>No gender training stemming from the RNE in Nepal was reported to have taken place. There was training linked to the pilot (the workshops) and in the context of the Framework Agreement with Energia (funded through the Women and Gender Equality Grant).</p>

3.2 USE OF AID FOR WRGE

Of the total official development assistance (ODA) the RNE received, more than half (57 percent) had mainstreamed gender (Gender Marker 1), with an additional 11 percent having gender as its main objective (Gender Marker 2). However, 32 percent of total funds still had no gender marker (Gender Marker 0) (see Figure 4). It should be highlighted that non-gender-marked aid does not immediately reflect a lack of gender perspective. For example, funds for the NRREP are – by agreement with other donors – not earmarked, yet the programme has had an important impact in terms of ensuring the introduction of gender into the energy sector.

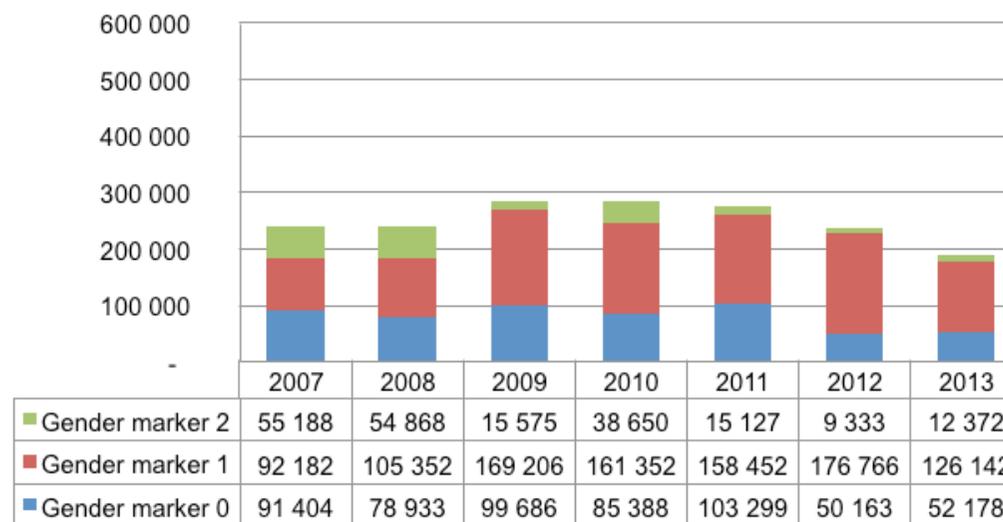
FIGURE 4: DISTRIBUTION OF NORWEGIAN ODA TO NEPAL, BY GENDER MARKER, 2007-2013 (%)



Source: MFA and Norad 2015

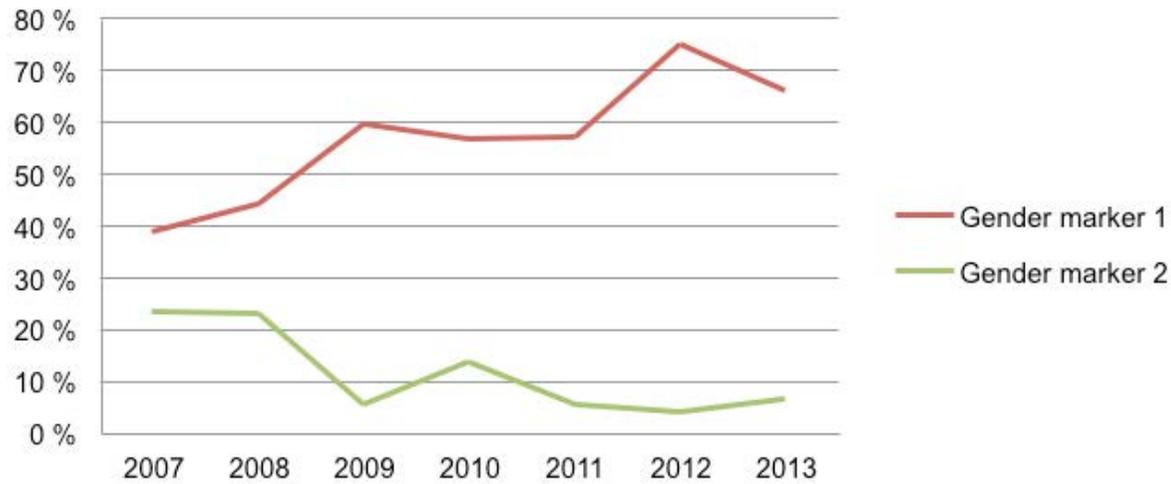
Over the period under review there was an increase in gender mainstreaming (Gender Marker 1). There was also a decrease in the volume of funds for programmes without a gender perspective (Gender Marker 0) and programmes specifically aimed at gender (Gender Marker 2) (Figure 5). This trend is even more marked if we look at number of projects instead of volume (Figure 6). These movements are in line with Norad's strategy to move away from gender-based projects towards the mainstreaming of gender across all programmes.

FIGURE 5: GENDER MARKER TRENDS BY VOLUME, 2007-2013 (NOK '000S)



Source: MFA and Norad 2015

FIGURE 6: GENDER MARKER TRENDS BY PROPORTION OF PROJECTS (%)



Source: MFA and Norad 2015

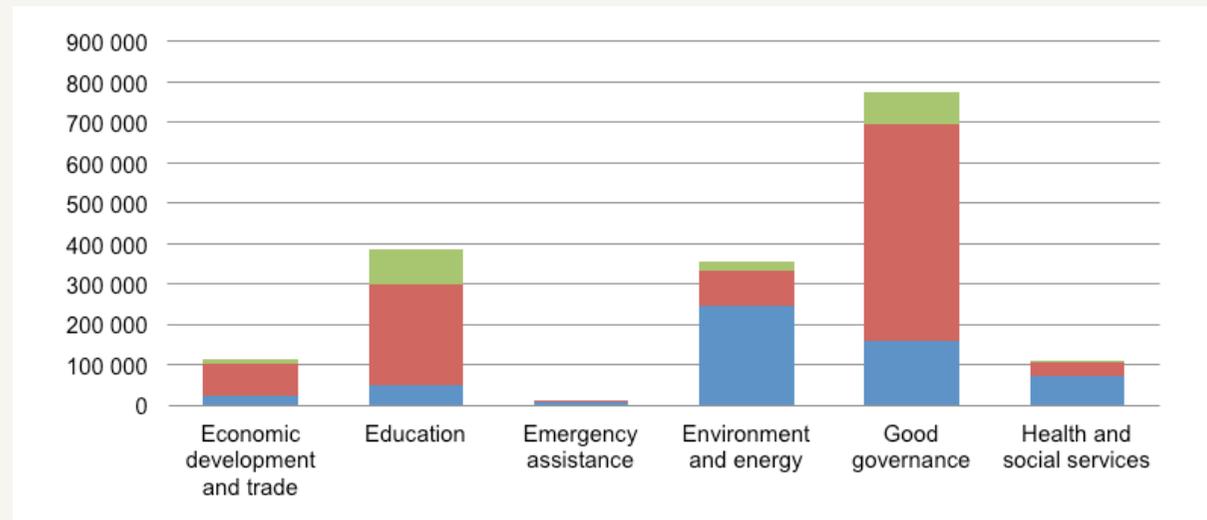
The RNE received NOK 64.9 million from the Women and Gender Equality Grant between 2007 and 2013, which amounts to about 3.7 percent of total funds. This supported a range of initiatives, mostly political participation and mainstreaming of WRGE, including assisting some of the RNE's key partners to push for the implementation of the Action Plan for UN Security Resolutions 1325 and 1820, and to promote gender dialogue and gender-sensitive media.

When we look more closely, more than half of the funds for the key sectors, mainly good governance (69 percent) and education (65 percent), were mainstreamed. However, despite significant progress in the energy sector, the bulk of the funding in this sector (70 percent) continues to lack a gender marker.

The environment and energy sector has the lowest level of gender-earmarked funds (30 percent), while the education and good governance sectors have the highest at 87 and 79 percent respectively¹⁵ (see Table 2).

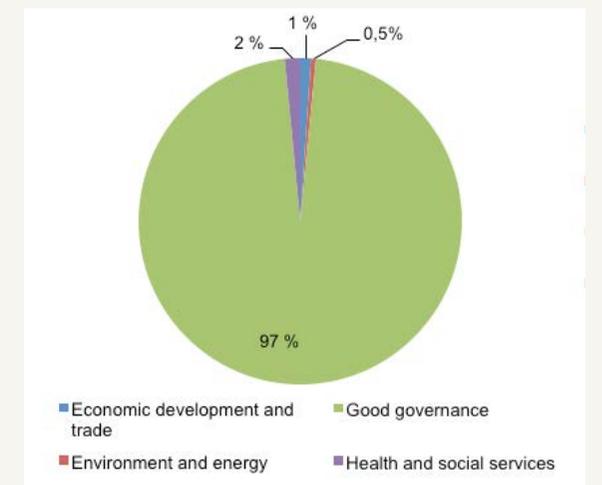
¹⁵ This analysis excludes NOK 222,000 for donor and other costs as it is not thematic funding nor is it significant, amounting to 0.1 percent of total funds.

FIGURE 7: GENDERED AID TO NEPAL BY TARGET AREA (NOK '000S)



Source: MFA and Norad 2015

FIGURE 8: WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY GRANT ALLOCATIONS BY TARGET AREA (%)



Source: MFA and Norad

Somewhere after Beijing, with the idea of mainstreaming, there was no longer specific money for gender. Women-specific projects were phased out; they came back with the Action Plan. (Key informant, RNE in Nepal)

Key informants felt the grant was an effective tool to ensure focus and funding for WRGE and provided the RNE flexibility and the ability to

respond promptly to new issues: ‘We were able to come up with quick money and make quick decisions.’ (Key informant, RNE). Some believed that access to a separate allocation provided a good argument to work on gender: ‘In practice, we all want to do it but we can do it in reality because we have money. It’s the combination of a having a plan and funding.’ (Key informant interview, RNE). For example, Norway was the

only donor to earmark funds for the implementation of the Nepal Gender Action Plan and for implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325¹⁶, this might not have been possible without the WGE Grant allocation.

