

Integrating Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Local Climate Policies and Programs

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Presentation Outline

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Background and Objective

- Nepal's topography, ecological and climatic variability, and natural resource dependency make it one of the most climate change-vulnerable countries in the world.¹
- The evidence from Nepal suggests that the impact of climate change is magnified by the gender norms and inequalities, with serious consequences for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).^{2,3}
- In Nepal, governments and civil society organizations have initiated interventions to adapt and minimize the adverse effects of climate change on health.^{4,5}
- The objective of this study is to explore and analyze the ongoing initiatives to integrate gender and SRHR within the climate policy and programs from the perspective of community stakeholders and local government.



Methodology



Study Design and Data Collection

- A cross-sectional qualitative thematic study ⁶ was conducted.
- The study took place in October 2022 in the Kailali and Argakhanchi districts of the Sudurpaschim and Lumbini provinces, respectively.
- Following ethical approval from the Ethical Board of the Nepal Health Research Council (Ref. 627), purposive data collection was conducted with 14 participants.
- In-dept Interview (IDI) was conducted among **12 participants** (local government, social mobilizers, representatives from civil society organizations), and **two Key Informant Interviews (KII)** were conducted among technical experts (climate and health).

Data Analysis

- The majority of the participants were aged 40 and above, and the majority of the participants of this study were men. Data saturation was confirmed with the last KII interview, with no new information emerging.⁷
- The interviews were transcribed verbatim in Nepali and then translated into English.
- Inductive coding was conducted using the Dedoose software and a codebook with sub-themes and themes was developed
- Latent⁸ analysis was conducted to interpret the meaning of the data and the findings are presented in the form of descriptions and excerpts.

Researcher's reflexivity

To limit the introduction of social desirability bias and other response biases in this study, independent enumerators were involved for the selection and interviews of the participants.

