

RESPONSE TO

# GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN THE COVID-19 CONTEXT IN NEPAL

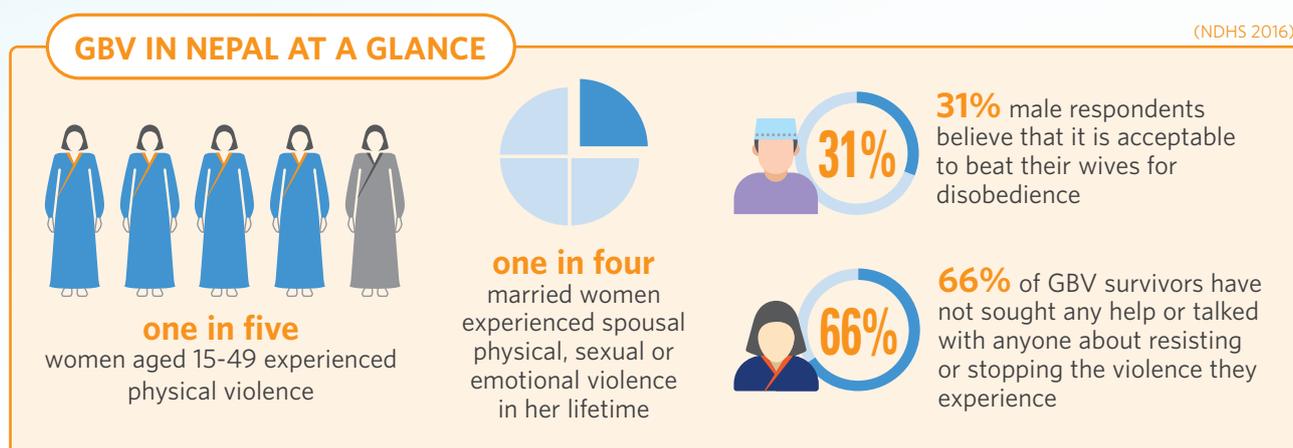


## GBV IN THE COVID-19 CONTEXT

Disease outbreaks affect women and men differently, and epidemics make existing inequalities for women and girls, and discrimination of other marginalized groups such as persons with disabilities and those in extreme poverty, worse. Furthermore, crises and times of unrest have been linked to increased incidence of violence against women and children, and the COVID-19 pandemic is not an exception. In a pandemic, women and girls may be at higher risk of intimate partner violence and other forms of domestic violence and also face increased risks of other forms of GBV, including sexual exploitation and abuse.

In addition, life-saving care and medical support to GBV survivors (mental health and psycho-social support) may be inaccessible as health service providers are overburdened and preoccupied with handling COVID-19 cases. It is also critical to update communities about changes in available care facilities and how they can access them during lockdown conditions.

In light of this, the **“Response to Gender Based Violence in the COVID-19 Context in Nepal”** Project aims at mitigating the impact of the pandemic on violence against women and girls by supporting the continued provision of GBV services in Four Districts in Province 2 and Karnali Province or Province 6. The project is informed by the needs and challenges on the ground, and is supported by the Delegation of the European Union to Nepal.



## PROJECT GOALS

The objective of the project is to ensure the availability and access of essential prevention and response services for all particularly GBV survivors in the targeted locations during and after the COVID-19 lockdown. At a broad level, the project envisions a Nepal where women and girls live free from GBV both during and after the COVID-19 crisis. In order to reach this impact, the proposed project will address both the demand side challenges of GBV response, i.e., demand from women and the general public about the discriminations faced and the available response facilities as well as the supply, i.e., provision of good quality, multi-sectoral services.

**Project duration:** 24 months (August 2020 – August 2022)

**Beneficiaries:** GBV survivors (women and girls), men and boys and local communities.

**Service providers:** GBV response service providers, including Police; Safe Houses and Women’s Shelters; Hospital and One Stop Crisis Management Centres (OCMC); Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs), and Community Psychosocial Workers (CPSWs); Federal, Provincial and Local government stakeholders.

**TOTAL REACH:** 133,784 people (beneficiaries + service providers)

## OUTCOMES:

### 1. GBV service providers continue to deliver functional, survivor-centred services during and after the COVID-19 lockdown



- State and non-state service providers are supported to provide a wide range of comprehensive services that prioritise the needs of GBV survivors including legal, health, accommodation and psychosocial counselling, while taking appropriate COVID-19 protection measures.
- State and non-state service providers have improved collaboration and coordination while delivering the comprehensive shared services on GBV.

### 2. Community members have increased knowledge to seek help and address GBV

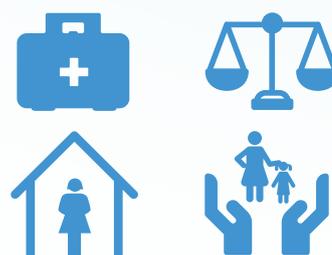


- Community members receive information on available GBV services during and after the lockdown.
- Community members including men and boys have increased awareness on harmful gender norms and how to protect themselves.