¹⁶ This was done through the Nepal Peace Trust Fund, which is a multi-donor trust fund.

3.3 TYPE OF WRGE AND ENGAGEMENT METHODS

The RNE works with a range of partners but focuses on the Nepali public sector, multilateral organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), both local and international. Table 2 shows the budget distribution by type of partner.

The remaining 22 percent was paid to other operators, with most going to regional research through the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development. About 60 percent of the funds went directly into Nepal's national budget. An additional NOK 40 million was received by Norwegian NGOs to work in Nepal through Norad subsidies (Norad 2013).

Key donors in the area of gender include the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction for 1325 and UN Women. It should be highlighted that there is limited interaction with MoWCSW, mainly because the work on Resolution 1325, which frames the RNE's work on gender, is led by the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction through a temporary

TABLE 2: GENDERED ODA BY AGREEMENT PARTNER (NOK '000S)

	Total		Gender Marker 0		Gender Marker 1		Gender Marker 2	
	NOK 1,000	%	NOK 1,000	%	NOK 1,000	%	NOK 1,000	%
Consultants	8,228	0	7,154	87	681	8	393	5
Governments/ministries	726,175	41	149,128	21	473,468	65	103,579	14
Multilateral institutions	310,624	18	90,802	29	171,092	55	48,730	16
NGO international	104,253	6	56,396	54	45,694	44	2,162	2
NGO local	122,782	7	39,611	32	63,814	52	19,358	16
NGO Norwegian	318,044	18	147,910	47	146,151	46	23,983	8
Norwegian priv. sector	4,397	0	4,397	100	0	0	0	0
Norwegian publ. sector	51,963	3	31,428	60	18,078	35	2,457	5
Other private sector	60,813	3	22,054	36	38,346	63	413	1
Publ. sector dev.countr.	7,463	0	7,052	95	410	5	0	0
Publ.sector other donor	34,401	2	2,700	8	31,701	92	0	0
Unknown	2,474	0	2,418	98	18	1	37	2
Total	1,751,615	100	561,050	32	989,452	56	201,112	11

Source: Norad/ MFA 2015

structure not related MoWCSW. This was acknowledged as a missed opportunity, if work on Resolution 1325 had been incorporated within the MOWCSW this would have been an

opportunity to empower and strengthen it. The AEPC, part of MoSTE, was a key partner given its role as implementing partner for the NRREP.

Norway engaged in policy discussions with various government agencies, such as with the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MoSTE) GESI Unit, on issues such as hiring women and how to increase the percentage of women that benefit from Norway-supported programmes (RNE Nepal 2013). The RNE in Nepal has made a deliberate attempt to support women politicians by inviting them to participate in high-level discussions. For example, IPWA members were invited to discuss the role of women in Nepali politics during the visit of a renowned former finance minister. While sometimes women politicians were invited alone to discuss the women's agenda, on other occasions they were invited to join discussions with their male counterparts on other matters, in this manner seeking to strengthen their standing in the political sphere and providing them with exposure to Norway's other political work, in line with the goals set out in the Action Plan. Donors interviewed were quick to highlight Norway as a defender of women's rights in Nepal.

The RNE supported women's political empowerment by strengthening existing civil society

FIGURE 9: SANKALPA MEMBERS



Photo: Angélica Arbulú

alliances such as Sankalpa and IPWA, as mentioned before, as well as other less visible groups such as political youth organisations.

Norway was seen as having played a role in helping shift the focus from the central/national level towards the local level, where local elections are expected to take place soon. The RNE supported district chapters of IPWA through trainings on leadership skills, laws and WRGE. Some of the activities undertaken are

aware-ness-raising of around 2,410 women and other stakeholders at the local level from all 75 districts on the Nepal Gender Action Plan; and six regional training of trainers (ToTs), 10 district ToTs and 42 orientations at VDC level on Resolutions 1325 and 1820 and the their Action Plan, to address the issue of conflict-affected women and their access to the social and legal justice system. Sankalpa's strong regional networks, which include 666 women activists working at the sub-ward level, have

helped ensure the inclusion of diverse women at local level.

Norway can also be credited with introducing good practices by promoting accountability (not just financial) and increasing efficiency. For example, Norway pushed for an external review of resources used to implement the Nepal Gender Action Plan as a way to assess the effectiveness of resources and strategy. Sankalpa contributed to the development of a collaborative monitoring report on the implementation of the Action Plan on Resolutions 1325 and 1820, increasing transparency and civil society’s meaningful participation, in line with a human rights-based approach to programming and the Paris Declaration. Other good practices introduced include a more participatory approach, with Norway supporting networks that were able to provide feedback from the district level to the central level and into the law development process, as well as a hands-off long-term approach to support which allows partners to define their priorities, while providing technical support and oversight.

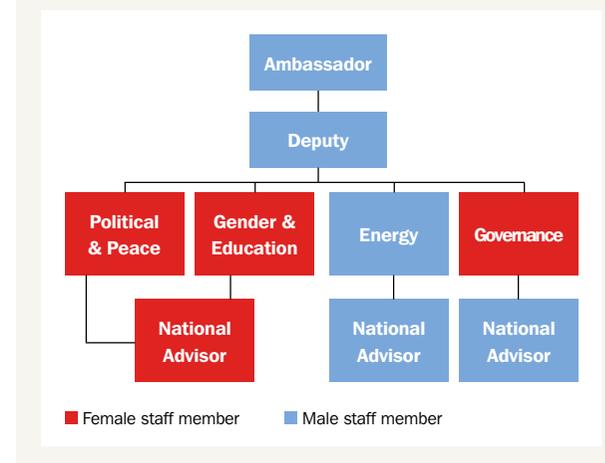
3.4 HUMAN RESOURCES RELATED TO WRGE

With five males out of the nine embassy staff,¹⁷ there is an overall relatively balanced gender distribution (Figure 10). However, management is fully male, and there is a relatively traditional gender distribution in the management of portfolios, with women managing gender and education and the energy sector fully male. Structurally, the gender portfolio is grouped together with education, another major area of focus. In addition, while both energy and governance have one full-time national staff member assigned, the national staff member assigned to support the gender portfolio also supports education and the political and peace portfolios. As such, the gender portfolio has considerably less in terms of human resources compared with the other sectors.

The RNE in Nepal has no official gender focal point as gender is understood to be mainstreamed and as such everyone’s responsibility. There is a team in charge of the gender portfolio, comprising of one

¹⁷ This excludes the two interns, although the RNE attempts to ensure one of these is male and one female.

FIGURE 10: ORGANOGRAM



national officer (at the RNE since 2005) and one diplomat about to finish her three-year rotation. They are not formally required or expected to oversee others’ portfolios, but colleagues can and do reach out to them for advice on gender. While some of the RNE’s staff felt having direct oversight for gender might be a more efficient way to ensure qualitative and substantive gender inclusion throughout the RNE’s portfolio, with the current distribution of responsibilities there would be no capacity for the gender team to do this.

As all staff are expected to be in charge of mainstreaming gender, this raises the question: do the staff have the necessary skills and knowledge to do this? And, more importantly, does the system have a mechanism to ensure this is the case? As mentioned in Section 3.1 the 2010 gender review highlighted the need for more systematic and area-specific gender training, but no gender training was reported in the years following the review outside of initiatives linked to the pilot, such as the 2010 seminar with other pilot countries and training linked to the Energja Framework Agreement, both of which focused on gender and energy. At the time this report was written, both initiatives had concluded. The gender review had specifically highlighted the need to focus on strengthening gender in the energy sector. In addition to the training mentioned above, a national staff member with a high level of knowledge and awareness on gender was recruited for the energy sector. It is unclear if this was a strategic decision or simply 'luck', as the staff member in question does not recall gender being in his ToR. All diplomatic staff undergo a training before being deployed to

an embassy. While this training includes gender, some described this portion of the training as significant and others as basic. National staff do not receive any training and generic descriptions in ToRs point to gender knowledge not being a specific requirement.

There does not seem to be a formal accountability mechanism to ensure inclusion of gender, although staff felt management played an important role in holding staff accountable. This appears to rely to a great degree on personal commitment. The generic ToRs¹⁸ available highlight the inclusion of gender equality as a priority area for the RNE, but it remains unclear if specific gender-related competences are a requirement for the different position charged with mainstreaming gender across the portfolio. In the case of the gender team, ToRs for the national staff were not available.¹⁹ In the case of the diplomatic staff heading the gender and

¹⁸ With the exception of the ToR for the diplomat in charge of the gender portfolio, none of the original ToRs was available for review, only generic ones, which did not include job descriptions with the specifics as to responsibilities and tasks.

¹⁹ A staff member informed the team that she was recruited without a ToR.

education sector, the ToRs developed while the RNE was under the pilot programme did include gender as a separate bullet point, but the job description for the ongoing recruitment process to identify her replacement had gender lumped in with other requirements, signalling a decreased emphasis on the gender requirement.

3.5 RELATIONS WITH OSLO

The RNE works with a great degree of autonomy and has to seek approval from Oslo only for large projects. The RNE prepares a work plan in line with MFA's priorities²⁰ and in accordance with this receives an allocation, which may or may not include specific instruction, for example related to gender. Once the budget is disbursed, decisions are made at embassy level, with the focal point in Oslo getting involved only if and when political issues arise: 'I would not expect them [the country focal point in Oslo] to be familiar with [our] portfolio. They will know our priority areas, but would not get involved unless there are any specific issues or challenges that require their attention.' (Key informant, RNE)

²⁰ Norad is a directorate, under MFA.