Results

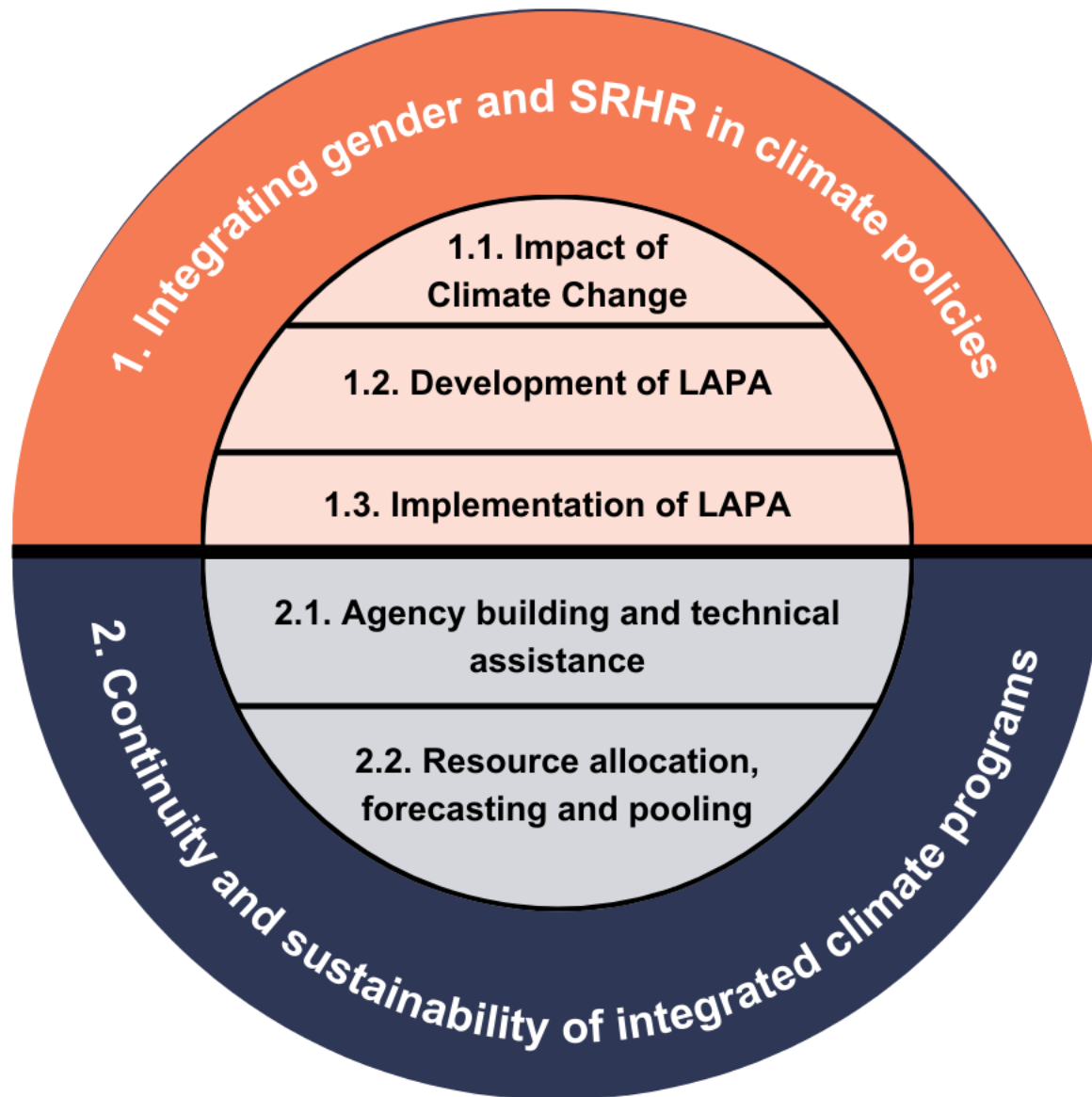


Figure 1: Pictorial Illustration of the themes and sub-themes

Theme 1

Integrating gender and SRHR in climate policies



1.1 Impact of Climate Change

| Impact | Description |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Gender roles | Increased workload for women, involving traveling long distances to collect grass and firewood, fetching water, and supporting family members working in the fields. |
| Sexual and Reproductive Health | Disrupted access to essential services such as contraception, safe abortion services and maternal health, and nutritious diets during menstruation, pregnancy, and postpartum periods; destruction of health facilities caused by landslides and floods; Pelvic Organ prolapse |
| Harmful gender norms and practices | Sexual violence , physical violence, emotional violence, and gender-based violence, <i>Chhaupadi</i> , harassment. |



Excerpt



The effects of climate change are primarily observed in children, the elderly, ill individuals, pregnant women, and newborns. For years, childbirth has been occurring on roads that are destroyed and washed away by floods. Additionally, elderly women in our area have been suffering from uterine prolapse due to increased workload.



