

DataShift Gender Thematic Forum: Exploring Civil Society Data and Citizen-generated Data on Gender Issues in Nepal



Group photo from the event

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Submitted by

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Table of Contents

Acronyms and Abbreviations	3
About the forum	4
Why citizen-generated data (CGD) for gender issues in Nepal?	5
State of gender data in Nepal	6
Opening remarks	6
Panel session on “The state of gender data in Nepal”	8
A.	8
B.	9
C.	9
Linking gender data to the SDGs	11
Challenges and opportunities around CGD for gender issues in Nepal (as presented by different panellists)	13
Exploring civil society and CGD for gender issues in Nepal	15
Key recommendations for civil society and CGD for gender issues in Nepal	17

Acronyms and Abbreviations

BBC	Beyond Beijing Committee Nepal
CBS	Centre Bureau of Statistics
CEDA	Centre for Economic Development and Administration
CGD	Citizen-Generated Data
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DAO	District Administrative Office
DDC	District Development Committee
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDI	Gender Development Index
GII	Gender Inequality Index
HDI	Human Development Index
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MoWCSW	Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare
NFN	NGO Federation of Nepal
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPC	National Planning Commission
SDG/SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SNA	System of National Accounts
VAW	Violence Against Women
VDC	Village Development Committee

About the Forum

DataShift/CIVICUS, together with Beyond Beijing Committee Nepal (BBC), NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN)/ Nepal SDG Forum and Tewa - Philanthropy for Equitable Justice and Peace, organised the multi-stakeholder gender thematic forum to explore the coverage, quality and comparability of gender data in Nepal, and subsequently identify opportunities and challenges around using civil society and citizen-generated data in particular as part of an integrated, data-driven approach to implementing and monitoring Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 in Nepal.

Following were objectives of the forum:

1. Better understand the gender data 'ecosystem' in Nepal, regarding both the producers and users of gender-related data, including an assessment of its coverage, credibility and complementarity.
2. Identify priority opportunities and challenges around improving the coverage, credibility and complementarity of gender data in Nepal, especially regarding civil society data and citizen-generated data.
3. Raise awareness on SDG 5 amongst civil society in Nepal and other relevant actors.
4. Assess the SDG 5 targets and indicators (and from other relevant SDGs as appropriate) where civil society data and citizen-generated data could have the most impact.
5. Support a dialogue between civil society, government and other stakeholders which begins to identify opportunities for working collaboratively on the formulation, implementation, and monitoring of progress on SDG 5.
6. Provide recommendations from the Nepali context that can support similar processes in other countries.

The Forum was a huge success with more than 70 participants from diverse sectors including, governmental organisations, bilateral organisations, academia, media INGOs, NGOs and CSOs. From the civil society, representation from indigenous community, gender and gender minorities, grassroots groups, child rights groups, women's rights organisations, Dalit organisations, etc. were present in the room. The first half of the meeting had two expert panels representing different stakeholders, followed by interactive sessions among the participants through group work.

Why citizen-generated data for gender issues in Nepal?

Civil society organisations produce and use huge amounts of data. This data can be quantitative or qualitative, structured or unstructured data, and open or closed. It comes in a number of formats, ranging from numerical data in spreadsheets to text, audio or photos. This data is collected for a number of reasons, including; understanding the experiences, perceptions and needs of the communities civil society organisations work with (using tools such as surveys) and tracking issues and trends such as poverty or income over time, to support the implementation of projects and programmes, and to monitor and evaluate the impact of interventions.

Despite the large amount and often high quality of civil society data, it is usually sector-specific and generated through a wide range of uncoordinated initiatives. Only a relatively small number of large international organisations are currently able to effectively aggregate data generated in different local contexts. Utilising and aggregating the rich data generated by civil society organisations - including data collected at the sub-national level - is a huge challenge, given the significant variance in focus, format and quality.

Citizen-generated data (along with civil society data more broadly) should be seen as a useful complement to institutional data, rather than a replacement for it. It has the potential to augment or fill in gaps in data used by governments and other decision-makers to shape policies. As citizen-generated data is often produced in real or near-time and is firmly grounded in local contexts, it can help us better understand the highly specific needs of the communities they serve and therefore deliver services more efficiently, reducing waste and ensuring that they reach those most in need.

There are a growing number of effective citizen-generated data projects in various locations across the globe, including on gender related issues, such as Little Sister and Harass Map. Yet challenges still exist surrounding the coverage, quality and complementarity of citizen-generated data. Failure to address these challenges will prevent us from realising the full potential of CGD to support SDG monitoring and accountability, both in general and on gender related issues in particular.

