



**LNOB Nepal**  
**Citizen-led SDG Monitoring**



**Report**  
**Lekhbesi (Ward No 8 & 10) and Birendranagar (Ward No 9 & 10) Municipality,**  
**Surkhet**  
**Karnali Province, Nepal**  
**April 2021**



## Acknowledgments

In July 2015, Leave No One Behind was founded. Our role in the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) partnership is to collect Citizen Generated Data on progress made on SDG National Indicators from the community level and make it available from the community to the national level to ensure that no one is left behind. LNOB Nepal in partnership with Robert Bosch Foundation and funded by International Civil Society Centre is implementing the Making Voices Heard and Count in Nepal: Youth-led SDG Monitoring Project since October 2020. VSO Nepal, Action Aid Nepal, ADRA Nepal, Beyond Beijing Committee, Care Nepal, CBM Nepal, Islamic Relief Nepal, National Federation of Disabled- Nepal, Plan Nepal, World Vision Nepal, and WWF Nepal are consortium members of the LNOB Nepal.

The project aims to bring citizen's voices on the progress of SDG goals under specific national indicators by using various participatory tools including FGDs, multi-stakeholder dialogues, and using Community Scorecard tool. To collect Citizen Generated Data through community dialogues, LNOB Nepal selected 3 municipalities of Birendranagar Municipality and Lekhbesi Municipality in Surkhet District, Karnali Province. For this, a two-day workshop titled "Community-Led Monitoring (CLM) for SDG Monitoring for LNOB" was conducted on 25th March and 26th March 2021 in Birendranagar, Surkhet. The Community Scorecard was used to collect citizens' voices of both municipalities on the progress and results of SDG national indicators. The discussion on national indicators was done based on the identified SDG scope for LNOB Nepal that includes the national indicators of SDG goals 4, 5, 10, 13, 16, and 17.

This report is prepared based on the progress and results on SDG indicators of Lekhbesi Municipality ward no. 8 & 10 and Birendranagar Municipality ward no. 9 & 10. This report is based on the analysis of data generated through dialogues with related stakeholders of both municipalities and showcases the current progress and presents the plan of action.

I'm grateful to Mr. Govinda Rimal for facilitating, coordinating, and preparing the report of the workshop. I would like to thank VSO especially Suran Maharjan, Hansh Raj Joshi, Shantosh Thapa, Radha Pandey, Pooja Shrestha, and Rita Nepali for their tireless support, guidance, coordination among stakeholders, feedback suggestion and arrangement for effective analysis of the data, and finalizing the report. In addition to this, I would like to thank AYON Team especially Rekha Oli and Gagan Khadka for their collaboration and support. Finally, I would like to heartily thank all the participants for their meaningful participation in representing local people, social institutions, and local government bodies of Birendranagar municipality and Lekhbesi municipality.

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## Summary


Nepal is the least developed country with a GDP per capita income of \$1071 (The World Bank, 2019). COVID 19 has created a more adverse effect on economics and has impacted more adversely on women. The country is ranked 106th out of 156 countries in terms of the Gender Gap Index (World Economic Forum, 2021). There is also inequality in terms of accessing education as the male literacy rate is 79% and the female literacy rate is 60% (The World Bank, 2018). Unfortunately, the country is ranked as the fourth adversely impacted country considering climate change vulnerability (UNDP Nepal, 2020).

In this context of pre-dominance of inequality, the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) Partnership has emerged as a synergized option to reduce these gaps of unequal power relationships in development politics. Community-led monitoring has been found as an effective tool for empowering marginalized communities to hold duty bearers to account. This report highlights the processes, findings, and learning of Birendranagar Municipality Ward no. 9 & 10 and Lekhbesi Municipality War no. 8 & 10 of Surkhet district on SDG monitoring adopting Community Scorecard (CSC) focusing specific indicators under SDG goals 4, 5, 10, 13, 16 and 17 considering dire needs on improving progress on these goals.

As part of the community-based monitoring, capacity-building interventions were conducted targeting youth groups and community people to equip them with information on SDGs and their meaningful participation using community scorecard. Sensitization on SDGs was also organized for duty bearers and other stakeholders before their engagement in the monitoring process.

In the process of CSC, separate rankings are prepared for communities, duty bearers and there was a commonly agreed score based on interface meeting between the communities and duty bearers. It is interesting to note that the present condition rating of communities is lower than the duty bearer's claim. On the other hand, right holders seemed more optimistic for the future than duty bearers clearly indicating higher expectations on changes. It is later being adjusted based on mutual understanding and discussion in the interface discussions. It clearly indicates that this community-led participatory monitoring supports in providing more realistic tracking of the progress and expectations to avoid future conflict and promote collaboration and trust.

In this process, an aspect of empowerment is built into the data collection process – understanding and clarification on the position of the duty bearer. Thus, it helped marginalized communities in providing a platform to demand increased accountability of the duty bearers for improving the status of these SDG targets. It has also helped government stakeholders more aware on strength of inclusive data collection. Based on this evidence, there should be continued effort to lobby with the government to institutionalize and recognize these community-led monitoring and inclusive data collection procedures to accelerate the pace of empowerment and accountability for achieving sustainable development with the core principle of Leave No One Behind.



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## 1. Introduction

Nepal is pursuing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with strong national commitment as a means for transformative change in the country through its integrated approach and the principle of “Leave No One Behind (LNOB)”. Nepal has made conscious efforts to incorporate the concept of LNOB in the last several years. The equity-based principle of the SDGs has a strong resonance in Nepal, as the country has now adopted a forward-looking and transformative constitution with inclusive, federal, democratic republican polity with a strong commitment to justice and the enjoyment of fundamental rights by all the people (National Planning Commission, 2020)<sup>1</sup>.

The development partners, various international government representatives, INGOs and other key players including UN Agencies are also not paying much attention and ready for coordinated actions to accelerate SDGs 2030 agenda in Nepal. They are doing some activities in their way. They seem reluctant even to coordinate with the “Nepal SDG Forum” with some exceptions. The national planning commission has recently prepared the 15<sup>th</sup> periodic plan together with CSOs and other stakeholders by aligning actions with SDGs. However, it is a big challenge to bring this plan into action with strong commitment and systematic order in the future (NGO Federation of Nepal, 2019)<sup>2</sup>.

Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) has been working in Nepal for the last 57 years to improve the lives of the most marginalized, and since 2013 has been implementing its Volunteering for Development (V4D) program to empower citizens, especially youth, to take part in the sustainable development of Nepal. VSO Nepal as part of the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) consortium in Nepal and partnership with the International Civil Service Centre (ICSC), funded by Robert Bosch Foundation is running Making Voices Heard and Count in Nepal: Youth-led SDG Monitoring project. The project has been implementing by the LNOB Consortium in Nepal, currently led by VSO. The LNOB Consortium urges decision-makers at national and global levels to ensure that the voices of marginalized communities are heard and count in the planning, review, and implementation of the SDGs.

The project aims to bring citizen’s voices on the progress of SDG goals under specific national indicators by using various participatory tools including FGDs, multi-stakeholder dialogues, and using various social accountability tools. Processes for inclusive data and evidence generation are planned with a focus on ensuring access for marginalized groups in these community-led monitoring, advocacy, and other activities. The findings will be gathered, analyzed, and validated for use in advocacy purposes and ultimately shared in local, provincial, national, and international fora to bring forward voices of marginalized groups and influence Nepal’s policy development process. The project conducted the assessment at Two municipalities in the Surkhet district of Karnali province focusing on marginalized communities<sup>3</sup>.

## 2. Objectives

The project aims to contribute to the overall Making Voices Heard and Count (MVHC) programme. It envisions the following key objectives:

**2.1 Strengthen capacities of civil society organisations (CSOs) in Nepal around inclusive data and evidence generation:** There will be the adoption of a community scorecard to collect citizens’ voices and contribute to citizen-led data generation procedures. It is planned to initiate citizen-led SDG monitoring of

1 National Review of Sustainable Development Goals, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal, June 2020

2 Accelerating localization of SDGs in Nepal: Civil Societies’ Perspectives on SDGs implementation: NGO Federation of Nepal, Kathmandu, 2019

3 Dalits, LGBTIQ, Madhesi, PwD, Women, Youth, other minorities.



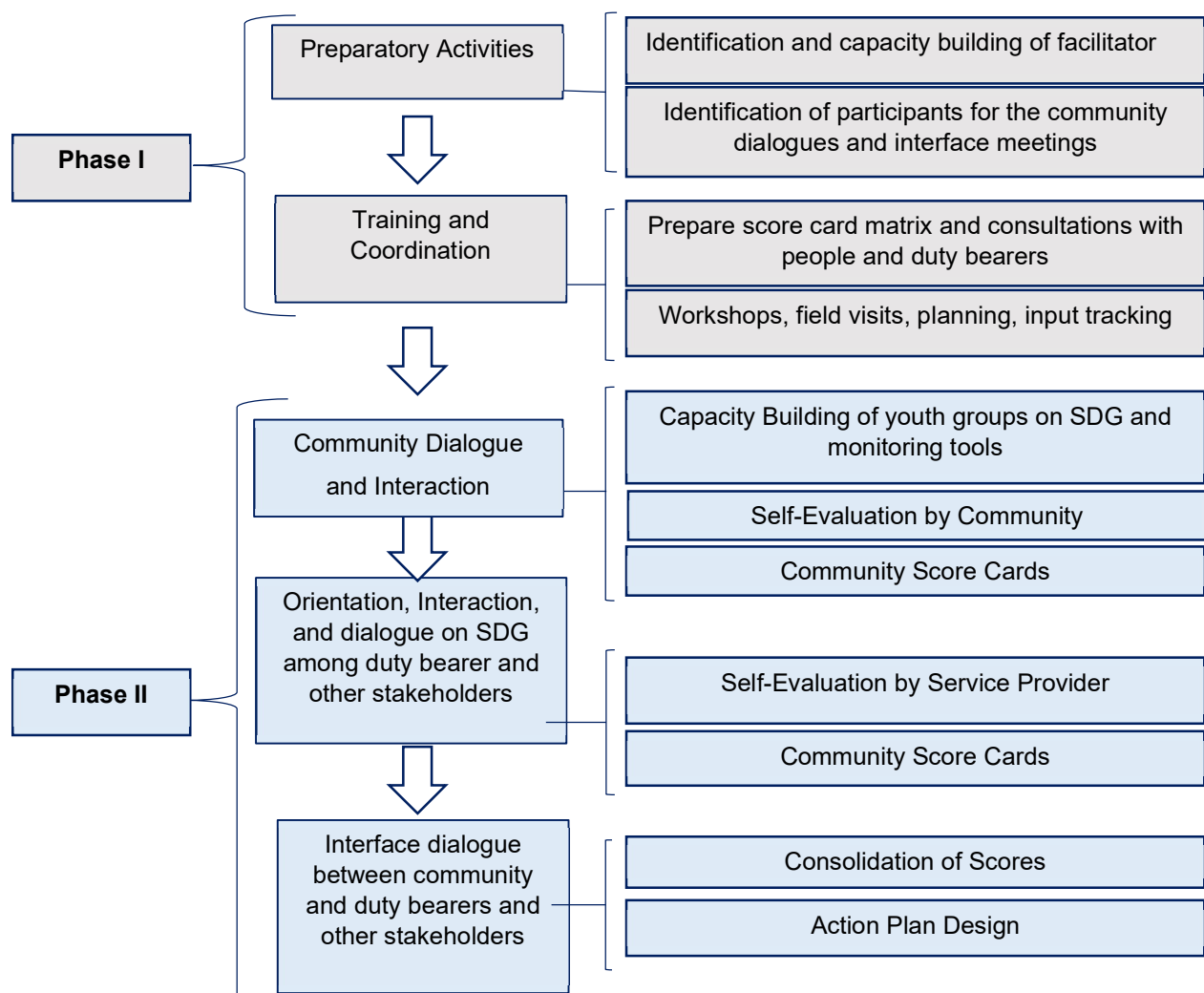
4,5,10,13,16 and 17. It will also contribute to strengthening linkages among SDG mechanisms and platforms in Nepal at local, national, regional, and global levels.