- A representative from CSO



1.2 LAPA development process

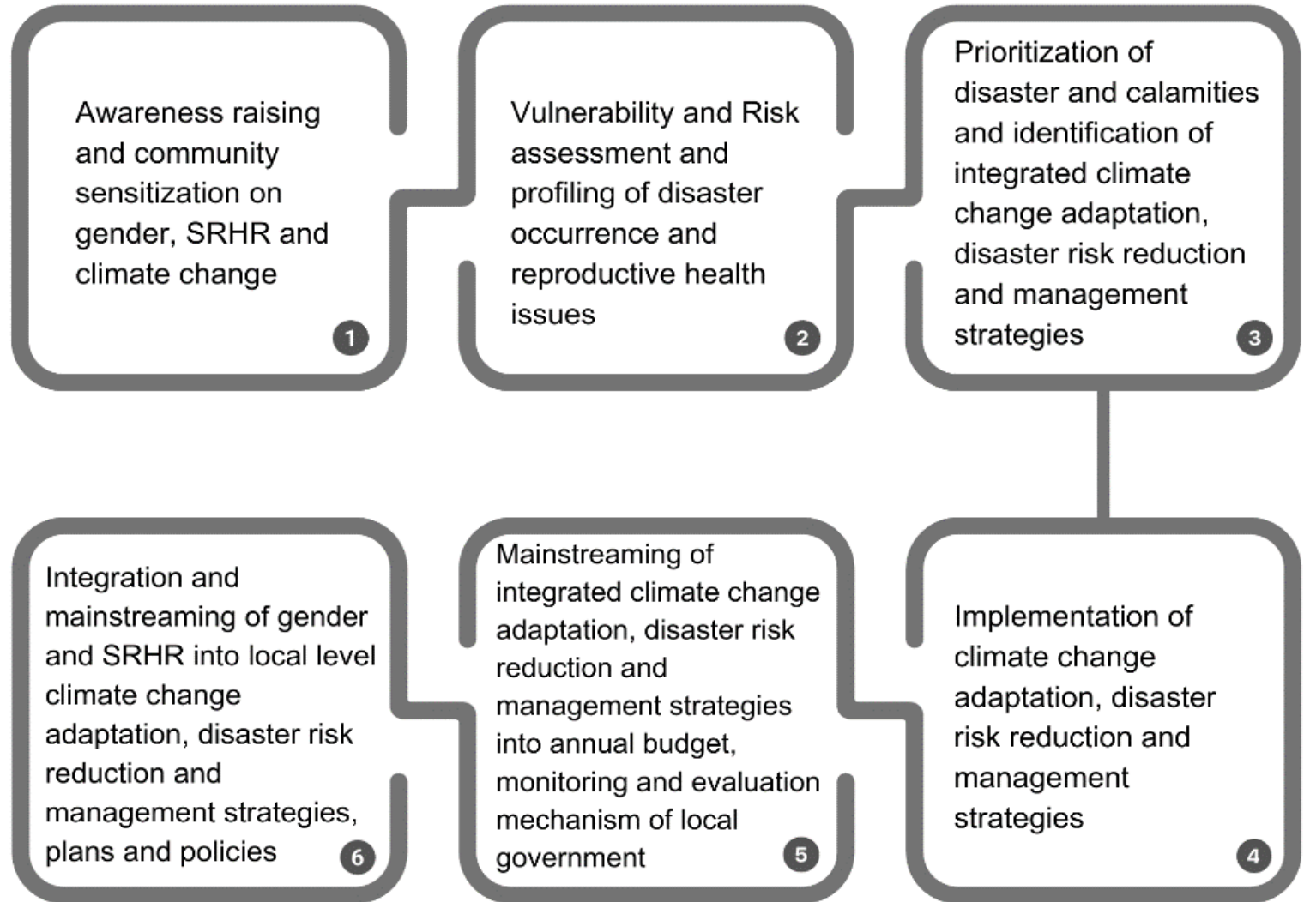
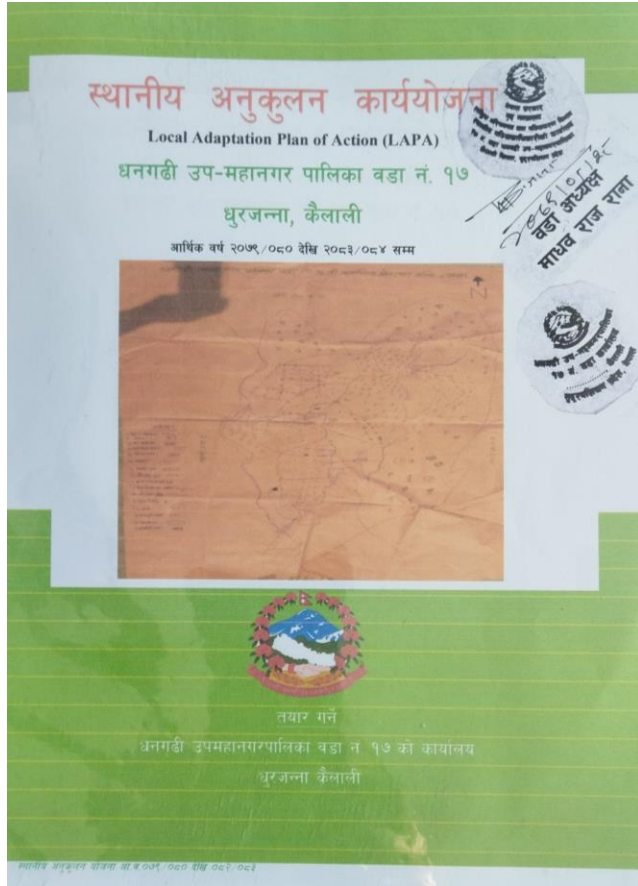


Figure 2: Six steps for integrated Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) process adopted from Local Adaptation Plan of Action Framework 2019

1.3 Implementation of integrated LAPA

Table 1: Summary of implementation of Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA)

| Thematic Area | Problem Identified | Activities | Implementing Municipality |
|--|---|---|---|
| 1 Agriculture and Food Security | Pest infestation, maximum use of inorganic pesticides and fertilizers, increased workload for women | Integrated pest management training | Shitaganga Municipality, Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City |
| | Travel long distance to collect firewood, impact on women's health due to indoor smoking | Supported with improved cooking stove to 130 households | Chure Rural Municipality, Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City |
| | Alternative source of income for women for better livelihood | Livelihood support initiative | Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City |



Table 1: Contd..

Summary of implementation of Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA)

| Thematic Area | Problem Identified | Activities | Implementing Municipality |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 2 Disaster Management and Rescue | Dysfunctional government structure to address integrated climate induced disaster | Formation of 25 community disaster management committees | Shitaganga Municipality |
| | Limited or no stock of research and rescue commodities | Distribution of light, search and rescue materials | Chure Rural Municipality, Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan city, Shitaganga Municipality |
| | Limited trained human resources for disaster management | Basic disaster management training Community-based emergency response team training | Shitaganga Municipality Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City |



Table 1: Contd..