3.6 RESULTS REPORTING

The RNE provides a yearly report on the work plan, which is on average one page long and covers the entire portfolio. As such, gender equality might amount to a paragraph and mainstreaming another, making it difficult for whoever reads the document to obtain an in-depth understanding of achievements (results) on gender. National budget reporting entails a more extensive and detailed document made annually, wherein the RNE reports on the use of funds as part of the MFA report to parliament, which seems better able to inform on gender. The template used comes from the MFA in Oslo and requires reporting on women's allocation. The 2013 report, for example, included six pages on the country situation, with two paragraphs on gender, one on gender-based violence and one on gender equality. In the thematic sections, education, peace, reconciliation and transitional rights and local governance dedicated significant space to discussing gender, but there was no gender perspective in the sections on democracy support, culture or financial management and corruption (it may not be relevant in the latter). More importantly,

neither the renewable energy sector nor the climate change sector made any mention of gender progress, even though the NRREP has a strong gender approach. There was, however, an entire section dedicated to women's rights (a page and a half out of 24).

During the pilot phase, embassies were required to conduct specific reporting on gender indicators. Staff at the embassy felt the pilot requirement helped institutionalise reporting on gender, and forced staff to reflect on it. 'It was educational for the diplomats [to be] made to sit down together and report.' (key informant, RNE). Some felt this translated into more thought around gender during planning.²¹

²¹ It was reported that Decision documents have gender as a cross cutting theme which essentially means staff are forced to reflect on gender during programme design.

4. Results of Norwegian support to WRGE

This next section takes a more in-depth look at results achieved by Norway in its efforts to support WRGE in Nepal. Focusing on the selected projects listed in the introduction to this report, the emphasis is on project goals at three broad levels:

1. Systemic change – contributions to changes in laws/regulations, funding levels, discursive changes, legitimacy of an issue, content of national-level dialogue processes;

2. Organisational change – contributions to changes among partners – government organisations, NGOs, twinning partners;

3. Project level results – changes in the position/empowerment of women and people's attitudes and behaviours towards gender equality.

The assessment systematically combines a political economy approach to understand the structural and institutional dynamics and an anthropological approach to evaluate the projects and their results 'from below' and through human agency.

4.1 NORWAY'S WRGE PORTFOLIO IN NEPAL

Norwegian support to different women's organisations strengthened them and their ability to advocate for their rights at both local and central level promoting women's increased participation and influence in the political process. Sankalpa and IPWA played an important role ahead of the elections in influencing electoral law and the nomination process within the major parties, both of which received much attention in the public debate. While the proportion of women elected to the CA in November 2013 was lower than in the previous elections, fewer women had been nominated as candidates in 2013, and a relatively good outcome in spite of this is seen as being a result of affirmative action efforts. Election training is seen as having contributed to greater support from female voters.

A key priority area for the RNE during the period under review was support to the development and implementation of the national action plan for Resolutions 1325 and 1820. 'Norway, like Nepal, has a separate action plan for implementing UN Security Resolution 1325/1820 on

Women, Peace and Security.²² Reviews undertaken by the RNE show Sankalpa, with its strong community level presence, played an important role in spreading knowledge and understanding on this at local level.

Norwegian support to the peace process includes reintegration of ex-combatants, increasing women's participation in peace building and support to free and fair elections. (RNE in Nepal Brochure on Development Cooperation.)

Violence against women and girls is increasingly perceived as one of the greatest challenges to WRGE in Nepal. Local women activists, mobilised and trained by women's organisation networks supported by the RNE (mainly Sankalpa and IPWA) have played an important role in assisting survivors with information and legal advice, as well as providing practical support, such as access to temporary shelter, and helping prevent political interference in the judicial process. Support to the justice sector

²² <http://www.norway.org.np>, accessed 2 April 2015.

has led to better access to legal aid for vulnerable groups and helped offset impunity.

The RNE has entered a three-year partnership with Sancharkia Samhua, an organisation for female journalists, which seeks to promote debate on traditional attitudes and how they contribute to discrimination against women and girls, with a special focus on gender-based violence.

In the area of education, the RNE has started a pilot project to assess how quality and access for girls, children from lower castes and children with disabilities can be strengthened in one of Nepal's most disadvantaged districts.

The School Sector Reform Programme in Nepal has improved access to education for girls and children from marginalised groups in particular. (RNE in Nepal Brochure on Development Cooperation)

Lastly, the RNE is seeking to strengthen the rights of LGBT people. With support from Norway, Nepalese authorities were able to arrange

a regional LGBT conference with participants from 24 countries, which provided specific inputs for the Oslo Conference on LGBT Rights (the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Conference). The RNE supports Nepal's Blue Diamond Society (BDS), which seeks to combat discrimination against sexual minorities, and has also collaborated with the Ministry of Education on the introduction of a LGBT curriculum for Grades 6-8. BDS has fought for full recognition of the so-called 'third sex' and the inclusion of 'other' as an alternative to 'man' and 'woman' on ID cards and passports. Norway also supported the construction of a community centre in Kathmandu for LGBT groups. Opened in 2013, this has its own daily radio broadcast and received a favourable mention in the national and international media as being the first of its kind.

In the energy sector, the RNE's key achievement in the area of WRGE is an agreement with Nepal's government and other development partners that laid the foundations for further energy cooperation with a gender-sensitive and inclusive approach. In 2014, the RNE concluded a new agreement for NOK 360 million to support

power transmission, which included earmarked distribution to the poorest.

4.2 IPWA

Norway has provided a platform for women politicians to form common strategies for promoting gender equality, through the Inter-Party Women's Alliance Nepal. (RNE in Nepal Brochure on Development Cooperation)

IPWA was established on 8 March 2006 (then International Working Women's Day) as a common political forum for women in Nepal. At the time of its establishment, the alliance comprised women leaders from seven political parties; now it has members from a total of 11 political parties.²³ Its primary goal is to abolish all types of discrimination and violence against women, to ensure the implementation of all international treaties, agreements and decisions made by Nepal's government and Supreme Court in favour of women's rights, and to ensure uniform and inclusive participation of women in

²³ Out of 122 that participated in the 2013 CA elections

political parties in national policy formulation and implementation.²⁴

The project Ensuring Women's Equal Representation at All Policy and Decision-Making Levels (NPL-11/0030) had a total grant set aside of NOK 3.7 million for the extent of its implementation (2011-2014). Its primary goal was 'to pressure the party leaders, parliament and the government to address women's issues'²⁵ (IPWA) and ensure women's equal representation at all policymaking and decision-making levels through capacity-building and awareness-raising of IPWA members at central, district and local level, as well as through advocacy, lobbying, interactions with pressure groups, research and dissemination of information.

To achieve the overall aims, the project proposed three immediate outcomes:

1. Finalising a Constitution that ensured just state structures and warranted sustainable peace in the country;

²⁴ <http://ipwanepal.org/about-us-2/>, accessed January 2015.

²⁵ IPWA (n.d.) Project Proposal for 'Ensuring women's equal representation at all the policy and decision making levels

2. Based on the population, ensuring proportional representation of women at all the political levels, with the interim goal a minimum of 33 percent;
3. Ensuring effective development and implementation of laws in the spirit of the constitutions and international laws recognised by Nepal.

Norway's support included financing for capacity-building and awareness-raising and for a national conference undertaken in December 2014 in Kathmandu with the participation of all 75 districts, as well as structural support in the form of an office and office support staff.

IPWA undertook other advocacy and awareness-raising activities, such as an interaction programme called Provision of Citizenship in the New Constitution with stakeholder and parliamentary leaders, and a television programme titled Prapti Ko Prayash. This was an advocacy campaign that brought together experts from various fields, including women in politics and civil society, to advocate for women's issues, such as

FIGURE 11: IPWA MEMBER ORGANIZING A MARCH ON HUMAN RIGHTS DAY



Photo: Angélica Arbulú

on women's activism, the electoral system, women-related regulations in political parties' constitutions and the process of selection of women candidates for the upcoming elections.

4.2.1 Effectiveness

In terms of support to political empowerment, Norway is making an important contribution by helping strengthen a nationally owned and

inclusive mechanism created to promote and advocate for women's political empowerment in Nepal across political divides. 'In a period of almost eight years IPWA has established itself as a force to be reckoned with. The alliance is still intact and growing' (IPWA 2013b)."

Increased recognition: Various parliamentary committees have approached IPWA to take part in the Constitution-drafting process, as well as other committees such as the Constitution-Drafting Committee and the Committee on Constitutional Political Dialogue and Consensus. Local government bodies have also approached IPWA members to take part in local development planning processes. IPWA is also consulted on social issues such as cases related to violence against women, gender discrimination and education and has been approached by international organisations, such as UN agencies and NGOs, for their input. For example, IPWA presented a paper on women's issues at the UN's Global Open Day in November 2014.

Institutional development: Work at the national level was an IPWA initiative, but Norway's grant helped increase IPWA's focus on the district and community level, allowing for greater support from the central level to build up the capacity of district and community chapters through training sessions. These also served as monitoring missions and helped strengthen the links between central and district level. IPWA has now established district committees in all of the 75 districts (up from 66 three years ago), and Norway's support was cited as instrumental in forming nine district-level IPWA chapters (interview, IPWA member). As a result of the project, all 75 district committees have an operating bank account, financial procedures and experience in managing funds. Some districts have built their own office (Jhapa, Sindhuli); others have established offices (Taplejung, Dhankuta, Nuwakot). There is a rotation in the leadership every year, at least in the communities/districts visited for this study, albeit within the committee – that is, the same people stay in the committee but their position may change. This raises some questions around sustainability as only a limited number of women are being trained.

Increased legitimacy: IPWA is a forum that includes influential women from different political parties. Increased coherence between them increases their legitimacy and their ability to raise women issues within their own party.