2.2 To influence government stakeholders for increased responsiveness on citizen engagement in SDG monitoring: Evidence generated from civil society will be used for policy and practice advocacy to strengthen government commitments to promote the participation of marginalized groups in SDG reviews, VNR, etc.

### 3. Approach and Methodology

The methodology comprises both desk research and primary data collection using a community scorecard tool.

Figure 1: Stages of Community Score Card Process







**Desk Review:** The study team reviewed the SDG national indicator and current policy documents, VNR reports, case studies, and reports produced by the Government of Nepal and other agencies.



**Primary Data Collection:** The study team developed the Community Scorecard focusing on SDG national indicators of SDG 4, 5, 10, 13, 16, and 17. The team facilitated the process to collect and analyze the progress status data from ward numbers 8 & 10 of Lekhbesi municipality and ward numbers 9 & 10 of Birendranagar municipality in Surkhet district, Karnali province. The score provided by each group in each indicator for existing scenario and improvement in future.



**Community Dialogue and Interaction:** Conducted community dialogue at ward and municipality level for collecting data using scorecard tools. Priority was given to women, Dalits, people with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ other marginalized people while conducting dialogue and interaction meetings.



**Interaction and dialogue among duty bearer and other stakeholders:** Interaction and dialogue held among the representatives of the municipality, ward offices, civil society representative, development activist, media, etc.



**Interface dialogue between community and duty bearers and other stakeholders:** Interface dialogue held at the municipality level among women, Dalits, people with disability, LGBTIQ+ other marginalized people, representatives from the municipality, ward offices, civil society representative, development activist, media, etc. A list of participants involved in consultations and interface meetings is given in Annex 6.8.



**Preparation of action plan:** Both municipalities have prepared action plans to improve SDG's progress in the future. The respective ward is responsible to plan and implement the activities with support from the respective municipalities and other agencies working in similar sectors/themes. Detailed action plans are given in [Annex 6](#) and [Annex 7](#).

#### 4. Scoring Process

The finding is based on the LNOB Nepal consortium's initiative on SDG monitoring adopting Community Score Card (CSC) focusing specific indicators under SDG goals 4, 5, 10, 13, 16 and 17 considering dire needs on improving progress on these goals. As part of the community scorecard, community people and local



government authorities make efforts in identifying progress and gaps in achieving Sustainable Development Goals. In the process of CSC, separate rankings are prepared for communities, duty bearers and there was a commonly agreed score based on interface meeting between the right holders and duty bearers. The differences in rating present condition by right holders and duty bearers' claim and future expectations on changes by both groups were later adjusted based on mutual understanding and discussion in the interface discussions. It indicates that this community-led participatory monitoring supports in providing more realistic tracking of the progress and expectations to avoid future conflict and promote collaboration and trust.

## 5. Results and Discussion

Followed by rights holders and duty bearers scoring using community scorecard, the consensus was made in given score and reasons during interface meeting. The score given ranges from 1-5 against the progress and scenario of each indicator on SDG 4, 5, 10, 13, 16, and 17, those much relevant and align to LNOB indicators. There was also provided the score for future improvement. The details of the status of those SDG indicators are given below in sections 4.1 to 4.6.

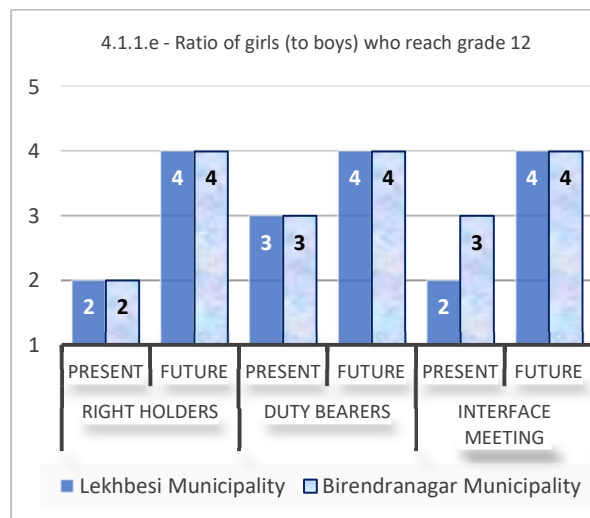
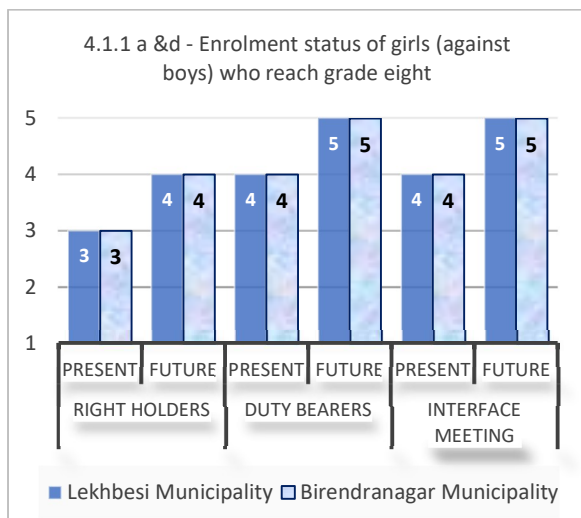


### 5.1 Goal 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

The enrolment status of girls (against boys) who reach grade eight in Birendranagar and Lekhbesi municipalities is found very good. Similarly, relative access to primary and secondary education of boys and girls in Birendranagar municipality was found very good, whereas found good progress in Lekhbesi. The literacy rate of 15-24 years women in both the municipalities is found very good. Access to education for both girls and boys was found good due to creating enabling environment at home and in society. However, still observed discrimination among boys and girls in higher education and vocational training. Youth and adults with technical and vocational training found moderate status in both the municipalities. Similarly, accessibility to the school physical environment (electricity, internet, WASH facilities, and disability-friendly facilities) found moderate in both the municipalities. Low progress is mainly due to not available good Wi-Fi networks and disability-friendly infrastructure. The proportion of trained teachers in pre-primary, primary, lower secondary, and higher secondary education was found very good in Birendranagar municipality whereas found good in Lekhbesi municipality. There is also given progressive score in each indicator for securing a higher score in the future.

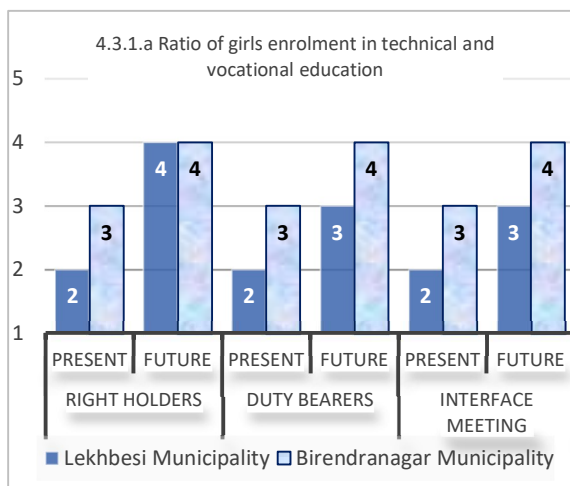
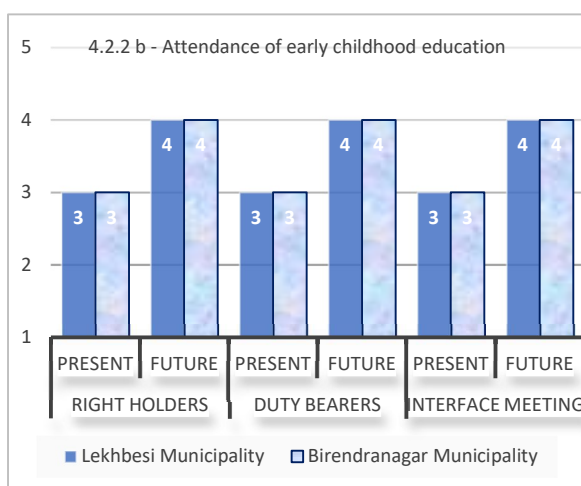






The discussion around the enrolment status of girls (against boys) who reach grade eight in Lekhbesi and Birendranagar municipality ward no 8 & 10 was marked very good during the interface meeting. But the participants shared that there still exists the issue of child marriage. There exists some degree of discrimination between sons and daughters at home. The school management committee commits to continue school enrolment campaigns for all classes in the coming years in a more robust way.

Regarding the ratio of girls (to boys) who reach grade 12 is relatively low. This is due to the prevalence of problems of child marriage among adolescents. The situation has further deteriorated as child marriage is on the rise due to poor economic conditions to reduce expenses on the girl child. The Ward office is committed to carrying out public awareness programs and women empowerment-related programs at the ward level.



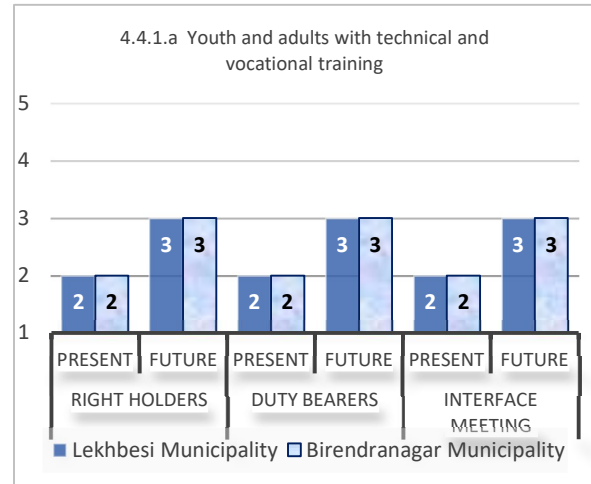
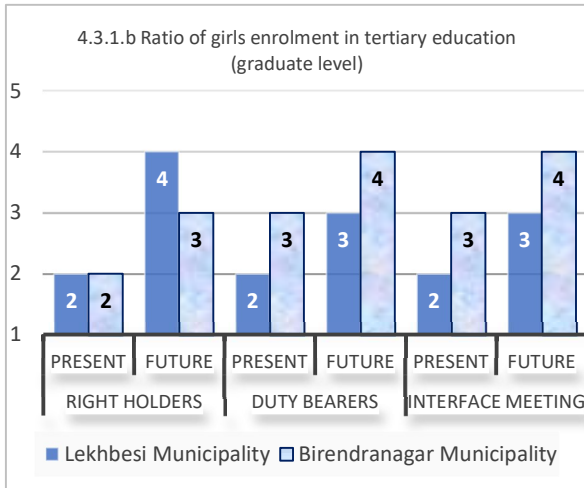
There is good access to the school that supports well for attendance of early childhood education. However, there is a lack of educational materials and physical infrastructure. The municipality and School Management Committee are committed

The ratio of girls' enrolment in technical and vocational education is relatively low. This is because of the lack of economic condition, financial status, physical infrastructure, technical training, and learning opportunities. However, there is



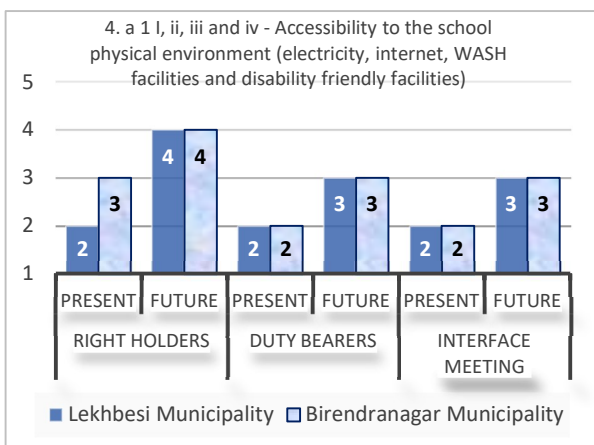
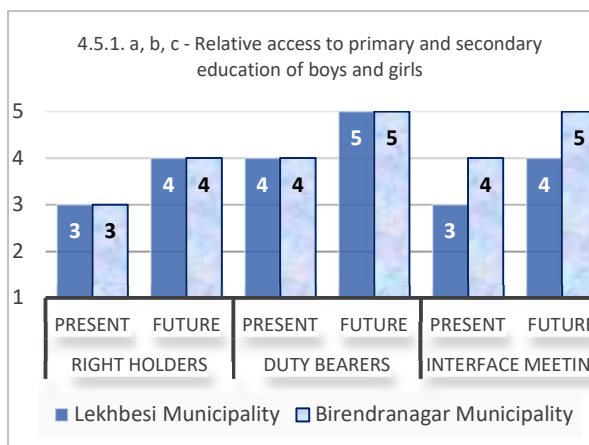
to developing educational materials and infrastructure.

provision for teaching in agriculture subject but to a limited extent. The municipality and school have plans to arrange technical and vocational education with the help of an education training centre.