Summary of implementation of Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA)

| Thematic Area | Problem Identified | Activities | Implementing Municipality |
|--|--|--|---|
| 3 Sexual and Reproductive Health Services | Compromised access to sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls from climate risk areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Medical abortion and implant trainingDistribution of medical abortion and FP commodityEstablishment of Antenatal Care (ANC) roomCommunity outreach health clinic along with gender friendly toiletReproductive health camp | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Shitaganga Municipality, Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan CityDhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan city, Chure Rural Municipality, Shitaganga MunicipalityDhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan CityChure Rural MunicipalityChure Rural Municipality |



Excerpts

“ A lot of times, we had to manage disaster right after it happened. After the integrated LAPA was developed, it helped us in pre-planning for disaster management. LAPA has helped in showing a sort of pathway for us and a guideline that helps us to move forward. We intend to work as guided by the integrated LAPA. [...] local level government has put it in the budget and policies to manage disasters and provide health services, including Sexual and Reproductive Health. ”

-Health Care provider

Theme 2

Continuity and Sustainability of integrated climate program



2.1 Agency Building and Technical Assistance

- **Evidence informed orientation and mobilization of community stakeholders** are key for demand generation for integrated policies and programs.
- The **co-creation and technical assistance** from development partners have increased awareness among local government regarding the importance of gender and SRHR in climate policies and programs.

“

I have felt that my knowledge regarding climate change and SRHR is increased. I have contributed to the development and implementation of LAPA.

”

-Social mobilizer

2.2 Resource allocation, forecasting and pooling

- The participants of this study highlight the need for **adequate resource** allocation from the federal and provincial governments to implement the areas identified in LAPA, especially for intersectional areas, including gender and SRHR.
- **Inter-ministerial and department coordination** is key in the prioritization, continuation, and scale-up of integrated LAPA.
- Participants have highlighted the importance of **cost sharing modality** from development partners in implementing the integrated climate programs.

Excerpt

“

Sometimes, implementing the LAPA is very challenging due to budget constraints. Sufficient budget support could assist us in executing all the activities outlined in the LAPA. The LAPA is a commendable initiative, and our municipality is committed to conducting programs in accordance with it. ”

- Local Government representative



Conclusion

- **Women and girls' access to SRH services and information are hindered and gender dynamics is compromised.**
- **Increased capacity and mobilization of the community stakeholders** to sensitize regarding importance of mainstreaming gender and SRHR in local policies and programs.
- **Adequate coordination and resource allocation** for intersectionality are necessary for scale-up and sustainability of integrated plans and programs.



Take away message

- LAPA an entry point in integrating gender and SRHR in climate policies.
- User centered approach, local ownership, and cost sharing modality helps to facilitate integration and scale up of gender and SRHR in climate policies and program.



Acknowledgement

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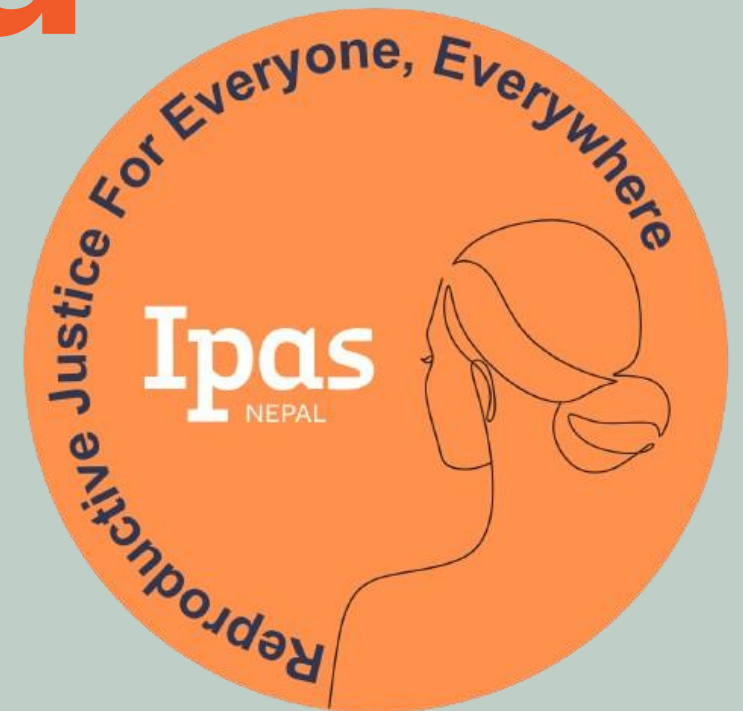
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Thank you



Personal Bio

Amit Timilsina is a public health professional and young researcher with special interest in gender, sexual and reproductive health and rights and health equity.

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