A united voice from IPWA is much stronger than a single voice to influence political parties to bring in a women's agenda. (IPWA member)

Increased awareness and capacity of IPWA members has meant increased ability to act and obtain results. For example, members have been able to demand and obtain funds from the local-level budget for IPWA district committees as well as to demand access to and utilisation of funds earmarked for women at district level. In Solukhumbu, women were able to obtain funds from the local level to organise preparation classes for women who wished to sit the public service commission exam. Other IPWA district committee members were able to mobilise local resources to build a birthing centre and a safe house for survivors of violence.

Support to the structure through the provision of an office and four staff members ‘really helps move forward our activities’, making it easier for the group to mobilise.’ (IPWA member). Norway’s support reportedly helped increase the number of members at both central and district levels, building on existing momentum, and increasing women politicians’ ability to influence their own party, ‘With a stronger network party leaders are more sensitive and listening more [to what the women leaders have to say]’ (interview, IPWA member).

Outside of the structure of the project, the RNE has made a deliberate attempt to support women politicians by including them in political dialogue and integrating them into Norway’s other political work

IPWA Central Committee members hold ministerial portfolios in the current cabinet (Ministry of Energy and MoWCSW). One of the IPWA members is the CA vice-chair and deputy-speaker. In addition, nine district members are members of the Second CA. Some of them, when interviewed, felt being affiliated with IPWA,

together with the training received, had enhanced their ability to win the seat. Other achievements perceived as stemming from IPWA’s advocacy include:

- Code of conduct regarding violence against women within parties and sister organisations;
- Inclusive Central Committee by setting minimum representation in respective parties;
- Affirmative action regarding party membership (lower number of years experience required for women in all parties);
- Some IPWA district members affiliated with and/or holding executive positions in media cooperatives (eg Banglung) that focus on promoting WRGE.

Norway supported a national conference held in Kathmandu in December 2014 that included representatives of all 75 districts. This allowed for participatory inclusive discussions as well as the distribution of training manuals on women’s political rights to all parties. This conference coincided with International Human Rights Day, which allowed district members to participate in national political gatherings as well as a demon-

FIGURE 12: IPWA NATIONAL CONFERENCE



Photo: Angélica Arbulú

stration for women’s rights organised by IPWA and attended by around eight women’s rights-related NGOs.

4.2.2 Challenges

A key challenge for this project is to how to measure results and attribution, for three main reasons:

1. Results, as described in the project document, lack realistic and measurable indicators, which are also, for the most part, outside IPWA's control. For example, the first outcome implies a finalised Constitution, which has not yet emerged.
2. Attribution is challenging, as IPWA may have achieved similar progress without Norway's help (i.e. there is no possibility of a counterfactual).
3. Most activities build on and benefit from other donors' work. While this is an efficient approach, it is hard to separate results and assign attribution. For example, increased capacity of district-level chapters is the result of various trainings and not Norway's work alone.

Once the new Constitution comes out (it was due January 2015 but did not materialise) and local elections take place, there may be a clearer indication of IPWA's ability to affect the process. However, attribution will remain challenging, and even if there are setbacks,

it will be difficult to know if – without a strengthened IPWA – the situation may not have been worse.

While the project addresses one of the main barriers to women's participation in politics, mainly access to funds, it does not address others, such as lack of time because of patriarchal understandings of family and household roles, with women expected to participate in politics only after they have completed their chores: 'Household work is the buffalo that stops women from coming out.' (IPWA member). 'Women often have to be home early, and are unable to take part in key policy discussions.

Women from the younger generation have not seen local elections, so this becomes a very abstract exercise. Also, a limited amount of support can be provided if no elections take place. Some staff felt donors 'flooded' beneficiaries with political training, yet few focused on gender-based violence, a largely unaddressed problem in Nepal that extends to and affects women politicians. Violence is considered admis-

sible if a woman does not fulfil her role, which is why women politicians are forced to do their political work in addition to all their family chores. Many interviewees also reported other forms of gender-based violence (also known as violence against women in politics (UN Women and CSR 2011)), such as teasing or undermining by male peers.

If anyone calls for a meeting, we have to do our chores and activities first. If they are called in for a meeting at 10am they will come, but around 1pm. (IPWA member)

Many IPWA members are also members of NGOs, which makes their priorities unclear. For example, some suggested that, when they are invited to events as IPWA members they might attend as members of their NGO, sending a mixed message. Because of the lack of government at district and community level, there is also a demand for IPWA to fill this gap, which is in fact the responsibility of government. For example, in cases of VAW, many in the community will reach out to IPWA. 'There is a tendency to want implement, to be like an NGO.'

4.2.3 Lessons learnt

Working with IPWA means working with a small pool of seasoned politicians, who are already in powerful positions (e.g. the deputy-speaker, the minister of women, children and social welfare and the minister of energy are members of IPWA). This is partly because the women's rights movement in Nepal is relatively weak, which makes working with established institutions easier. While this might provide privileged access, IPWA has few young, up-and-coming women. In the communities and districts visited, the same women benefit from all the training and exposure. In one community, a concern was raised that leaders would run for and win positions in the upcoming local elections, which would take them to Kathmandu, leaving a vacuum of power, with no other women in the community having received training. The RNE is already aware of this limitation, and for this reason has already begun working with eight political youth organisations as well as Sankalpa and political party wings. It is also looking to promote mentoring of younger female politicians. Another weakness reported was the limited focus on the inclusion of minorities.

The RNE acknowledges inefficiencies related to the overlap of workshops between donors. Coordination is especially difficult as there is no gender donor group in the country.²⁶ While most donors focus on the political process, very few act on gender-based violence, which is why the RNE is looking to move more into this area.

It was reported that the number of women in power has increased significantly (especially considering the regional context), however, these numbers often do not translate into meaningful participation. This is often the case because women are nominated on the basis of family bonds, seniority or loyalty, as opposed to qualification, while others more qualified are ignored. This means there may be a need to shift the goal from increasing the number of women to ensuring meaningful participation in decision-making.

Capacity of members differs from district to district, and with it the effectiveness of IPWA. Training and orientation need to be adapted

²⁶ There is a UN gender working group but not one where the donors can meet.

according to existing capacity. For sustainability purposes, it is crucial to ensure more than one person is trained.

4.2.4 Relevance

Women represent over 50 percent of the total population in Nepal. In spite of continuous advocacy and lobbying, their inclusion at the policy and decision-making level remains largely superficial. According to the Election Act 2007, a political party should field at least 33 percent of women candidates in the elections. Similarly, the Interim Constitution has a mandatory provision for at least 33 percent women representation in all legislative structures, including the parliament and all the state apparatus. These provisions have not been implemented (IPWA 2014). All five governments formed since 2008 have failed to fully implement the constitutional provision of 33 percent women representation. There was no female representation in the Cabinet led by the Maoists in 2011 and only one woman minister in the Cabinet in the Chief Justice-led interim government formed in 2013. Currently, there are three women ministers (for energy, education and

TABLE 3: SUMMARY RESULT TABLE IPWA

	Systemic level	Organisational level	Project level
Output	Norway's support to IPWA and Sankalpa has a direct impact on civil society and women politicians, putting them in a position to advocate for policy changes in terms of WRGE. It strengthens their voice, increases legitimacy and helps guarantee they are part of the national dialogue process	Support to IPWA has ensured all 75 district IPWA chapters have received funding and capacity-building. There has been no analysis of training quality. Communication between central and district chapters is stronger. There was no gender training of staff outside pilot workshops. Strengthened reporting on gender during the pilot discontinued.	All 75 IPWA district chapters benefited from training as well as strengthened organisational structured and closer ties to central level. In addition, all chapters had a representative invited to take part in the national conference. Female politicians advocating for WRGE had increased resources and benefited from legal advice.
Outcome	With no elections and no Constitution in place, it is hard to measure the impact at this level. IPWA members have been able to advocate for and in some instances use public funding earmarked for women at district level.	There is increased legitimacy and understanding of women's rights and the impact of different arguments under discussion for the new Constitution. District chapters have greater organisational ability. Strategic use of the Woman and Gender Equality Grant has increased impact and the RNE ability to act effectively.	While most beneficiaries were already highly involved in advocating for WRGE, Norway's support has provided them with increased resources and greater coherence, strengthening their ability to do so.
Impact	No indications of long-term impact of WRGE as of yet. This may be available once the new Constitution is in place and after the long-awaited local elections.		

women, children and social welfare) and a woman deputy-speaker in the Cabinet led by Prime Minister Sushil Koirala. These contradictions between national legislation and reality make Norway's support to IPWA clearly relevant to national priorities.

Limited funding, particularly at district level, is a key barrier to women's participation in politics; the project directly addresses this. In fact, the RNE, while ensuring oversight, puts no restric-

tions on how the funds are utilised, allowing national priorities to prevail. From this perspective, the project addresses a clear need and a barrier for women politicians.

By supporting nationally owned mechanisms, the RNE ensures alignment with national priorities. Alignment with Norwegian priorities is also clear, as political empowerment is a key area of focus in Norway's Action Plan.

4.2.5 Sustainability

Through its support to IPWA, the RNE is supporting existing national processes, which significantly increases the likelihood of ownership: 'This group belongs to the prominent women leaders of Nepal' (interview, IPWA member) and is sustainable: 'Even if there was no money we would be doing this' (interview, IPWA member).

IPWA existed and functioned before Norway's support and all interviewed members declared

their intention to continue with or without this. They also said other donors had expressed an interest in funding them, albeit for the most part with more restrictions. Members' strong commitment to common goals also increases the likelihood of sustainability, especially as most were involved in the women's movement long before joining IPWA, and many have NGOs through which they further their cause. As women politicians, it is ultimately in their interest for IPWA to succeed, and IPWA is a mechanism that provides them with strength.

IPWA is our baby and we have a moral responsibility to look after this. Therefore, even if we do not have development partner support, we continue it. But we are aware that we have to face lots of problems, especially financial issues in the absence of donor support. (IPWA member)

The focus on capacity-building has an inherent element of sustainability, although this is directly linked to training quality, which this exercise did not assess.