## PLANNED ACTIVITIES

### Strengthening GBV services and capacity-building

- Building the capacity of state and non-state service providers to provide multi-sectoral, COVID-sensitive and survivor-centred GBV services
- Establishing basic referral pathway of GBV services
- Creating enabling environment for the availability of Female Community Health Volunteers, Community Based Psychosocial Workers, and Psychosocial Counsellors for remote outreach
- Supporting and strengthening OCMCs, health facilities, shelter home and safe houses
- Supporting Police and Judicial Committees



### Community level awareness raising

- Equipping women and girls with the information on available GBV services during and after the lockdown
- Increasing awareness of community members, including men and boys, on harmful gender norms and how to protect themselves
- Disseminating COVID19-responsive GBV prevention messages, adapted to the local context and language



## PARTNERS

The project will work closely with the government agencies at the federal, provincial and local levels and NGO partners:

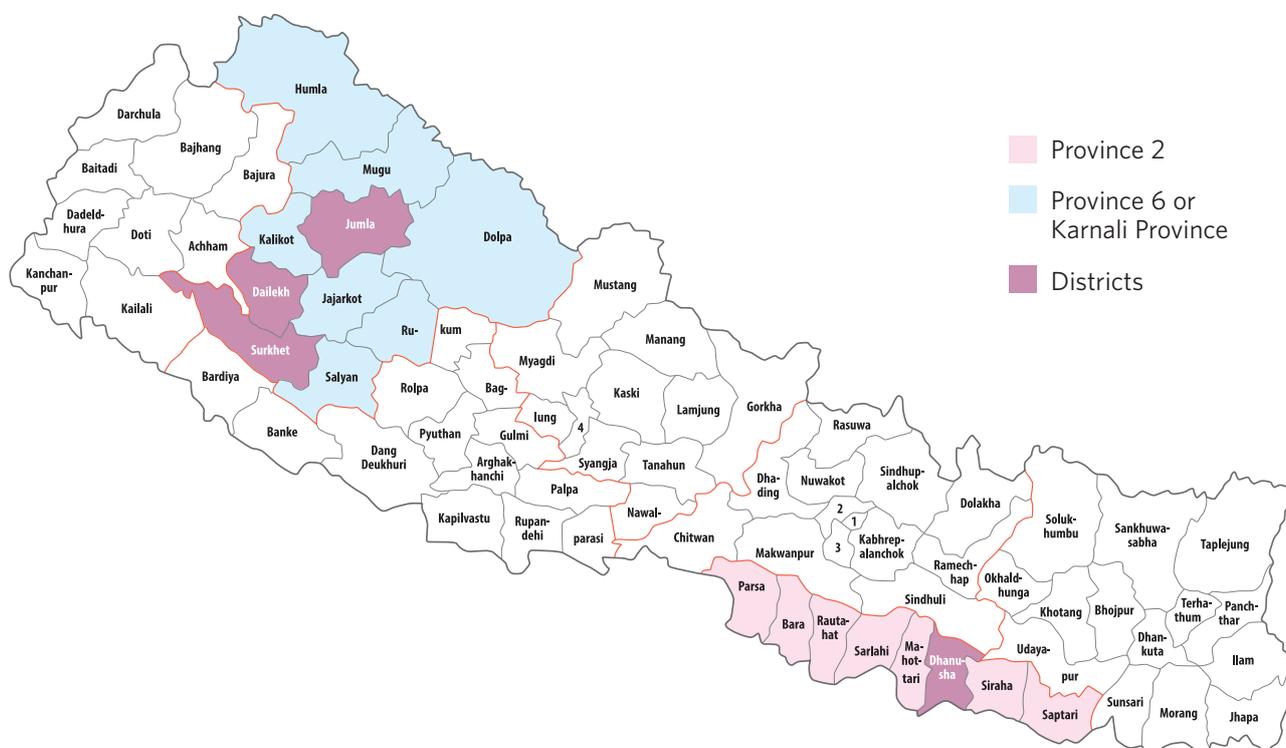
- Federal level: Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen, Ministry of Health and Population including National Health Training Centre, Ministry of Home Affairs, Nepal Police, and National Women's Commission,
- Provincial level: Provincial Parliaments' Social Development Committees, Ministry of Social Development and hospital/OCMCs
- Local level: Local Governments, Judicial Committees, Safe Houses/Service Centres
- NGO partners: Center for Mental Health and Counselling - Nepal; Women's Rehabilitation Center;

## PROJECT SITES

The project will operate in one district in Province 2 (in two selected municipalities), and three districts in Province 6 or Karnali Province (in five selected municipalities).

## SELECTED MUNICIPALITIES AND DISTRICTS

Province (2)	Province 2		Province 6 or Karnali Province	
Districts (4)	Dhanusha (Provincial HQ)	Surkhet (Provincial HQ)	Dailekh	Jumla (Karnali)
Municipalities (7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Janakpur sub-metropolitan</li> <li>Mithila Municipality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Birendranagar Municipality</li> <li>Bheriganga Municipality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Narayan Municipality</li> <li>Dullu Municipality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chandannath Municipality</li> </ul>



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