The Ratio of girls' enrolment in tertiary education (graduate level) is relatively low due to lack of access to higher education (due to economic and geographical issues) at the local level. The Municipality and wards are committed to putting into priority the girls' enrolment in tertiary education.

The prevalence of Youth and adults with technical and vocational training is low. This is due to a lack of knowledge about who gives training and where to get it (lack of information flow) supported by poor economic conditions, difficult physical infrastructure and training are not adequate. With the help of the education training center, the municipality and school are planning to arrange technology-friendly training and vocational training within two years.



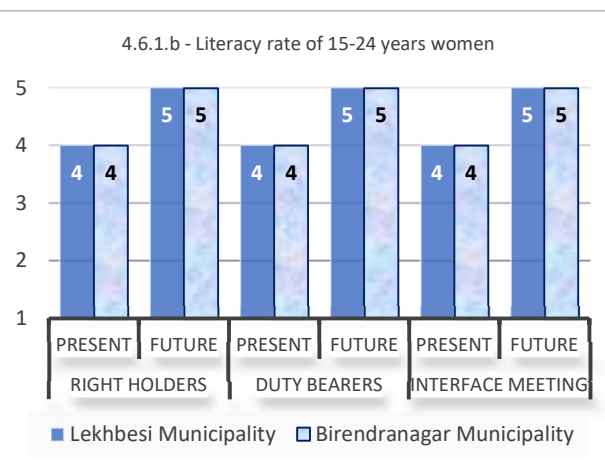
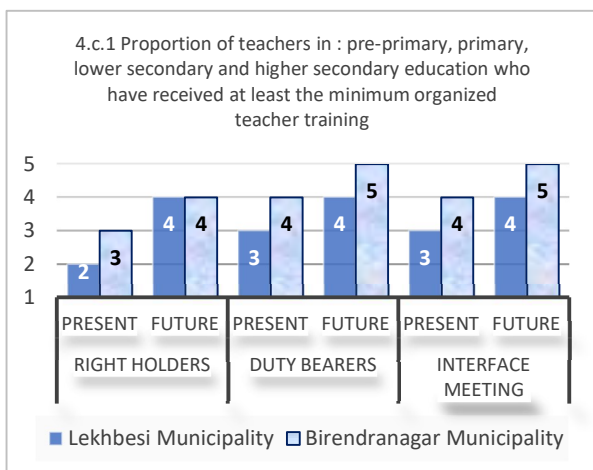
The Relative access to primary and secondary education of boys and girls is good in both wards

The Accessibility to the school physical environment (electricity, internet, WASH facilities,



of the municipality. There is a school in every ward and girl's education is the priority. The Municipality committed to continuing to promote equal access for both boys and girls.

and disability-friendly facilities) is poor. There is a lack of disability-friendly infrastructure, lack of drinking water purification, lack of effective use of the internet, lack of sanitation, financial, material, and geographical problems in schools. With the help of Federal and provincial governments, the municipality and school are planning to ensure disability-friendly infrastructure and arrangement of pure drinking water and proper toilet within two years.



The Proportion of teachers in pre-primary, primary, lower secondary, and higher secondary education who have received at least the minimum organized teacher training (e.g. pedagogical training) is good in schools of both wards. Educational training is provided to teachers periodically, but technical training is required.

The Literacy rate of 15-24 years women is good as almost everyone is literate. However, emphasis should be placed on inclusive education.

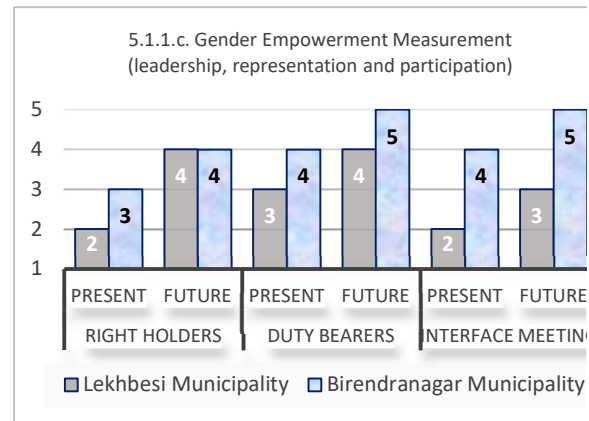
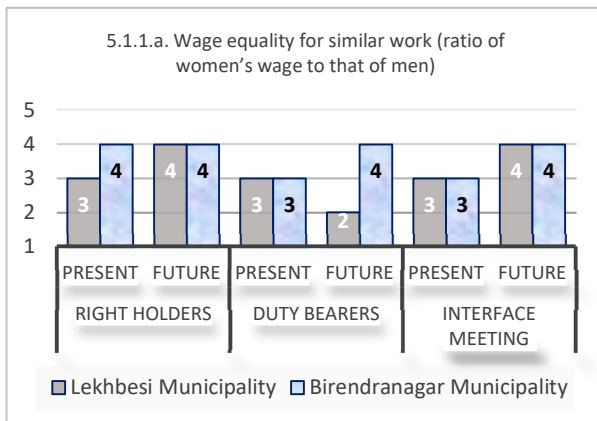


### 5.2 Goal 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The Gender Empowerment Measurement (leadership, representation, and participation) found very good in Birendranagar municipality whereas found moderate in Lekhbesi municipality. Progress made due to enabling environment creating at local government and community level. Wage equality for similar work (ratio of women's wage to that of men) found good in both municipalities, however, there are still discrepancies in wage payment among men and women in informal labor sectors such as construction and agriculture labor. There are available a smaller number of skilled women laborers in comparison to men. Awareness about reproductive rights among girls and women and the proportion of women aged

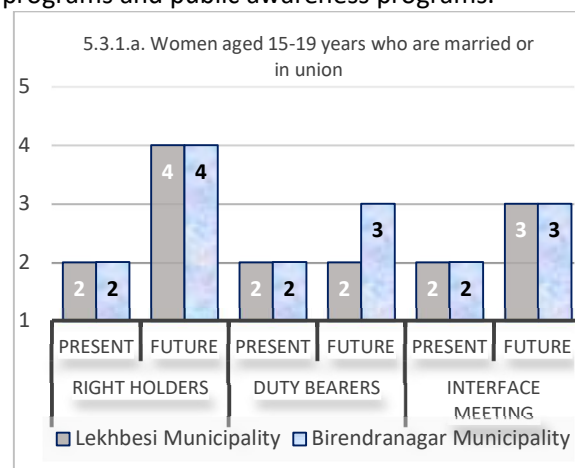
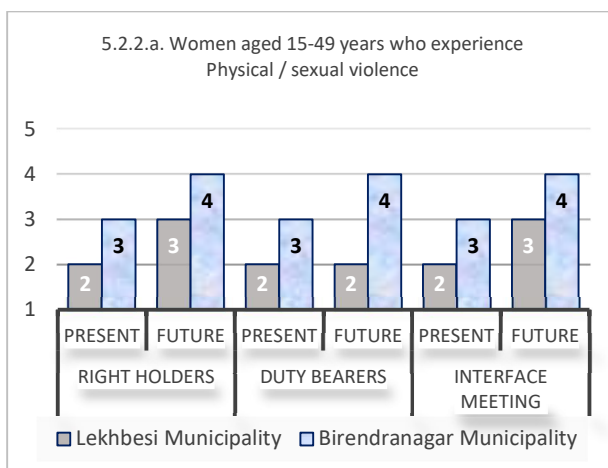


15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use, and reproductive health care are found good in both municipalities. The proportion of seats held by women in local government found good, however, found moderate progress in the provincial and national parliament. Right holders perceived increased local government seats due to the reservation policy. There should be positive thinking and practice of political parties and different level of stakeholders in providing equal opportunity in the decision-making of the position of women and girls.



The wage equality for similar work (ratio of women's wage to that of men) is average. Efforts have been made in most areas for equal pay for equal work but some discrimination in remuneration. So, the Municipality committed to making additional efforts to ensure equal pay for equal work within Five years.

The Gender Empowerment Measurement (leadership, representation, and participation) is relatively low. Despite the efforts to ensure women's participation in leadership, representation, and participation, it is merely happening to complete the process. Actual practices for the empowerment of women are lacking. For this, the ward is committed to enhancing gender empowerment within five years through women's empowerment programs and public awareness programs.

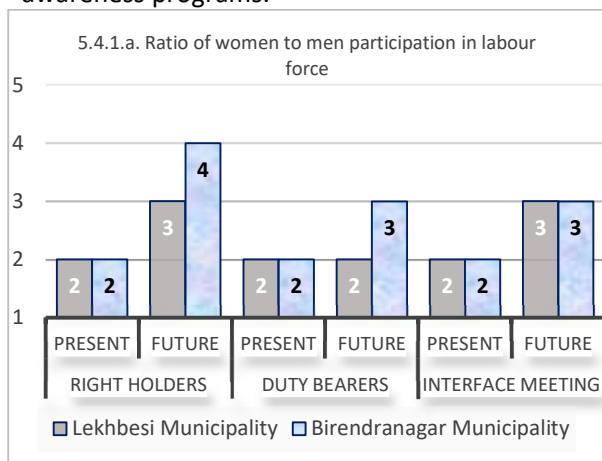


Regarding the women aged 15-49 years who experience Physical/sexual violence, the problem

The rate of women aged 15-19 years who are married or in the union is higher. This is due to

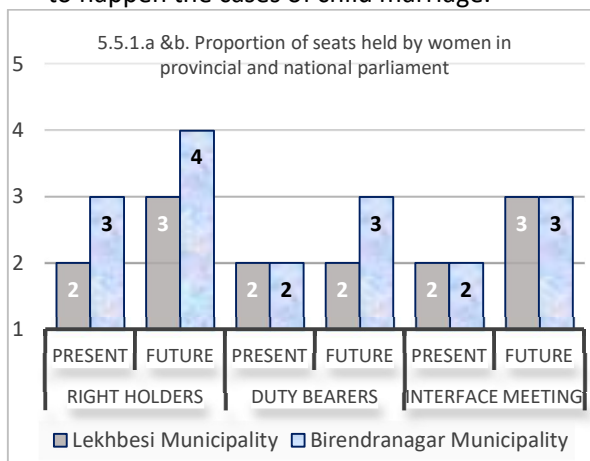


exists but women are not able to share or speak openly due to fear of society. There was a clear commitment from the municipality and ward representatives to tackle these issues with robust women empowerment programs and public awareness programs.