Lastly, gains, should they translate into an increased number of women elected or inclusion of relevant issues in the new Constitution, are inherently sustainable – at least for the foreseeable future – with important positive impacts in the general landscape.

4.3 NATIONAL RURAL AND RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAMME

The NRREP (NPL-10/0063) is a single programme modality that supports rural renewable energy development in Nepal and builds on previous programmes such as the Rural Energy Development Programme and the Energy Sector Assistance Programme (ESAP) I and II. By integrating alternative energy with socio-economic activities in rural communities, the NRREP aims to improve the living standards of the rural population and increase employment and productivity while reducing dependency on traditional practices in a sustainable manner. The planned budget for the five-year programme (2012-2017) is 172 million NOK, with an expected 40 percent from the government of Nepal and the remaining 60 percent from

external development partners.²⁷ The Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC), established in 1996 as part of MoSTE, is the executing agency for the NRREP.

The NRREP has three components:

1. Central Renewable Energy Fund (CREF):

This component seeks to establish the CREF as the core financial institution/mechanism responsible for the effective delivery of subsidies and credit support for renewable energy systems and technologies.

2. Technical support: This component seeks to increase the quality and accelerate service delivery of renewable energy to remote rural households, enterprises and communities for the benefit of men and women from all social groups, leading to more equitable economic growth. Support includes institutional support to AEPC and the decentralised structures as well as support to income-generating and livelihood activities.

27 Danish MFA, Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV), UNDP MFA Norway, German Development Bank (KfW), UK Department for International Development (DFID).

3. Business development for renewable energy and productive energy use (PEU):

The immediate objective of this component is to contribute to an increase in income generation and employment potential for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and households in rural areas, particularly for men and women from socially and economically disadvantaged groups.

The GESI mainstreaming process is incorporated in all three components, with GESI activities also inbuilt into the outputs. The GESI mainstreaming approach of the NRREP consists of:²⁸

- Affirmative action and positive discrimination for target groups;
- Subsidies and credit facilities for target groups;
- Social mobilisation and active participation to assess the needs of target groups;
- Frequent and critical analysis of demand and supply of services provided;

28 http://www.aepc.gov.np/index.php?option=nrrep&page=subtechsupport&mid=5&sub_id=44, accessed January 2015.

- Work with like-minded and right-holder organisations;
- Coordination and collaboration with local bodies, line agencies, social leaders and the media;
- Capacity-building of stakeholders and partners at all levels (community, district and central);
- Creation of a platform for GESI-responsive renewable energy technology (RET) building, sharing and learning of knowledge;
- Piloting of action research adopting rights-based approach to reach poor women and men, and Janajati, Dalit, Madhesi and Muslim women and women from other backward classes (OBCs);
- Revisions from the lessons learnt and up-scaling of good practices.

4.3.1 Effectiveness (including results)

17 percent of the electricity in Kathmandu comes from the Norwegian-funded Khimti Hydropower Plant. (<http://www.norway.org.np>)

The fact that GESI has been mainstreamed into the NRREP is in itself a significant achievement.

The GESI component stems from Norway's commitment to gender and is a direct result of Norad's global Framework Agreement with Energia.²⁹ Oslo contacted the RNE in Nepal to assess interest in working on gender in the energy sector, which was seen as an opportunity and taken up. As such, one of the key achievements of the NRREP is the introduction of gender into a key development sector in Nepal, working as both pilot which can demonstrate its potential.

Lack of awareness and sensitivity to gender were reported as common in a sector that is mostly led by men and has traditionally excluded a gender-sensitive approach. In spite of this and as a result of the project, AEPC, a government institution, is now committed to mainstreaming GESI throughout its entire programme. AEPC has formulated a GESI Mainstreaming Plan for community service delivery (for providing subsidies); at product level (promoting GESI-friendly RET development; research and develop-

29 'The purpose of the Framework Agreement was to make this expertise available to Norad in several countries including Ethiopia, Liberia, Mozambique, Nepal, Tanzania and Uganda. In particular, ENERGI A was required to assess relevant gender issues, identify gender entry points, and provide capacity building and backstopping for gender mainstreaming' (Norconsult 2014).

ment (R&D) on RET; product and end-use for micro hydro, water mills and biogas); and at institutional level (a gender gap study, capacity-building on gender, a gender code of conduct, etc.).

In addition, the NRREP has had a positive impact on national and subnational processes. At national level, it is coordinating with other government institutions such as MoFALD with which it is seeking to establish a memorandum of understanding to inform and empower vulnerable citizens with regard to access to renewable sustainable energy. ‘If people don’t know (about it) how can they demand (it)?’ (NRREP 2014). At district level, it is working with the District Development Committee (DDC) and other rights-holder organisations to promote GESI in the energy sector. During the team’s discussions with field officers of the AERC Regional Resource Centre (RRC)/Association for Social Transformation and Humanitarian Assistance (ASTHA) in Surkhet, they confirmed they had received gender tools and social mobilised guidelines that had been integral in bringing a GESI dimension to their work. In

addition, a GESI Unit has been created within AEPC (see Table 4) to formulate policy and provide guidance; this has developed a GESI toolkit and policy, which has been disseminated to district level (although orientation and training on GESI has not yet taken place). A key limitation identified was the limited budget allocation for training and orientation of AEPC staff, who are ultimately responsible for implementing these policies and for the most part have no previous training. This was also reflected in the recent Norad led mid-term review of the NRREP.

As a result of the NRREP, gender-disaggregated data are now available which provide a clear picture of the benefits women and socially excluded groups receive.

The GESI approach includes subsidies to ensure access for those most vulnerable, including women-headed households, such as an additional 10 percent subsidy on solar installation, subsidies of NPR 2,500 for household wiring under community electrification and NPR 2,500 for solar lighting as well as funds (NPR 10,000) for income-generating groups to help women

TABLE 4: AEPC GESI UNIT COMPOSITION

Name	Position
Rudra Prasad Khanal	Component Manager
Nigma Tamrakar	National Advisor
Tara Shrestha	Programme Officer
Sangita Upreti	Assistant Programme Officer

start small enterprises to ensure recipients’ ability to afford the NPR 200 monthly electricity fee. The team’s observations in Babiya Chaur Micro Hydro Project (NPR) showed women were the main beneficiaries of income generation, with very low levels of default in paying the monthly electricity tariff reported.

As a result of specific benefits provided under the GESI policy, such as the provisions for 33 percent GESI representation in community electrification (MHP) and 50 percent women participation in income-generating groups, there has been a significant improvement in women’s involvement in MHPs and PEU, from planning to implementation. It has also provided a platform for women from different ethnic groups to come

together and work collectively, while the PEU component has motivated women to be involved in micro-enterprise activities. Provision of income generation activities and technical support by AEPC/RRC field staff has contributed to an overall increase in income in the communities.

Many feel, however, women's participation has not always been meaningful. One of the reasons identified for this was that most women and people from socially excluded groups were nominated on the basis of seniority rather than eligibility. While this is common cultural practice in Nepal, with limited awareness and education those selected have been unable to play a substantial role in decision-making and to fulfil their role. 'In some of the VDCs, male politicians have manipulated the provision of 33 percent of women representation in the user committee by putting forward the names of their own wives and daughter so that they can control the decision-making process.' (key informant interview). In other instances, men have attended meetings in representation of women stating that the elected women had to attend to their household chores.

Some of the benefits for women stem from the technologies used; for example, the solar water pump and solar lights have a direct impact on what are traditionally women's roles. The solar pump saves a huge amount of time for women, who earlier had to walk for up to three hours to fetch water. Sometimes, girls would have to miss school in order to fetch water for their family; this is no longer necessary. Moreover, prior to the project, water collected through different sources posed a lot of health hazards. The solar pumps address this problem too. Similarly, solar lights have provided women (and youth) with more time to be involved in productive activities; children have more time to study at night.

The PEU component has helped raise the income of several groups, including women, the marginalised and Dalits. The field visit found Dalits and women successfully running enterprises with the help of electricity. In some cases, women were found to be contributing to enterprises run by men. In others, subsidies had motivated women to start new business. Women were found to be involved more in small-scale income-generating activities than in MSMEs. For

FIGURE 13: IMPROVED COOKING STOVE



Photo: Shailendra Sigdel

example, in Babiya Chaur, out of 25 income-generating activities women were involved in 17; men were involved in only eight. However, out of 18 MSMEs, women owned only one. During the field visits, some of those interviewed felt the introduction of the PEU component, including income-generating activities and MSMEs, had boosted women's confidence and was positively affecting men's attitudes towards

women. However, although women's economic participation had reportedly increased, economic decision-making still rested mainly with husbands. However, it should be highlighted the above mentioned mid-term review stressed they had encountered a very limited number of women who benefitted from IGA related training.

Focus group discussions also highlighted that households regularly using improved cooking stoves (ICSs) had fewer cases of health-related problems like lung infections, eye irritations, etc. Moreover, time spent collecting firewood had reduced, which made it possible for women to engage in other activities, including income generation. However, although all women in the community were targeted with ICSs, the main beneficiaries appear to be the more educated women who are able to understand the long-term positive health benefits. During the team's field visit it was observed that many, if not most, households with ICSs had reverted back to traditional cooking stoves in just a few months. Informants noted that ICSs were unable to meet community needs, such as the need for heating in winter, to dry meat, for quick cooking and to

use large utensils during festivals. A more participatory approach might have highlighted these challenges and led to a different solution.

4.3.2 Challenges

One of the key challenges stems from the fact that a gender-sensitive approach is relatively new in the energy sector. Energy continues to be male-dominated, and as such the planning, thinking and analysis come from a male perspective. Engineers' priority is for results, such as installation of electricity, stoves, hydropower sources, etc. Some felt that, with this prioritisation of technology over the needs and demands of the community, there was still a need to push for a paradigm shift.

While the project has helped empower women, persistence of traditional mindsets continues to be a barrier. Some reported that women were not allowed to participate in meetings during menstruation or that suggestions from female members were easily ignored and written off by their male counterparts. This can have a negative impact on women's morale.

FIGURE 14: WATER TAP (SOLAR WATER LIFTING PUMP) AT GHIEW POKHARI, SURKHET



Photo: Shailendra Sigdel

Women are also investing a great deal of time in these efforts: as they are expected to participate after fully completing their traditional family role, their involvement has meant an additional workload. The absence of men (who are often abroad) has empowered women in economic decision-making at home but also has put an extra burden on them. In some cases, women are free to take small-scale decisions even when male family

members are present. However, major decisions are made mostly by men and at best jointly.

There are other barriers to women's participation stemming from traditional mindsets. For example, the team visited the RRC/ASTHA, which looks after nine districts of the Mid-Western Development Region. Out of 31 staff, only four are women. The main reason for the low representation of women is related to the nature of work, which demands a great deal of travel (around 60 percent of the time) and as such is not compatible with family obligations.

While ASTHA has received all GESI guidelines, there is no formal mechanism to orient staff. At the time of writing, ASTHA staff had not received any gender or GESI training.

Some informants reported as a negative side-effect an increase in children's time spent in front of the radio and television, although this was also presented as a positive side-effect, as increasing youth exposure and awareness. Some accidents related to electrocution were reported during the field visits.

4.3.3 Relevance

In Nepal, gender and social inclusion is a clear government priority. (Norconsult 2014)

The government has a legal and policy mandate for GESI reflected in its Three-Year Interim Plan (2010/11-2012/13). In addition, the NRREP is a government programme supported by the international community, so is perfectly aligned with this mandate. In 2010, the Norwegian government decided to focus on increasing the access of women and marginalised populations to energy as a mechanism for development. As part of this initiative, a Framework Agreement was signed with Energija to promote a rights-based approach to energy access, and Nepal was approached as one of the countries for its implementation. As such, the initiative is also perfectly aligned with the Norwegian government's priorities.

From a human rights-based approach, renewable technology is a solid mechanism to address development bottlenecks in remote areas. However, this is possible only through mainstreaming GESI in RET interventions. Access to

renewable energy is highly relevant in Nepal. Many rural areas do not have access to electricity; where it is available, it is distributed unequally. Women and people from marginalised groups have less access and are less able to afford energy technology options. In this context, the NRREP has been designed and implemented with a focus on poverty reduction, equal energy access for remote and rural populations and energy use for the enhancement of income generation aimed at rural populations. This makes it highly relevant in the overall socio-economic context of development in Nepal.

4.3.4 Sustainability

Various factors help increase the likelihood of sustainability of the achievements obtained through the NRREP.

Comprehensive framework: GESI is not a component of the programme, nor is it a 'theoretical' crosscutting issue; rather, it has been built into each component through concrete, specific and measurable mechanisms, for example subsidies for women-headed households or the necessary inclusion of women in groups and committees

(the GESI policy establishes there must be 50 percent women participation in income-generating groups) supported by gender action plans.³⁰

Ownership: The NRREP is government-owned and international donor-supported, with the government committed to financing 40 percent of the total cost.³¹ A review undertaken in 2014 noted that that government was ‘very proactive; with high levels of political commitments to gender equality, equitable people-centered poverty reduction and social inclusion’ (Norconsult 2014). While many of those interviewed highlighted the RNE’s financial and technical support as instrumental in incorporating gender issues in the NRREP, these have been inserted

30 In Nepal, each component of the NRREP has developed a gender and social inclusion plan referred to as a Gender Action Plan (e.g. the Solar Energy Component, the Biogas Unit, the Biomass Energy Component, the Climate Change Unit, the Community Energy Component, the PEU Component, etc.) There are also Gender Action Plans for the Institutional Development Component and Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (Norconsult 2014).

31 There are now insufficient funds available in NRREP accounts for future operations. In addition there is going to be a significant funding gap for the last year or more of the program as identified by the Joint Task Force Review in September 2014. The GoN [Government of Nepal] has disbursed 8% (NPR 321 million) out of an expected annual commitment of NPR 1300 million. The expected share of GoN financing in the current FY will be around 33.3%. The expected GoN budget share of NRREP over a five year period is expected to be 40%’ (NRREP 2014).

into a national structure and not parallel to it. In addition, there is a high level of commitment among AEPC staff to mainstreaming GESI; this will help greatly with sustainability. All RRC interventions on RET are adopting the GE-SI-friendly policy, meaning special care is taken to mainstream women and socially excluded groups. In Surkhet, despite limited capacity-building opportunities on GESI, RRC staff were highly gender-sensitive. In many cases, the RRC has been instrumental in motivating women and socially excluded groups to take advantage of the incentives offered by the NRREP and have also provided technical facilitation. Entrepreneurs interviewed said they would not have taken the initiative to participate if not for the RRC. In Setopari, it was RRC/ASTHA field officers who came up with the idea. The project was designed and completed in one year with technical and financial support from NRREP and participation from the local community.

Product design: There are provisions within the products themselves to ensure sustainability. For example, income-generating activities for women, socially excluded groups, conflict victims

and the disabled have been provided so they can reap benefits from RET and the most vulnerable can continue paying for electricity. The programme also envisions the creation of community maintenance funds to use to ensure maintenance and repair funds are available when needed, although the team was unable to confirm if these were functioning at the time of the visit.

Structures outside the programme: The programme’s gender-sensitive approach has been integrated into the government’s structure. For example, there is now a GESI Unit within AEPC and the government’s Renewable Energy Subsidy Policy of 2013 is also highly gender-sensitive.³² The Interim Three-Year Plan has also committed to mainstreaming GESI in the energy sector by providing equal access to and control over RET to the rural population to help achieve economic growth.

32 During the making of the subsidy policy, the AEPC/NRREP GESI Unit provided substantial input.

TABLE 5: SUMMARY RESULT TABLE NRREP

	Systemic level	Organisational level	Project level
Output	Norway's support to the NRREP has ensured the inclusion of a gender-sensitive approach in the energy sector at national level.	There has been some capacity-building around the Energia project, as training on gender with national staff is limited. It has provided a platform for women from different ethnic groups to come together and work collectively.	Gender-disaggregated data are now available, shedding light on gaps and challenges. Good gender-sensitive indicators and specific goals have been introduced in both the RNE's project and the government's single programme system.
Outcome	The NRREP GESI approach targets women for specific subsidies while ensuring they part of the process from planning to implementation and sustainability. Participation is currently not always meaningful. AEPC, a government institution, is now committed to mainstreaming GESI throughout its entire programme and has formulated a GESI Mainstreaming Plan.	Institutionalisation of effective gender-sensitive mechanisms to identify inclusion and benefits for women. Creation of a GESI Unit in AEPC as well as GESI policies. AEPC has undertaken a gender gap study, developed a code of conduct and undertaken limited training of staff.	Increased number of women on committees as well as in income-generating activities. Installation of solar water pumps and other renewable energy tools supported have decreased burden on women. The PEU component has motivated women to be involved in micro-enterprise activities.
Impact	While it is still unclear if women have meaningful participation, thanks to the intervention they do have increased access to decision-making processes.	GESI has been mainstreamed into Nepal's single programme energy structure. The government's Renewable Energy Subsidy Policy 2013 is gender-sensitive and the Interim Three-Year Plan has committed to mainstreaming GESI in the energy sector.	Increased access to income-generating opportunities, with some degree of increased decision-making observed.

Single programme modality: The single programme modality implies the government/AEPC is committed to including all future programmes and projects under the NRREP, with AEPC as executing partner. The aim is that a number of additional development partners (including, but not limited to, the World Bank and the Asian Development

Bank) can sign up to support the NRREP in future, maintaining the same overall managerial structure to avoid parallel implementation structures.³³ This also implies all the gains on gender obtained through the NRREP, such as the

³³ http://www.aepc.gov.np/?option=nrrep&page=subnrrep&mid=4&sub_id=29&id=2, accessed January 2015.

GESI policy, will carry over to other donor initiatives.

Multi-donor support: Several development partners provide support to the NRREP, which means that, if for any reason Norway is unable to continue supporting the programme, other donors are able to sustain this support.

5. Conclusions and recommendations

In summing up our analysis of Norway's support to WRGE in Nepal between 2007 and 2013, we apply the key evaluation criteria used throughout the report – namely, relevance, effectiveness and sustainability.

5.1 RELEVANCE

To what degree is Norwegian support to WRGE relevant in view of national priorities, needs and possibilities?

Overall, Norway has been an important actor in the promotion of gender and women's rights in Nepal and is perceived as such by other development actors.

Since 2006, numerous reforms have highlighted the growing importance of gender equality in the national context, starting with the CA resolution to ensure 33 percent women's participation in all state structures and the Constitution's guarantee that no person should be discriminated against on the basis of sex. The Interim Constitution also had a significant focus on women's rights. In a more pragmatic sense, the government has been allocating 15 percent

of VDC funds to women for 10 years. The RNE was able to capitalise on the country's increased focus on the inclusion of women through the strengthening of existing national mechanisms such as women's organisations and by ensuring a robust and concrete inclusion of the gender dimension in the national energy sector, a key sector for both countries.

RNE support to political empowerment during the period under review is directly in line with current national priorities, as described above, and of particular relevance given the 2008 and 2013 elections, together with the prospect of local elections and the ongoing negotiations for the drafting of the new Constitution.

To what degree is Norwegian support to WRGE in line with the strategic priorities outlined in the Action Plan?