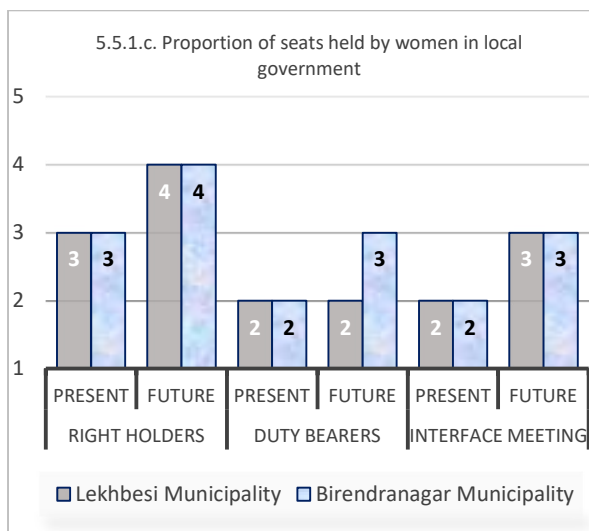


The ratio of women to men's participation in the labor force is low. The women who participate in the labor force must work harder.

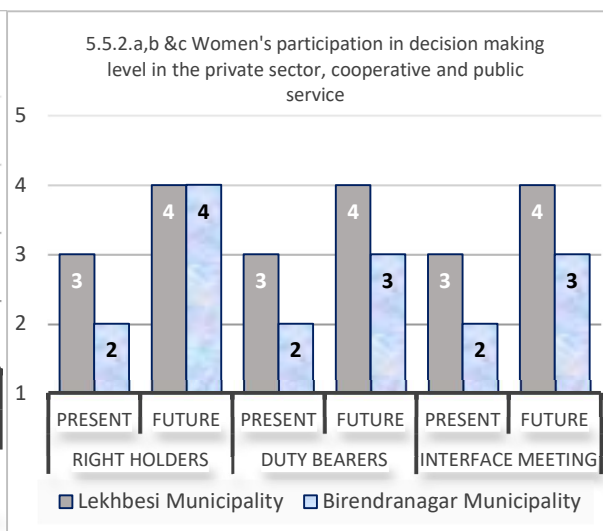
child marriage. In the present context, adolescents themselves have developed a tendency to marry at an early age. The municipality will continue to carry out awareness campaigns and strictly observe not to happen the cases of child marriage.



The proportion of seats held by women in provincial and national parliament is low. There are representations of women as a constitutional mandate, but this is merely process oriented. There are very low women in a leadership role.

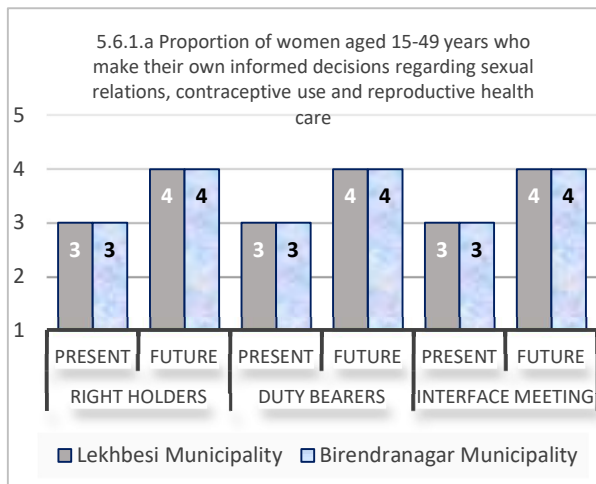
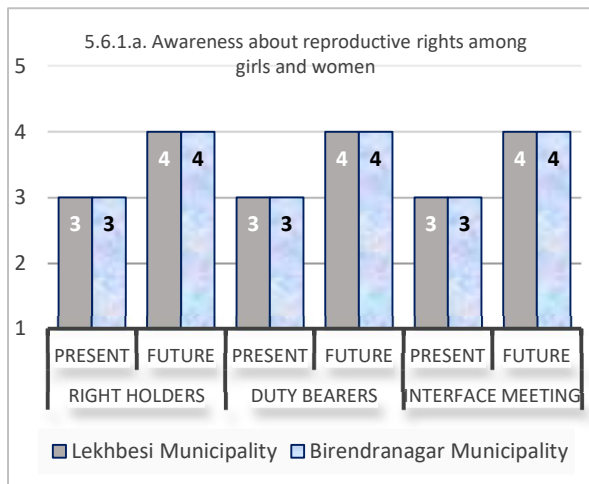


The proportion of seats held by women in local government is low. There are representations of women as a constitutional mandate, but this is merely process oriented. There are very low women in a leadership role.



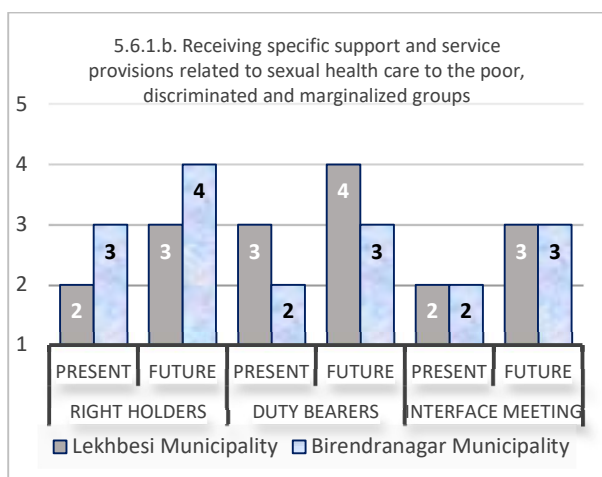
The women's participation in decision-making level in the private sector, cooperative, and public service is average. There are representations of women as a constitutional mandate, but this is merely process-oriented. There are very low women in leadership and decision-making role.





The Awareness about reproductive rights among girls and women is average. The awareness has been raised through the joint efforts of schools, local government, and organizations. The inclusion of reproductive health in the curriculum has helped to provide a basic understanding of SRHR among girls. The municipality and ward showed commitment to developing separate breastfeeding rooms in schools and health posts.

The proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use, and reproductive health care is average. There is a growing practice in the community where women participate in decision-making to give birth to a child but unable to make decisions on their own.



Receiving specific support and service provisions related to sexual health care to the poor, discriminated and marginalized groups is low. Services have not been specified and managed for the target group. Rights holders, on the other hand, said that they were oriented towards equality. The Municipality is committed to increasing the reach of the services to the targeted groups.

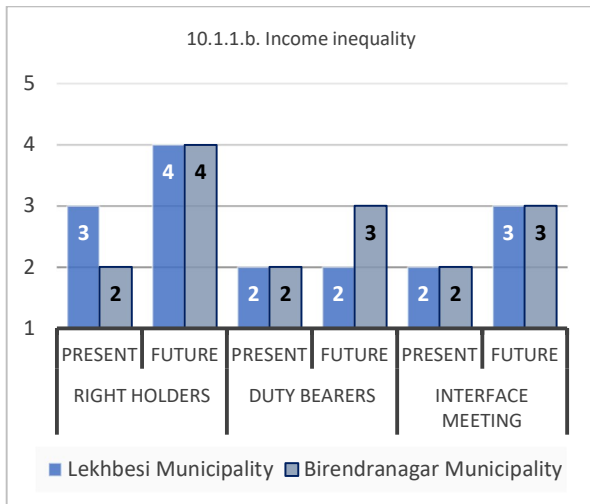




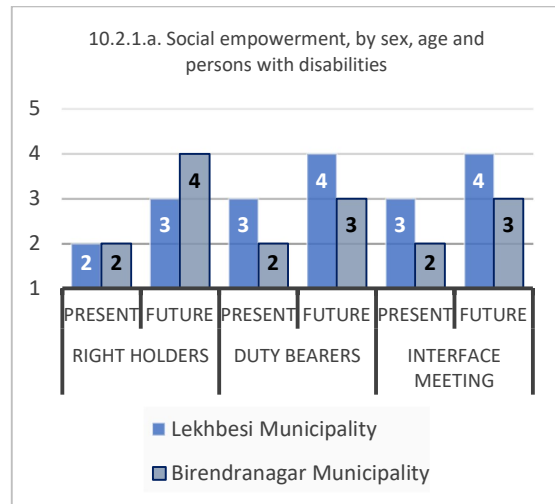


### 5.3 Goal 10 - Reduce inequality within and among countries.

Overall progress under SDG 10 was found moderate as shown in Table 3. Social empowerment, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities found good in Lekhbesi municipality. There is also progress in social empowerment dimensions by sex and age, however, needs to focus persons with disability. There is the improved situation on childhood free of stunting (ratio of richest vs poorest quintile) in Birendranagar municipality, whereas found moderate result in Lekhbesi, this was due to low household income and not available nutritious food in comparison to rich. Participants were given a progressive score with the plan of action to reduce inequality at the community and municipality levels.

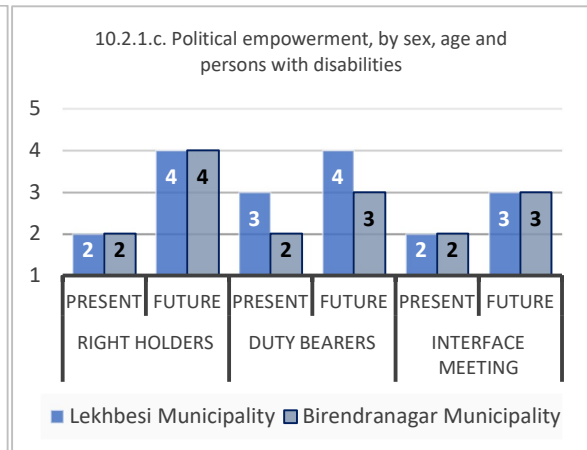
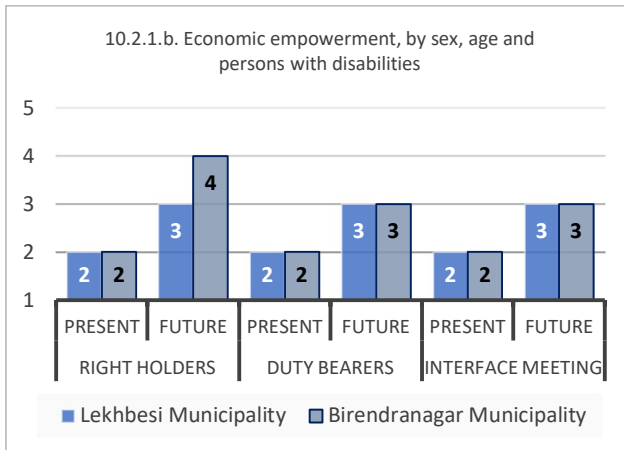


The Income inequality is rated low by duty bearers while right holders shared that the income inequality is average. Wages are often determined based on work but minimum and maximum criteria are not specified.



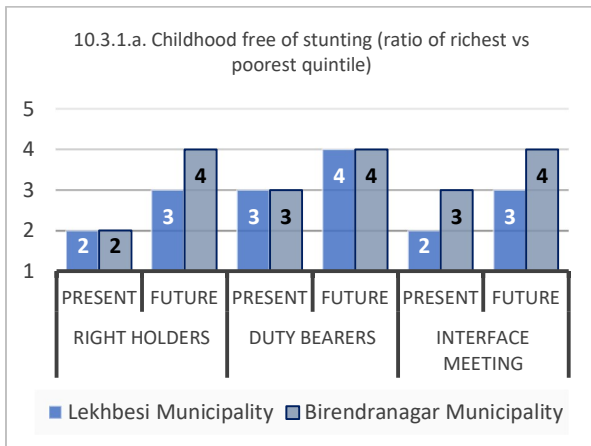
The social empowerment, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities is average. It has not been possible to empower all the issues of disability equally. At the local level, there should be a policy budget and program arrangements to promote social empowerment based on gender, age, and disability. They expressed their commitment to reducing it in three years.





Economic empowerment, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities is low. There is provision for allowances, but the classification of disability needs to be improved. There is also a lack of capacity, diversity, and opportunity for all social groups. For this, municipalities, wards, and related organizations have launched economic empowerment programs based on women, men, gender, age, and disability. The government of Karnali Province has launched its 'Bank Account for Daughters, Life-long Security' programme. They expressed their commitment to reducing it further within three years.