The Norwegian Action Plan emphasises the importance of women's rights and the need to support measures that increase women's control over their own lives. Norway's development policy aims to 'promote democracy, emphasize the universal human rights, and to support

measures that can permanently lift people out of poverty', especially with regard to four key pillars: women's economic empowerment, women's political empowerment, VAW and sexual and reproductive health rights, with a strong focus on the rights of the LGBT community. The RNE in Kathmandu works across these four pillars and has integrated WRGE within all the priority areas of its portfolio: education, good governance and peace-building. As such, the Action Plan acts as a framework guiding the RNE's work. The Framework Agreement with Energia is an example of how work in Oslo can have a direct impact at country level in spite of the high levels of autonomy of embassies.

In line with the overall strategic priority to increase emphasis on gender through mainstreaming, the RNE has been able to mainstream gender across 57 percent of total funds, with an additional 11 percent directly aimed at gender (Gender Marker 2). However, and in spite of Nepal having been a gender pilot embassy during part of the period under review, 32 percent of funds still lacked any gender marker (Gender Marker 0). This percentage

is significantly higher in the energy sector (with 70 percent of funds not earmarked), while more traditionally gender-friendly sectors such as education and good governance have a much larger percentage of gender-earmarked funds (87 and 80 percent earmarked, respectively). It should be highlighted that the gender marker is not always able to capture the level of impact on gender. For example, funds for the NRREP, by agreement with other donors, could not be earmarked, but played a critical role in ensuring the mainstreaming of gender within a key strategic sector.

To what degree has funding through the Women and Gender Equality Grant been used in accordance with its intentions?

The total amount received by the RNE from the WGE Grant amounts to about 3 percent of total funds and as such is relatively modest, although these funds have been used to strengthen ongoing initiatives and provided the RNE with a mechanism that allowed it to push processes forward and react to emerging issues. As such, it is felt to have had a catalytic effect, for example on moving forward the Nepal Gender

Action Plan. The funds have also allowed for an increased focus on gender issues. As RNE staff knew funding was available and easily accessible, they were more inclined to undertake such activities. For example, Norway was the only donor to earmark funds for the implementation of the Nepal Gender Action Plan and for implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325.

5.2 EFFECTIVENESS

5.2.1 Systemic change

It could be argued that Norway has contributed to systemic change by providing key stakeholders within the political sphere and civil society with the knowledge, tools and platforms needed to continue to promote WRGE with a stronger and more cohesive voice in all ongoing discussion on the different laws, regulations and funding, particularly important as the country is in the process of drafting a new Constitution, as such, helping to guarantee that key priorities for gender stay on the national agenda. Norway's support has also helped strengthen cohesion among women from different walks of life and different political parties, helping align priorities

and strengthen their voice at both national and local level. Within the energy sector, Norway has played a key role by helping ensure the structural inclusion of GESI in the national single programme approach, which ensures its inclusion across all energy sector initiatives and, while not intended as part of the project goals, has also played a role in bringing women together and strengthening of their social standing.

5.2.2 Organisational change

Support to the NRREP has had important impacts at the institutional level. For example, AEPC is now committed to mainstreaming GESI throughout its entire programme and has formulated a GESI Mainstreaming Plan that addresses all levels, from community service delivery (e.g. through subsidies) to product development (promoting GESI-friendly R&D) and institutional level, through the creation of a GESI Unit as well as the development of a gender code of conduct, among other initiatives. In addition, the NRREP has had a positive impact on national and subnational processes. For example, at national level it is coordinating with

MoFALD to establish a memorandum of understanding, and at district level is working with the DDC and other rights-holders organisations to promote GESI in energy.

Within the RNE there is no official gender focal point, with gender understood to be mainstreamed and as such everyone's responsibility. However, no gender training is provided for national staff and limited training to diplomatic staff. There also appears to be limited emphasis on gender skills during recruitment. In addition, there does not seem to be a formal accountability mechanism to ensure quality inclusion of gender in programming and, since the pilot ended, gender reporting requirements have been very limited. The approach to promoting gender appears to be reliant on staff and their personal commitment, and as such cannot be structurally guaranteed.

5.2.3 Project level results: IPWA

Norway's support appears to have helped strengthen IPWA's recognition, legitimacy and overall ability to partake of the political process. One clear sign of this is that parliamentary

committees, UN agencies and international NGOs approach IPWA members for their input. As a result of Norway's capacity-building, IPWA members have been able to demand and obtain funds from the local-level budget for their district committees, and have been on occasion able to influence the utilisation of funds earmarked for women at district level. Another result of the legal advice provided by Norway is that high-level politicians and civil society have a stronger, more informed and cohesive voice in the ongoing political discussions. Norway's support has also strengthened the links between central and community/district members and led to an increase in the number of members, furthering momentum. Because they have a united voice and the backing of a reputable institution, women politicians now feel more able to raise women's issues within their own party.

5.2.4 Project level results: NRREP

The NRREP has played a key role in ensuring the inclusion of gender in the energy sector. In addition, the technologies supported directly benefit women by easing their burden in traditional female roles. For example, solar

pumps save time for women, who earlier had to walk for up to three hours to fetch water, with some girls unable to attend school in order to fetch water. Cleaner water also means fewer health hazards for women and their families. Similarly, solar lights give women (and youth) more time to be involved in productive activities as well as increased exposure to the outside world through television and radio. Limited success of ICSs, which can significantly reduce health-related problems and save time previously spent collecting firewood, highlights the importance of an inclusive, demand-driven approach, as the new technology was unable to meet some of the community's needs.

Thanks to the NRREP, there now exist gender-disaggregated data that provide a clear picture of the benefits women and socially excluded groups receive, as well as a better understanding of the gaps and needs that still need to be addressed.

A major positive impact has been increased women's involvement in the energy sector from the planning stage through construction and

implementation to management. The NRREP has also provided a platform for women from different ethnic groups to come together and increased participation of women in the economic sector as well as increased income through its income-generating activities.

5.2.5 Unintended consequences

Key donors in the area of gender include the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (for 1325) and UN Women. Limited interaction with MoWCSW is perceived to be a missed opportunity for Norway in terms of helping strengthen this institution. However, the RNE's work with AEPC can be expected to have a significant long-term impact as it has resulted in structural changes such as the addition of a GESI Unit and the development of various policies and tools.

In both projects observed, women's increased involvement has also meant an additional workload for them, as their participation in politics and in the energy sector comes in addition to taking care of traditional household chores.

5.3 SUSTAINABILITY

As per the methodology put forward in the inception report, this case study looked at two projects, one focused on gender and political empowerment through Norway's support to IPWA and the second where gender is mainstreamed within the NRREP. While both projects are very different in nature, in both instances Norway has supported nationally owned processes, securing their relevance to national priorities as well as their ownership and, with this, significantly increasing the likelihood of the sustainability of any and all gains.

In the case of IPWA, a strong commitment to common goals from the different members also increases the likelihood of sustainability, especially as most members were involved in the women's movement long before joining IPWA, and many of them have NGOs through which they are able to further their cause.

In the case of the NRREP, in addition to being a nationally owned project, structural factors increase the likelihood of sustainability, mainly the inclusion of a comprehensive framework; product design (e.g. income-generating activities

for women); changes in structures outside the NRREP (such as the GESI Unit within AEPC and the government's Renewable Energy Subsidy Policy 2013); the single programme modality (which implies the government/AEPC is committed to including all future programmes and projects under the NRREP with AEPC as the executing partner); and multi-donor support.

Norway has also promoted good practices through the introduction of a more participatory approach, for example through the IPWA National Conference, as well as increased transparency and accountability by introducing civil society into the monitoring process.

Both projects focus on capacity-building which has an inherent element of sustainability, although this will be directly related to the quality of the training, which was not assessed.

5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this case study, we recommend the following actions to further strengthen the work of the RNE in Nepal in the area of WRGE:

- The current system relies on all individuals being able to apply gender to their programming areas, but does not guarantee training or require specific gender skills. The system needs to ensure all staff have the knowledge, skills, time and resources to integrate gender into their portfolio. The RNE would benefit from a greater focus on gender skills during the recruitment process, but should also seek to provide sector-specific capacity-building programmes with a focus on their priority areas of work.
- The WGE Grant is seen as a catalytic tool which helps to ensure a focus on gender as well as providing the RNE with an ability to react, and as such we recommend the RNE continues and expands its use, especially across non-traditionally gender sensitive sectors.
- While there are currently high levels of awareness and commitment to gender, the RNE would benefit from a more systematic system of accountability that does not rely on personal commitment, and more results-oriented reporting.
- The team supports the RNE's shift towards an increased focus on gender-based violence as a critical barrier to women's empowerment and full political participation in Nepalese society.
- IPWA future work on political empowerment would benefit from an increased focus on the inclusion of marginalised groups and rural populations, as well as ensuring not only elites have the ability to participate in the process.
- Increased resources for capacity-building, sensitisation and training of the staff responsible for implementing GESI within the NRREP are key to ensuring success and sustainability of this element of the project.
- Given that Nepal has been a successful pilot in applying gender to the energy sector, sharing of lessons learnt and experiences with other embassies should be promoted.
- Persistence of traditional mindsets continues to be a major barrier to women's full participation in society. There is a need to identify ways to ensure not just quotas but also support to meaningful participation (e.g. through training of women selected to partake of committees).
- Women's current 'double shift' (having to undertake all their traditional responsibilities in addition to new acquired ones) should also be addressed. While the team acknowledges that these are deeply rooted in Nepalese society and tradition, and unlikely to be resolved in a short period of time, these issues should still be looked at. Norway could make use of its own successful experience advancing WRGE, for example promoting accessible and affordable provision of child care so as to facilitate women's participation in economic and political life.