The political empowerment, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities is low. Political empowerment based on gender, age is more evident but not based on disability. There are representations of women as a constitutional mandate but this is merely process-oriented. So, municipalities, wards, and related bodies are committed to promoting social and political empowerment based on gender, age, and disability and reduce discrimination in three years.



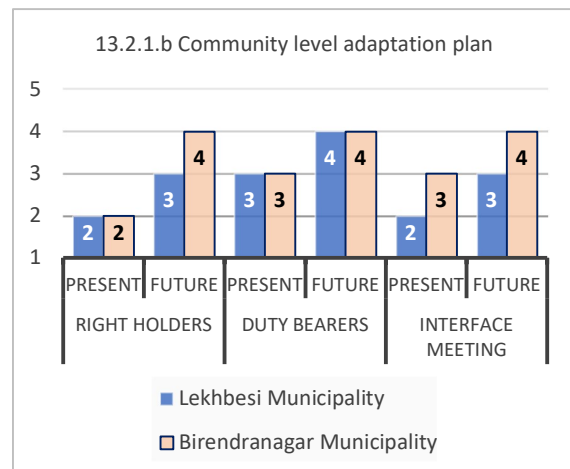
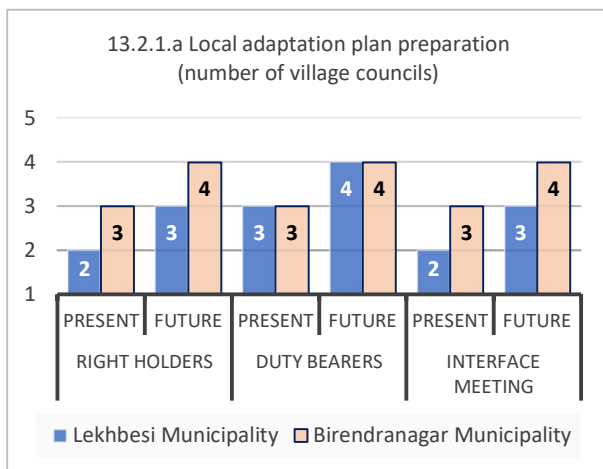
The Childhood free of stunting (ratio of richest vs poorest quintile) is relatively low. Poverty and the lack of awareness are the causes of lacking nutritious food.





#### 5.4 Goal 13 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

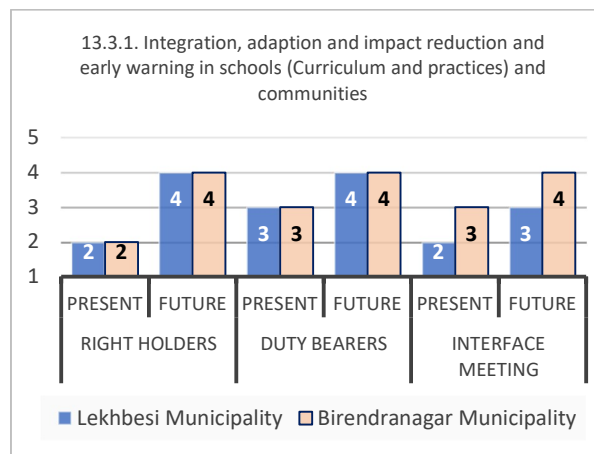
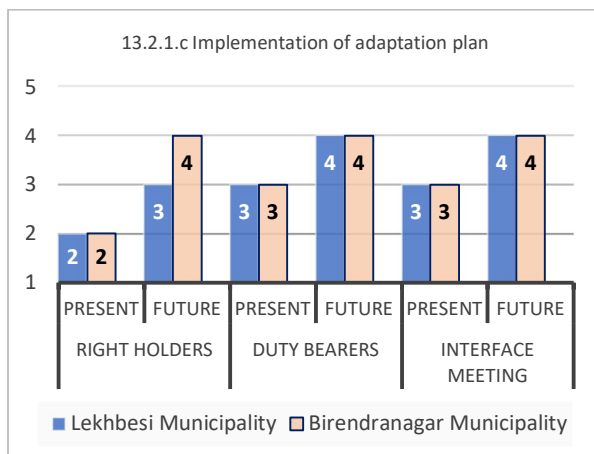
The status of local adaptation plan preparation (number of village councils) found good in Birendranagar municipality whereas found moderate in Lekhbesi municipality. Comparatively found good result on community-level adaptation plan, integration, adaption and impact reduction and early warning in schools and proportion of schools covered by climate change education in Birendranagar municipality whereas found moderate result in Lekhbesi. It was also discussed in the interface meeting that there is a low level of awareness on community and school level adaptation plans and their practice. Duty bearers claimed that they considered some of the activities mentioned in the adaptation plan during annual planning and implementation such as gully control, plantation, etc.



The situation of Local adaptation plan preparation (number of village councils) is poor at the community level. Attempts have been made but not everyone has enough information. There is a need for information on balanced development. The Disaster Management Committee is committed to create early warning programs, publish information and continuously make environment-friendly plans related to disaster management.

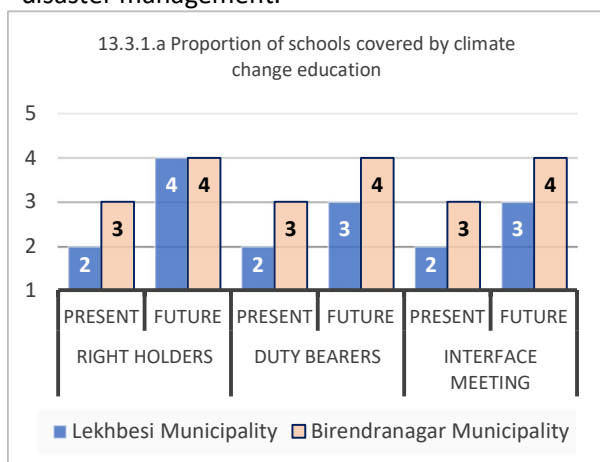
The situation of community-level adaptation plans is poor at the community level. Attempts have been made but not everyone has enough information. There is a need for information on balanced development. The Disaster Management Committee is committed to create early warning programs, publish information and continuously make environment-friendly plans related to disaster management.





The situation of implementation of adaptation plan is average at the community level. There is inadequate preparation, though attempts have been made not everyone has enough information. An action plan has been made but adequate budgeting is required. The Disaster Management Committee is committed to create early warning programs, publish information and continuously make environment-friendly plans related to disaster management.

The integration, adaption, and impact reduction, and early warning in schools (Curriculum and practices) and communities are low. This has been limited to curriculum and there are no practical exercises or drills. The school management committee is committed to continuing to work with the help of the municipality and the ward to solve this problem.



The proportion of schools covered by climate change education is low. This has not been adequately implemented and is limited to the curriculum. This has been limited to curriculum and there are no practical exercises or drills. The school management committee is committed to continuing to work with the help of the municipality and the ward to solve this problem.

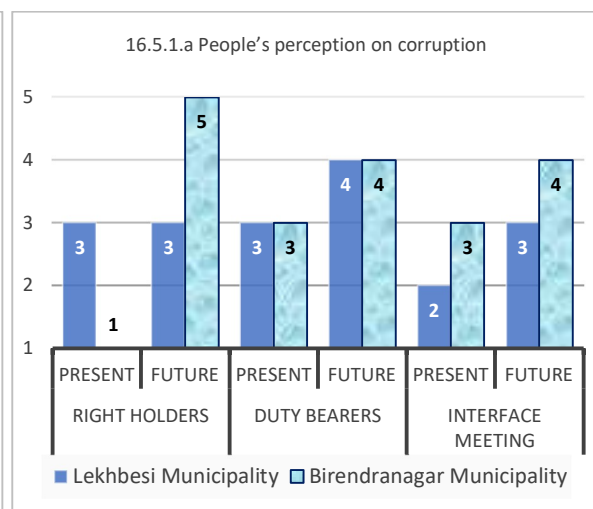
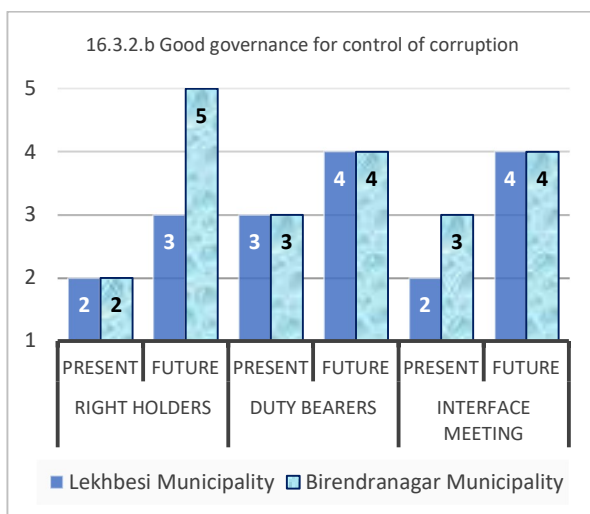


### 5.5 Goal 16 - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels

The proportion of the population subjected to physical, psychological, or sexual violence in the previous 12 months found more in Birendranagar municipality in comparison to Lekhbesi. The practice of transparency, accountability, and anti-corruption in public was found very good in Birendranagar municipality whereas found moderate in Lekhbesi. There is not much



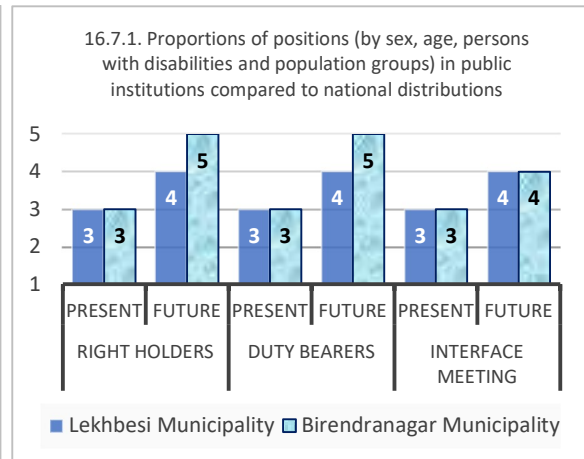
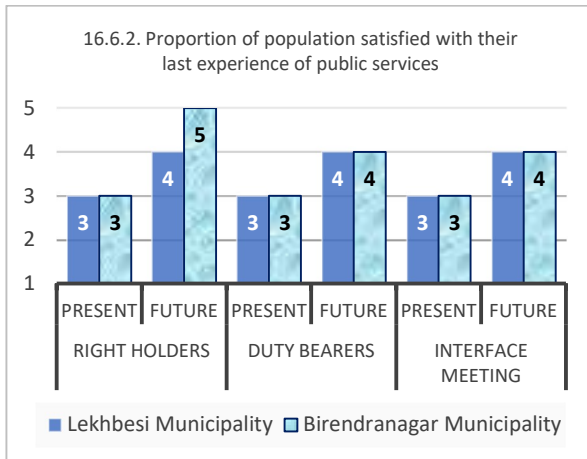
practice of openness and reporting against the violence in Lekhbesi. Comparatively good governance practice and people’s perception against the corruption in Birendranagar municipality found good as compared to Lekhbesi. There is the practice of public and social auditing in Birendranagar municipality and needs to increase awareness on governance practice in Lekhbesi municipality. The proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services found positive in both municipalities. Similarly, proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities, and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions found good in both municipalities. However, the number of decisions making positions from these groups of people are less in political and government structure and rarely heard their concern and voices.



The Proportion of the population subjected to physical, psychological, or sexual violence in the previous 12 months is average. There are only sporadic cases of psychological trauma, but people are not able to openly express their problems. The municipality, ward, and community are committed to continuing to work together to solve such incidents of violence including preventing to happen any incidents.

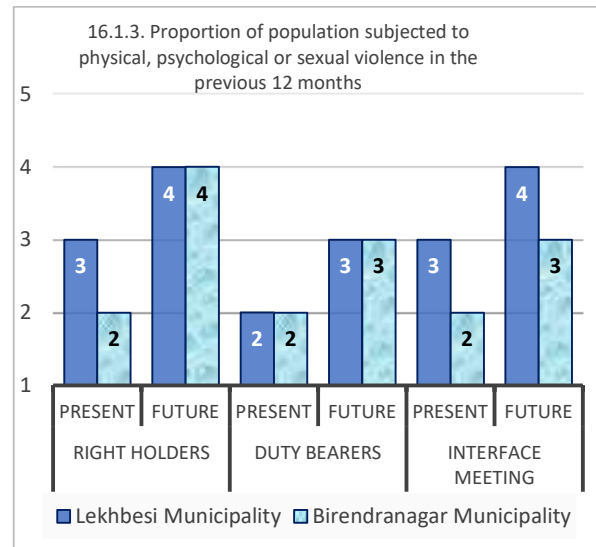
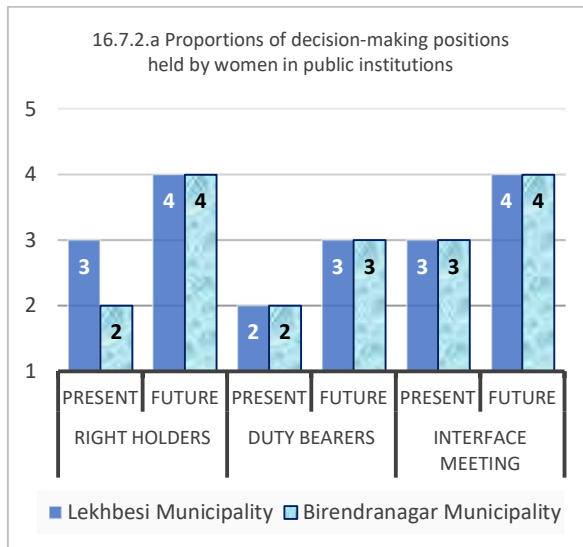
The proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18 is average. This is also because the people are unable to come openly and are hesitant to make the incident public. The municipality, ward, and community are committed to continuing to work together to solve such incidents of violence including preventing to happen any incidents.





The state of transparency, accountability and anti-corruption in public is low. There is a negative impact on the working style due to the inability to speak openly about corruption. The concerned associations, organizations, and civil society should lobby to control such negative practices.

Good governance for control of corruption is rated low. This has been practices fulfilling the legal obligation and is merely process oriented. There have been arrangements made for public hearings and audits. Municipality and ward offices are committed to continuing to make their services transparent and public.



The people's perception of corruption is not good. The people are unable to speak openly against corruption. The Duty bearer said that ensuring women's participation, improving the legal system will contribute to make people's perceptions positive and reduce the cases of corruption. The municipality is committed to launching more awareness-raising programmes

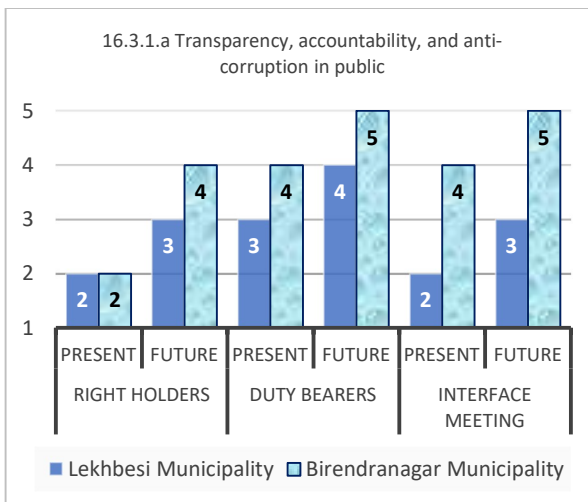
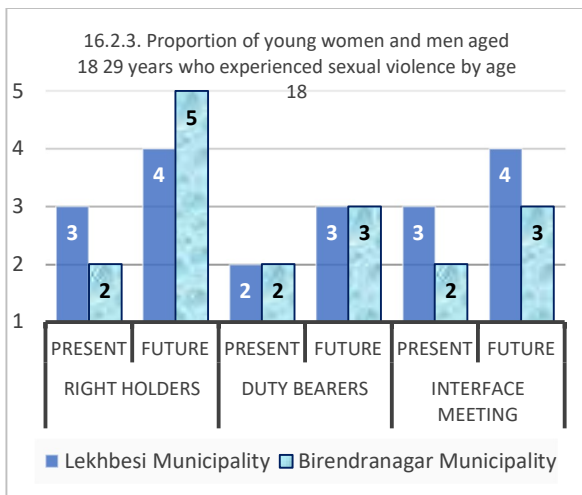
The proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services is average. The right holders expressed that they felt that access to justice has increased to some degree since they have elected local government at the community level. As the local government is closer to them, the service recipients have become aware of the public services and have increased their access to the services. The





and strict provisions to overcome the practices of corruption.

municipality is committed to continuing to make additional efforts to increase it further.



The proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities, and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions is average. Their representations are merely process-oriented because of constitutional mandate but lack the decisive role. The local government showed commitment to creating additional provisions for women's participation and grievance redressal.

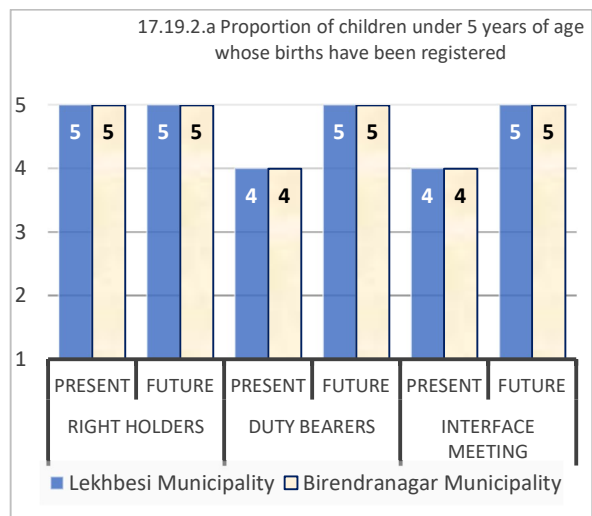
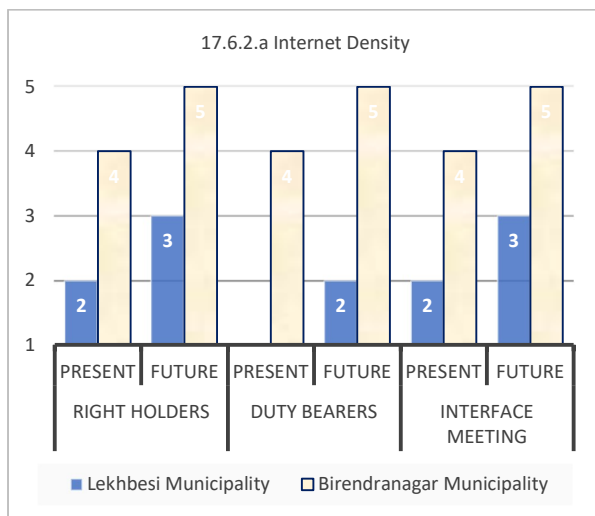
The proportions of decision-making positions held by women in public institutions are average. There is increased activism of women in local schools and women's groups. Despite increasing women's participation, the decisive role is weak.



### 5.6 Goal 17 - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

The proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered was found very good in both Lekhbesi and Birendranagar municipalities. This was possible due to the active role of community health volunteers and local government. Internet density was found very good in Birendranagar municipality and moderate in Lekhbesi. Birendranagar municipality lies in the accessible and urban areas whereas, Lekhbesi lies in the peri-urban area and not good coverage of internet. The number of public and private organizations aligning gender-responsive budgets in their regular planning and budgeting found good in both municipalities. However, implementation and monitoring are still poor. The number of public programmes focused on SDG targets and the number of private institutions reflecting SDG indicators in their regular result matrixes found good in Birendranagar, whereas found moderate in Lekhbesi. Participants of both municipalities perceived that the role of volunteers would be a great contribution to achieve the SDG.

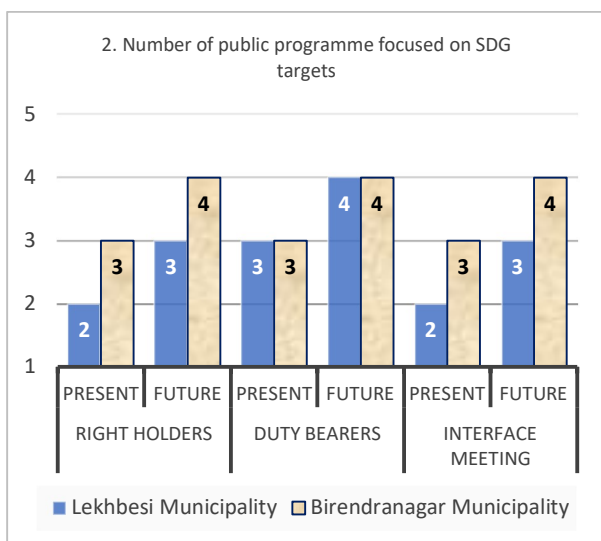
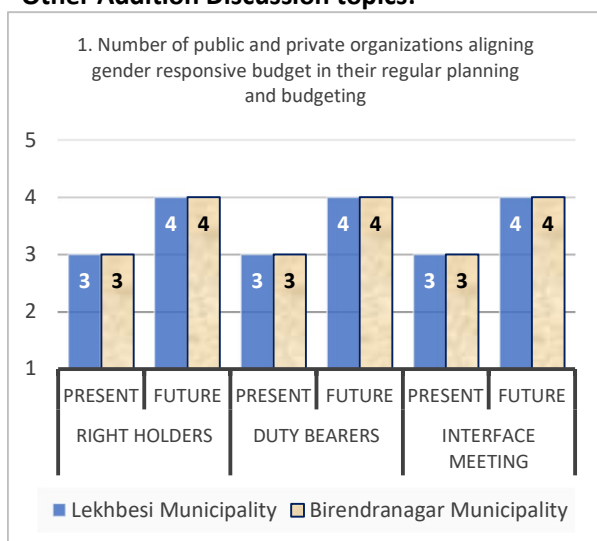




The internet density is low in community level. There is a problem with low internet access and telephone networks. As a result, there is lack of internet access in rural areas. The local government is committed for Expansion of the Internet through public and private partnerships.

The Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered is very good. This is because of strong and effective policy system in place and provision of incentive allowance by the State Government.

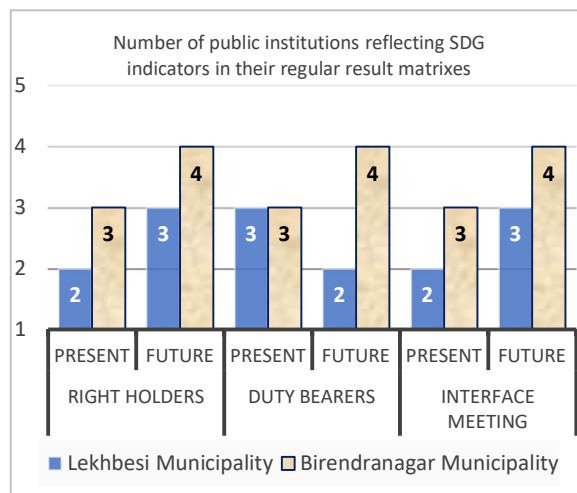
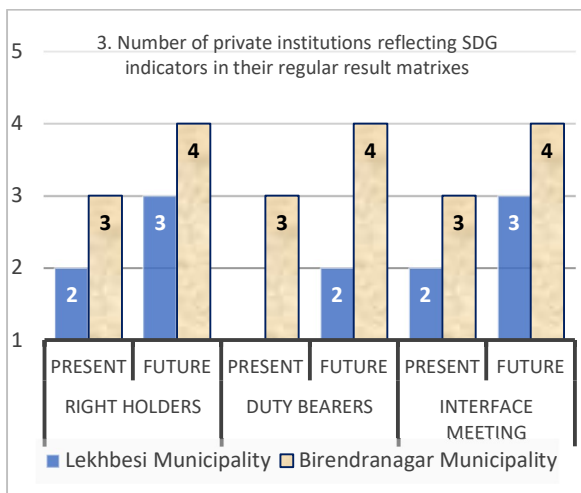
**Other Addition Discussion topics:**



The number of public and private organizations aligning gender responsive budget in their regular planning and budgeting is average.