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Annex 2 – People interviewed

SUMMARY

Type of instrument	Number	Number of participants	Gender (# women # men)	Marginalised caste/ethnicity	Number	Number of participants	Gender (# women & # men)
	Central level and Sangja				Surkhet		
Community mapping	2	25	10/15	7	2	13	8/5
FGDs	5	80	38/42	15	7	64	40/24
IDIs	9	11	5/2	3	6	6	4/2
Observations	3				3		
Institutional analysis	1	22	2/20	4	4		
KIIs	6	8	4/4	1	15	17	11/6
TOTALS	26	146	61/85	30	39	83	52/31

NATIONAL LEVEL

Name	Gender	Organisation	Designation
Lena Hasle	Female	RNE	Gender Focal Person
Kamla Bisht	Female	RNE	Senior Political Advisor
Bibek Chapagain	Male	RNE	Energy Advisor
Kjell Tormod Pettersen	Male	RNE	Ambassador
Håkon Gulbrandsen	Male	RNE	Deputy Head of Mission
Sanju Shrestha	Female	ODC	Consultant
Rudra Khanal	Male	AEPC	Programme Manager
Nigma Tamrakar	Female	AEPC	Gender Advisor
Kenza Aqertit	Female	National Democrat Institute	Country Director
John Lovdal	Male	National Democrat Institute	Programme Director
Sushmita Subba	Female	National Democrat Institute	Senior Programme Officer
Meena Pandey	Female	IPWA	President
Sabitra Bhusal	Female	IPWA	Secretary General
Neelam Burma	Female	IPWA	Secretary
Sashi Shrestha	Female	IPWA	Steering Committee Member
Laxmi Shah	Female	IPWA	Treasurer
Jayapuri Gharti	Female	IPWA	Steering Committee Member
Kalpana Dhamala	Female	IPWA	Member
Basanti Jha	Female	IPWA	Member
Kalyani Rijal	Female	IPWA	Member
Radha Kumari Kayastha	Female	IPWA	Member
Mamata Giri	Female	IPWA	Member
Phanindra Adhikary	Male	NTTP	OD Consultant

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Name	Gender	Organisation	Designation
Krishna Man Pradhan	Male	Nepal Law Society	Executive Director
Prema Thapa	Female	Nepal Law Society	Senior Programme Officer
Laxmi K Chaudhari	Female	Madheshi Janadhikar Forum Nepal	Chair of Capacity-Building and Resource Management Committee in CA
Dama Sharma	Female	CPN-M	First Chair of Women Caucus in CA
Kalpana Pradhan	Female	CPN-M	Fourth Chair of Women Caucus in CA
Gitanjali Singh	Female	UN Women	Regional Programme Director
Karuna Onta	Female	DFID	Social Development Advisor
Shiva Poudel	Male	Embassy of Denmark	Senior Programme Officer
Sanjeev Thakur	Male	Himal Hydro	Deputy CEO
Durga Sob	Female	Sankalpa	Chair
Chanda Rai	Female	Sankalpa	Executive Director
Dr. Chhetra Amatya	Female	Sankalpa	Executive Member
Usha Rawat	Female	Sankalpa	Member
Shanti Jirel	Female	Sankalpa	Member
Rama Dahal	Female	Sankalpa	Member
Mohammadi Siddiqui	Female	Sankalpa	Member
Bijaya K.C.	Female	Sankalpa	Acting Programme Manager
Saru Subedi	Female	Sankalpa	Communication and Reporting Officer
Lumin K Shrestha	Male	CRT-N	Director
Ganesh Ram Shrestha	Male	CRT-N	Executive Director

DISTRICT: SYANGJA

Name	Gender	Organisation	Designation
Tara Sharma	Female	IPWA Syangja	President
Kheema Panday	Female	IPWA Syangja	Secretary
Sushila Sharma	Female	IPWA Syangja	Treasurer
Saraswoti Aryal	Female	IPWA Syangja	Member
Sita Sundas	Female	IPWA Syangja	Member
Laxmi Poudel	Female	IPWA Syangja	Member
Bishnu Bhusal	Female	IPWA Syangja	Member
Ambika Poudel	Female	IPWA Syangja	Member
Hari Prasad Paudel	Male	Local Development Office	Local Development Officer
Bharat Pd Luitel	Male	CDO	Acting CDO
Gira Basnet	Female	WDO	Women Development Officer
Bhagirath Poudel	Male	Kyakmi, VDC	Secretary
Mahendra Pd Poudel	Male	Pelakot, VDC	Secretary
Hari Pd Poudel	Male	Biruwa Archale, VDC	Secretary
Rabin Lal Dhakal	Male	Talsar, VDC	Secretary

DISTRICT: SURKHET

Name	Gender	Organisation	Designation
Bishwo Mani Joshi	Female	WDO	Women Development Officer
Prem Prasad Pokhrel	Male	DDC	Energy Officer
Sukra B.K.	Male	WAM	Programme Officer
Jeevan Khanal	Male	Manikage Energy Pvt. Ltd	Director
Anita Khanal	Female	Manikage Energy Pvt. Ltd	Solar – Department Head
Kamal Raj Adhikari	Male	ASTHA	ELO
Hausala Shakya	Female	ASTHA	Biomass Energy Engineer
Janak Raj Adhikari	Male	ASTHA	CE Component
Upendra Lamichhane	Male	ASTHA	Sub-Engineer
Kishore Gautam	Male	ASTHA	AAO
Tejendra Bista	Male	ASTHA	MGSE
Keshav Pokhrel	Male	ASTHA	ASES
Apolo Shrestha	Male	ASTHA	Business Promotion Officer
Kumari Thapaliya	Male	ASTHA	Service
Chandra Pr. K.C	Male	ASTHA	Service
Pradip Basnet	Male	ASTHA	CE Sub-Engineer
Hasta Bdr. Bhandari	Male	ASTHA	MGSE
Ram Sworup Chaudhary	Male	ASTHA	Biomass
Shankar Pathak	Male	ASTHA	DC
Hari Budhathoki	Male	ASTHA	SMC

PARTICIPANTS LIST: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION (MEN AND WOMEN) DATE: 16.12.2014

S.No	Full Name	Gender	Occupation
1	Prem Bahadur Bista	Male	Teaching
2	Surendra Bahadur Shahi	Male	Offset Press
3	Ram Prasad Adhikari	Male	Project Treasurer
4	Yamlal Bastola	Male	Project member
5	Ram Bahadur Bista	Male	Teaching
6	Chandra bahadur Sarki	Male	Agriculture
7	Nagendra Bahadur Shahi	Male	Grill Industry
8	Sher Bahadur Sarki	Male	Rice mill
9	Khagisara Balami	Female	Noodles Factory
10	Devi K.C	Female	Mini-Ice Industry
11	Kamala Sunar	Female	Poultry Farming
12	Tika Tarami	Female	Poultry Farming
13	Bhabisara Giri	Female	ICS Maker
14	Dharmi Rawal	Male	Tumeric Farming
15	Raja Nepali	Male	Tailoring
16	Harikala Tarami	Female	Poultry Farming
17	Rekha Tarami	Female	Poultry Farming
18	Gita Subedi	Female	Poultry Farming
19	Naurata Sarki	Female	Poultry Farming

Annex 3 – Statistics

TOP 10 RECIPIENT COUNTRIES IN TERMS OF GENDERED AID, 2007-2013

Recipient country	Disbursements (NOK '000s)
Malawi	1,820,286
Nepal	1,190,565
Tanzania	1,105,816
Ethiopia	862,822
Uganda	853,847
Zambia	813,825
India	600,584
Mozambique	598,130
Bangladesh	582,734
Angola	350,506

GENDERED AID TO NEPAL BY TARGET AREA (NOK '000S AND %)

	Economic development and trade	Education	Emergency assistance	Environment and energy	Good governance	Health and social services	In donor costs and unspecified
Total volume	112,820	384,522	11,747	354,887	774,220	112,094	1,325
GM1	79,190	249,952	4,332	86,461	537,179	32,116	223
GM1 proportion	70%	65%	37%	24%	69%	29%	17%
GM2	9,700	83,513	0	22,717	78,922	6,260	0
GM2 proportion	9%	22%	0%	6%	10%	6%	0%

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Abbreviations and acronyms

AEPC	Alternative Energy Promotion Centre	GII	Gender Inequality Index	NC	Nepali Congress
ASTHA	Association for Social Transformation and Humanitarian Assistance	GoN	Government of Nepal	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
BDS	Blue Diamond Society	HDI	Human Development Index	NOK	Norwegian Kroner
CA	Constituent Assembly	IAP	Improved Air Pollution	Norad	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	ICS	Improved Cooking Stove	NPC	National Planning Commission
CMI	Chr. Michelsen Institute	IPWA	Inter-Party Women's Alliance	NRREP	National Rural and Renewable Energy Programme
CPA	Comprehensive Peace Agreement	KfW	German Development Organisation	OBC	Other Backward Class
CPN-UML	Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist–Leninist)	LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender	ODA	Official Development Assistance
CREF	Central Renewable Energy Fund	LGCDP	Local Government and Community Development Programme	ODC	Organisation Development Centre
CREHPA	Centre for Research on Environment Health and Population Activities	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation	ODI	Overseas Development Institute
CRT	Centre for Renewable Technology	MDG	Millennium Development Goal	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
CSR	Centre for Social Research	MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	OPMCM	Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers
DDC	District Development Committee	MHP	Micro Hydro Project	PEU	Productive Energy Use
DFID	Department for International Development	MoFALD	Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development	R&D	Research and Development
EIU	Economist Intelligence Unit	MoSTE	Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment	RET	Renewable Energy Technology
ESAP	Energy Sector Assistance Programme	MoWCSW	Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare	RNE	Royal Norwegian Embassy
FDM	Foundation for Development Management	MPI	Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index	RRC	Regional Resource Centre
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion	MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	SIPU	Swedish Institute for Public Administration

SNV	Netherlands Development Organisation
TAF	The Asia Foundation
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNDAF	UN Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
VAW	Violence Against Women
VDC	Village Development Committee
WEF	World Economic Forum
WRGE	Women's Rights and Gender Equality
WGE Grant	Budget chapter 168.70 Women and gender equality, or Women and Gender Equality Grant