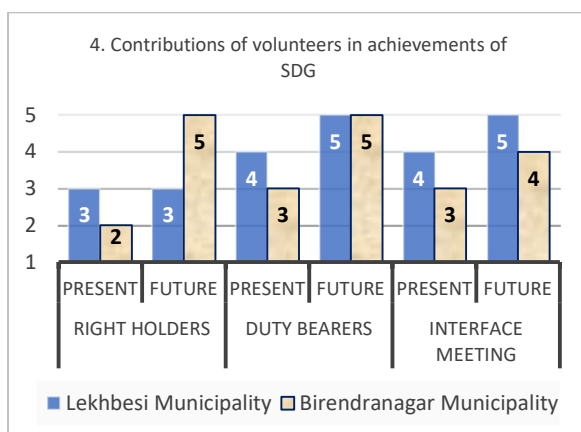
The number of public programme focused on SDG targets is low.





Number of private institutions reflecting SDG indicators in their regular result matrixes is low. There has not been much publicity on this issue at the community level though some effort are made but lack adequate budgeting.

The number of public institutions reflecting SDG indicators in their regular result matrixes is low. There has not been much publicity on this issue at the community level.



The Contributions of volunteers in achievements of SDG is very good. Their contribution of FCHV is Invaluable.

## 6. Learning

- The community people including marginalized or intersectionally disadvantaged population groups and civil society have been able to come together to present their problems with the local government and able to look at these problems in conjunction with SDGs and national indicators.
- There is increased recognition about the role of the right holders and the duty bearers in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and national indicators. While from this event both parties have been able to realize their roles and responsibilities more seriously.
- In keeping with the project's goals, evidence-based advocacy appeared to be beneficial in making the issues and concerns of marginalized or intersectionally disadvantaged population groups more meaningful.



## 7. Conclusion

Nepal is pursuing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with strong national commitment as a means for transformative change in the country through its integrated approach and the principle of “Leaving No One Behind (LNOB)”. The development partners, various international government representatives, INGOs and other key players including UN Agencies are also not paying much attention and ready for coordinated actions to accelerate SDGs 2030 agenda in Nepal.

VSO Nepal as part of the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) consortium in Nepal and partnership with International Civil Service Centre (ICSC), funded by Robert Bosch Foundation is implementing the Making Voices Heard and Count in Nepal: Youth-led SDG Monitoring project. The project has been implementing by the LNOB Consortium in Nepal, currently led by VSO. The project aims to bring citizen’s voices on the progress of SDG goals under specific national indicators by using various participatory and social accountability tools including community scorecards. To meet the project objective, VSO and its implementing partners planned to assess the indicators under SDGs 4,5, 10, 13, 16 16, and 17 using the community scorecard tool. Before the assessment, a community scorecard was developed based on the scoping LNOB indicators prepared by LNOB Consortium. Data and information were collected through different levels of consultation meetings and dialogue with the rights holder, duty bearers, and joint interface meetings. The consensus was made during the interface meeting on the given score and reasons for the existing scenario. Based on the given scenario of indicators in the above SDGs, the action plan was prepared for securing a better result in the future. The score was given ranges from 1-5 according to assessment of progress and scenario of each indicator.

Under SDG 4, enrolment status and relative access to primary and secondary education of boys and girls found very good in Birendranagar municipality, whereas found slightly lower status in Lekhbesi. The literacy rate of 15-24 years women in both municipalities were found very good. Access to education for both girls and boys was found good due to creating enabling environment at home and in society. However, there is still discrimination among boys and girls in higher education and vocational training. Accessibility to the school physical environment was found moderate in both the municipalities. Moderate results were found due to not available good Wi-Fi networks and disability-friendly infrastructure. The proportion of trained teachers in pre-primary, primary, lower secondary, and higher secondary education found very good in Birendranagar whereas found good in Lekhbesi municipality.

Under SDG 5, Gender Empowerment Measurement (leadership, representation, and participation) was found very good in Birendranagar municipality whereas found moderate in Lekhbesi municipality. Progress made due to creating enabling environment at the local government and community level. Wage equality for similar work (ratio of women’s wage to that of men) found good in both municipalities, however, still found discrepancies in wage payment among men and women in informal labor sectors such as construction and agriculture labor. There are a smaller number of skilled women labor available in comparison to men. Awareness about reproductive rights among girls and women and the proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use, and reproductive health care are found good in both municipalities. The proportion of seats held by women in local government found good, however, found moderate progress in the provincial and national parliament.

Under SDG 10, social empowerment, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities found good in Lekhbesi municipality and found moderate in Birendranagar municipality. There is progress in social empowerment dimensions by sex and age, however, needs to focus persons with disability. There is the improved



situation on childhood free of stunting (ratio of richest vs poorest quintile) in Birendranagar municipality, whereas found moderate in Lekhbesi, this was due to low household income and not available nutritious food in comparison to rich.

As stated under SDG 13, the status of local adaptation plan preparation found good in Birendranagar municipality whereas found moderate in Lekhbesi municipality. Comparatively found good result on community-level adaptation plan, integration, adaption and impact reduction and early warning in schools and proportion of schools covered by climate change education in Birendranagar municipality whereas found moderate in Lekhbesi. As reflected in the interface meeting stakeholders and the local government considered activities mentioned in the adaptation plan during annual planning and implementation such as gully control, plantation, etc.

Under SDG 16, the proportion of the population subjected to physical, psychological, or sexual violence in the previous 12 months found more in Birendranagar municipality as compare to Lekhbesi. There is not much practice of openness and reporting against the violence in Lekhbesi. The practice of transparency, accountability, and anti-corruption in public was found very good in Birendranagar municipality whereas found moderate in Lekhbesi. Good governance practice and people's perception against the corruption in Birendranagar municipality were found good in comparison to Lekhbesi. The proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services found positive in both municipalities. Similarly, proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities, and population groups) in public institutions found good in both municipalities. However, the number of decisions making positions from these groups of people are less in political and government structure and rarely heard their concern and voices.

Assessment result under SDG 17 shows that the proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered was found very good in both Lekhbesi and Birendranagar municipalities. This was possible due to the active role of community health volunteers and local government. Similarly, internet density was found very good in Birendranagar municipality and moderate in Lekhbesi. The number of public and private organizations aligning gender-responsive budgets in their regular planning and budgeting found good in both municipalities. However, implementation and monitoring were found poor. The number of public programmes focused on SDG targets and the number of private institutions reflecting SDG indicators in their regular result matrixes found good in Birendranagar, whereas found moderate in Lekhbesi. Participants of both municipalities perceived that the role of volunteers would be a great contribution to achieve the SDG.

## 8. Recommendation

- By making the roles of the federal, provincial, and local government more effective, create a clear directive in line with the LNOB principles.
- VSO and consortium members need to engage in annual and semi-annual (periodic) monitoring, evaluation, and policy lobbying as part of the project.
- The right holders need to impetus local government, non-governmental agencies, and the community to monitor whether progress is being made.
- It is necessary to ensure that 50 percent of youth and women representatives from local government participate while implementing programs based on inclusive participation.



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## Annexes

### Annex 1: Current Status by group work of rights holders (Lekhbesi Municipality Ward Nos. 8 and 10)

<b>SDG 4: Quality Education</b>	<b>SDG 5: Gender Equality</b>	<b>Goal 10: Reduce inequality</b>	<b>Goal 13: Climate Action</b>	<b>Goal 16. Peace and Justice Strong Institutions</b>	<b>Goal 17. Partnerships to Achieve the Goal</b>
There is a good arrangement of day-lunch in the primary school.	Efforts for equal participation	A state of caste discrimination	Not everyone knows about disaster management.	Lack of access to justice	Ward used to share but need further coordination
The scholarship is available for Dalits, disabled, diligent students.	Women can raise their voices.	Disability-friendly schools but not everywhere (only related to certain disabilities)	There have been some efforts in collaboration with the Red Cross and the ward	Lack of access to information and information on justice There has been little access to justice since the local government took office.	Problems with low internet access and telephone network
Adequate number of teachers available in schools	Efforts for equal representation and leadership	There is no religious discrimination.	Limited to the curriculum on climate change but lacking practical knowledge.	Impact of people with access (panic)	There is no experience of budget implementation including gender
There are arrangements for pieces of training but not enough. Technical	Not everyone is aware of women's rights.	Equal pay for equal work has not been fully implemented.	Adverse effects on agriculture due to climate change (pest infestation in seed and reduction in production)	Not being able to speak openly about corruption.	
teachers have not enough. Lack of technical teachers	The breastfeeding room started but was not adequately operated.	General differences in language on a geographical basis	Climate change		
Free textbooks	Representation, leadership, and participation are only				

	for fulfillment but there are problems in implementation.				
Lack of adequate educational materials	Lack of Efforts to Enhance Women's Capabilities (Training Seminar)				
Lack of adequate playground for students	The problem of child marriage remains				
Lack of drinking water purification system					
Lack of proper management of school toilets.					
Lack of effective implementation of sanitary pads					

Annex 2: Current Status (Group work of service providers) (Lekhbesi Municipality Ward Nos. 8 and 10)

<b>SDG 4: Quality Education</b>	<b>SDG 5: Gender Equality</b>	<b>Goal 10: Reduce inequality</b>	<b>Goal 13: Climate Action</b>	<b>Goal 16. Peace and Justice Strong Institutions</b>	<b>Goal 17. Partnerships to Achieve the Goal</b>
Arrangement of restroom including first aid	Women empowerment program	Caste discrimination	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2076 issued	Judicial Committee at shift level (Deputy Mayor two members one woman mandatory)	Conducting programs on matching funds with all three levels of government and partner organizations
School nurse arrangement under school health	Women's right to patrimonial property	Political parties have ensured candidature in the target group including 33 percent of women	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee formed.	Domestic violence exists	Operations at the local level and in partnership

			(School and ward level)		
Gender focal person	Provision of women's education according to the level in each school	After 20 years of marriage Reproductive rights	Management of disaster relief materials	Adolescent violence exists	
Arrangement of complaint box	Ensuring women people's representatives at all local levels	Knowledge and use of family planning	Tree planting program	Commencement of public hearing	
Iron folic acid program for adolescents under school nutrition	Provision of 33 percent reservation for women in the consumer committee	Equality in the wages of men and women	River control program	Not wanting to be open against corruption	
Free education up to class 10 and a free textbook	Maternal nutrition	Women's participation in policymaking	Establishment of Disaster Management Fund	Social testing	
Scholarship system (target group)	Daughter savings account	Provision of Women Health Volunteers		Commencement of audit	
Arrangement of lunch till class 5	Arrangement of the breastfeeding room			Holding board scheme	
Inclusive education system	Provision of 50 percent discount when passing land in the name of women.			Arrangement of the monitoring committee	
Provision of education in mother tongue up to basic level	Ensuring women in safe motherhood and family planning services				
Provision of education in mother tongue up to basic level	Safe abortion service				

Annex 3: Status by group work of rights holders (Birendranagar Municipality Ward Nos. 9 and 10)

<b>SDG 4: Quality Education</b>	<b>SDG 5: Gender Equality</b>	<b>Goal 10: Reduce inequality</b>	<b>Goal 13: Climate Action</b>	<b>Goal 16. Peace and Justice Strong Institutions</b>	<b>Goal 17. Partnerships to Achieve the Goal</b>
School enrollment campaign	Capacity building and income generation training for women	Lack of meaningful participation of women in labor and income generation compared to men	Ward level and toll level disaster management committees have been formed and orientation has been made for them.	Public awareness programs are being conducted. There is violence in the community, but the situation and environment are not conducive.	The Prayas Project is conducting disaster management orientation.
Equality in the curriculum of private and government schools	Distribution of health education training and materials such as sanitary pads, masks, globes, and sanitizers from local government	Equal participation of men and women in social representation	Disaster preparedness materials are managed.	Although there is a procedure for controlling corruption and good governance, it has not been implemented effectively.	The Nepal Red Cross Society has aided during various disasters.
Adult education and adolescent education operation technical and vocational training	Reproductive health training	Meaningful participation of women in the local reconciliation committee	The riverbank has been embanked and trees have been planted. Drainage has been arranged.		The local government has made good arrangements for registration.
Child Development Education and Advanced Training	Awareness on Abolition of Child Marriage and Gender Equality	Conducting awareness programs on women's empowerment Active participation of women in the Prime Minister's Self-Employment Program	The biogas program is being implemented.		Internet access and access are increasing.

Education quality training	Public awareness regarding nutritious diet	Gender Equality Awareness Program Equal participation of men and women	Disaster and climate change-related works are being carried out by various supporting organizations through the project.		Various partner organizations are conducting women-centric skill-based training.
	Income generation program for women				
	Provision has been made for women's participation at the political level, but it has not been fully implemented				

Annex 4: Status by group work of duty bearers (Birendranagar Municipality Ward Nos. 9 and 10)

<b>SDG 4: Quality Education</b>	<b>SDG 5: Gender Equality</b>	<b>Goal 10: Reduce inequality</b>	<b>Goal 13: Climate Action</b>	<b>Goal 16. Peace and Justice Strong Institutions</b>	<b>Goal 17. Partnerships to Achieve the Goal</b>
Child Development Program	Equal pay between men and women has been approved by the Municipal Executive Committee, Program for Equal Development and Transformation of Women and Men.	Equality in women's access	Local Adaptation and Climate Adaptation Program	Psychologist management	Radio education program
Student and Dalit Scholarship Program	Awareness program for reduction of violence against women up to ward level	At least two women in the ward, five women in the executive and one deputy chief	Tree planting program	Social testing	Internet access
Lunch program	Daughter saving program	Women's access to policymaking	Climate change project	Public trial	Public hearing

Nutrition, iron-folic acid,	Women's shipbuilding and business-oriented programs	Availability of family planning tools and concealing services	Echo club formation	Internal audit	CCTV camera management
Sanitary pad distribution, student-friendly toilets, smart school program	Women Leadership Development (33% Women Assurance at Leadership Level)	Uterine test camp	Embankment, bioengineering program	Auditor General etc.	Free Wi-Fi
Vocational development programs such as community education, classroom improvement, etc.		Disability Empowerment	Organic farming and Terrace farming		
Women's Education, Girl's Education Network		Maternal infant infestation and worm vitamin distribution			
C. L. C. Program					
Literacy group operations					
Mother group operations					
Child Club, grievance response mechanism					

Annex 5: Action Plan, Lekhbesi Municipality Ward # 8 &10

Sustainable Development Goals	Actions	Time frame	Responsibility	Support Needed
<b>SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote</b>	Ensure that the use of sanitary pads is effective.	Within 6 months	Schools and municipalities	Monitoring from school management committee and gender focal person
	Arrangement of the complaint box	Within 6 months	School and municipality	Chairperson of School Management Committee and Gender focal person



<b>lifelong learning opportunities for all.</b>	Arrangement of technology-friendly training	Within 2 years	School and municipality	Education training center
	Provision of compulsory Nurse in the school	Within 2 years	School and municipality	Municipality and School
	Development of disability-friendly infrastructure	Within 5 years	School and municipality	Federal, province, and local level government
	Arrangement of pure water and Toilet	Within 2 years	School and Municipality	Disaster reduction Management committee
<b>SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</b>	Public awareness about women's rights	Within a year	Ward Office	Ward level women empowerment related programs
	Construction of separate restrooms and breastfeeding rooms in health posts and schools	Within 2 years	Ward Office	Advocacy Programme
<b>Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries</b>	End of the gender discriminations	Within 5 years	Federal, province, and local level government	Awareness programs and legal remedies through the Judicial Committee
	Equal labor and equal salary	Within 5 years	Federal, province, and local level government & related stakeholders	Advocacy and Judicial Committee
<b>Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact</b>	To create early warning programs, publication of information, and environment-friendly plans related to disaster management	Continuous	Disaster management committee	To create early warning programs, publication of information, and environment-friendly plans related to disaster management
	Impact on crops	Continuous	Stakeholders use organic manure	Use organic manure
<b>Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels</b>	To increase public awareness through ward and women's groups for minimizing domestic violence	Continuous	Ward, municipality, and community level	Through an organization that minimizes domestic violence
	Minimize adolescent violence	Continuous	Ward, municipality, and community level	Through the organization for the prevention of adolescent violence
	Expansion and mobilization of volunteers	Continuous	Ward, municipality, and community level	Through the organizations for the prevention of domestic violence

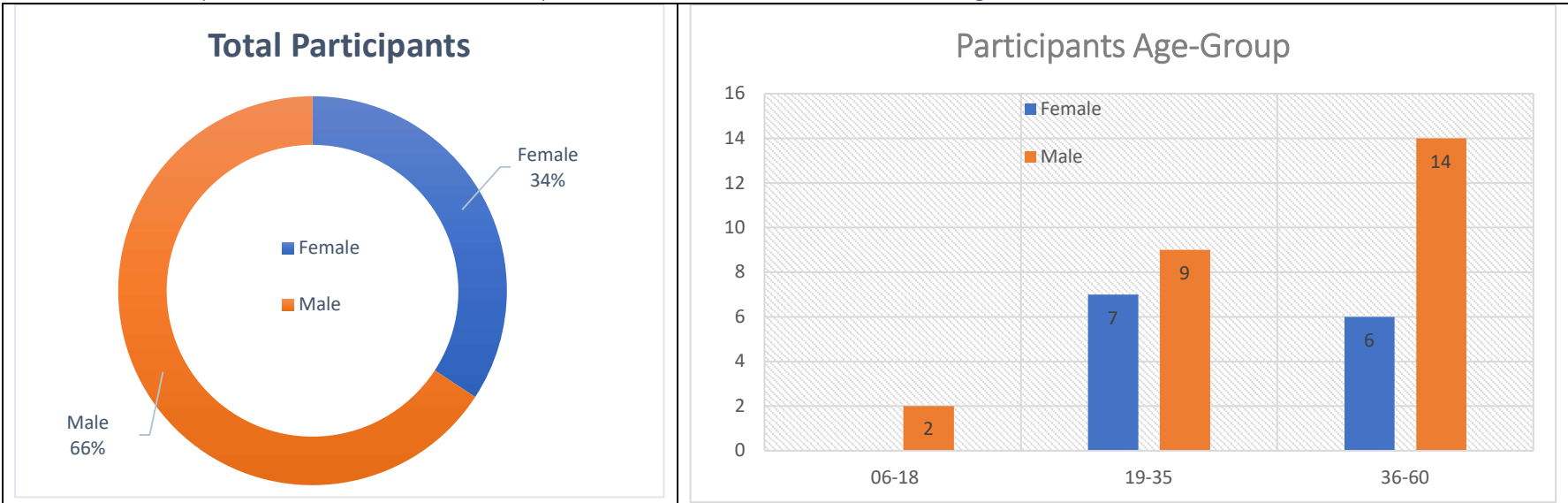
<b>Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development</b> Monitoring and evaluation	Expansion of the Internet	Continuous	Ward, municipality, and community level	To operate through private and public works through private associations
	Expansion and mobilization of volunteers	Continuous	Ward, municipality, and community level	In coordination with the organizations that mobilize volunteers
	Progress review of sustainable development goals	Yearly	Ward and Municipality	With the help of Ion and other supporting organizations

Annex 6: Action Plan, Birendranagar Municipality Ward # 9 &10

<b>Sustainable Development Goals</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Support Needed</b>
<b>SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.</b>	School Admission Campaign (All Classes)	Within a year	School management committee	Municipality/Ward
	School Incentive Program	Within a year	Municipality	Supporting organizations
	Scholarship for the poor	Within a year	Municipality	Supporting organization
	Addiction reduction program	F/Y 2078/79	Municipality	Supporting organizations
	The reproductive health counseling program	F/Y 2078/79	Municipality	Supporting organizations
	Training for teaching improvement	F/Y 2078/79	Municipality	Supporting organizations
	Facilitating vocational education for the poor and needy	F/Y 2078/79 since 2080/82	Municipality	Supporting organizations
	Disability-friendly toilet arrangement	F/Y 2078/79 since 2080/82	Municipality	Supporting organizations
<b>SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</b>	Facilitating vocational education for the poor and needy Disability-friendly toilet arrangement	Within a year	Ward Office	Ward level women empowerment related programs

	Disability-friendly toilet	Within 2 years	Ward Office	Advocacy Programme
<b>Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries</b>	End of the gender discriminations	Within 5 years	Federal, province, and local level government	Awareness programs and legal remedies through the Judicial Committee
	Equal labor and equal salary	Within 5 years	Federal, province, and local level government & related stakeholders	Advocacy and Judicial Committee
<b>Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact</b>	To create early warning programs, publication of information, and environment-friendly plans related to disaster management	Continuous	Disaster management committee	To create early warning programs, publication of information, and environment-friendly plans related to disaster management
	Impact on crops	Continuous	Stakeholders use organic manure	Use organic manure
<b>Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels</b>	To increase public awareness through ward and women's groups for minimizing domestic violence	Continuous	Ward, municipality, and community level	Through an organization that minimizes domestic violence
	Minimize adolescent violence	Continuous	Ward, municipality, and community level	Through organization working in the prevention of adolescent violence
	Expansion and mobilization of volunteers	Continuous	Ward, municipality, and community level	Through organizations working in the prevention of domestic violence
<b>Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development</b> Monitoring and evaluation	Expansion of the Internet	Continuous	Ward, municipality, and community level	To operate through private and public works through private associations
	Expansion and mobilization of volunteers	Continuous	Ward, municipality, and community level	In coordination with the organizations that mobilize volunteers
	Progress review of sustainable development goals	Yearly	Ward and Municipality	With the help of AYON and other supporting organizations

Annex 7: Participants list in consultation workshop, Lekhbesi, Ward # 8 & 10 and Birendranagar Ward # 9 & 10, Surkhet district.



Annex 8: Photographs of SDG/LNOB orientation and consultation/interface meeting



**PHOTO 1: ORIENTATION ON SDG INDICATOR AND COMMUNITY SCORECARD TO RIGHT HOLDERS OF LEKHBESI MUNICIPALITY AND BIRENDRANAGAR MUNICIPALITY**



**PHOTO 2: ORIENTATION ON SDG INDICATOR AND COMMUNITY SCORECARD TO DUTY BEARERS OF LEKHBESI MUNICIPALITY AND BIRENDRANAGAR MUNICIPALITY**



**PHOTO 3: RIGHT HOLDER OF LEKHBESI MUNICIPALITY WRITING THE PRESENT SITUATION**



**PHOTO 4: WORKING IN COMMUNITY SCORECARD MATRIX- BIRENDRANAGAR MUNICIPALITY**





PHOTO 5: WORKING IN COMMUNITY SCORE MATRIX- LEKHBESI MUNICIPALITY



PHOTO 6: INTERFACE DIALOGUE- BIRENDRANAGAR MUNICIPALITY



PHOTO 7: INTERFACE DIALOGUE- LEKHBESI MUNICIPALITY