Under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), goal three sought to “Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women”, setting an ambitious target to “eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015”. Under the goal, time and resources were invested in the empowerment of women and girls, particularly through gender parity in primary education. High levels of success were recorded in the process, however, other issues related to gender inequality emerged prompting calls for action to achieve gender equality in all fields.

Nevertheless, women continue to experience significant gaps in terms of poverty, labour market and wages, as well as participation in private and public decision-making. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) therefore offer an unprecedented opportunity to catalyse efforts and tackle the unfinished business of the MDGs. This includes work on SDG 5 focused on “Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls” and its constituent targets and indicators. The integrated nature of the goals and targets however, calls for new innovative approaches that harness data through multi-stakeholder partnerships. Achieving SDG 5 is interdependent and connected to tracking the progress in the achievement of gender specific indicators that are integrated in all the 17 SDGs.

This report showcases the existing issues around generating and using the CGDs from the perspective of producers and users of gender-related data in the Nepal context. It presents ongoing work, plans and challenges associated to the preparation and implementation of SDG 5 focused on “Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls” from government as

well as non-government bodies.

State of gender data in Nepal

The sections below highlights the key points on the state of gender data in Nepal presented during different sessions and plenaries during the forum.

Opening remarks

Ms. Sadhana Shrestha, Executive Director of TEWA, facilitated the forum and introduced the organisers of the event. She invited guests on the panel for the opening including Mr. Krishna Gautam, senior vice president, NGO Federation of Nepal; Wenny Kusuma, UN-Women country representative; and Mr. Davis Adieno, Senior Advisor, Datashift/CIVICUS World Alliance.

Mr. Krishna Gautam during the opening remarks said NGO Federation of Nepal is committed to working with the CSOs and government in achieving SDGs. He emphasised that SDG 5 is a cross cutting issue with other goals and issues and is thus to be addressed holistically with the coordination of government and CSOs rather than government and CSOs working in parallel. He further suggested that everyone works in collaboration for gender equality, under the premise that the new constitution in Nepal guarantees the participation of women at all levels of development.

The following spokesperson, Ms. Wenny Kusuma in her keynote speech, shared how she thinks the United States (US) election that was happening at the time, relates to data and to gender equality, transformation and shift, and thus the discussion happening in the forum. During her speech, she said,

‘Often times when we talk about art, we ask if art mimics life or if life mimics arts. And when it comes to data and knowledge, we question if data captures our lives as men and women accurately, or whether data conveys our realities as we lived them.’

Ms. Kusuma also shared her encounter with Ms. Hillary Clinton at the Beijing Women’s Conference in 1995 after she delivered her speech where she said in an elevator, “women’s rights are human rights”. She describes how the Beijing Conference became the foundation for the formation of the ministry of women and other women rights institutes, and how it provided opportunities for the development of a legal framework around gender equality. During this time, women in the U.S. realised the need for evidence-based advocacy to ask for legal reforms and other women’s rights. At that time, stories of women constituted the evidence and were very powerful. Stories around the world were being collected and were looked into for the patterns. However, the data and hard facts are needed now to backup the advocacy, she said. While talking about the need to produce data around violence against women, the frame of legal support must also be discussed, she said.

“Oppression is embedded in our very culture through dimension of sexism and discrimination, that in the face of our institutional agencies which means our laws,

mechanisms mirror the same values and beliefs that are behind the perpetuation of the violence in the first place.”

Kusuma also highlighted the power of CGD collected by people themselves and how it provides the reality of the experience of women and men to those who need to take this into account and make decisions affecting our lives. She added that while talking about SDG 5, we only have capacity to support the data collection, analysis and monitoring of only 20% of the indicators of SDG 5. She stressed that we need to ask ‘what kind of world we women want’ in the context of SDG 5 and relating that to the U.S. election. She concluded her remarks by saying that the discussion with DataShift that is happening in the room is very important because there is an 80% gap in measuring our progress in SDGs.



Ms. Wenny Kusuma, Country Representative, UN Women- Nepal delivering her keynote speech

After Ms Kusuma’s keynote, Mr. Davis Adieno introduced participants to DataShift, an initiative of CIVICUS and their aims. After clarifying the objectives of the forum, he shared what CIVICUS has been doing in Nepal and around the world. He then went on to present the role CGD can play in achieving the SDGs and what CSOs can do to achieve SDGs using CGD. He stressed the SDGs slogan ‘Leave no one behind’ to highlight that there is still requisite to understand needs and priorities of diverse groups of people who are difficult to be reached to make them part of the governance and development. He emphasised that CGD gives us an opportunity to reach those government isn’t able to reach, to make informed policy decisions and to monitor ongoing work. He encouraged everyone to work with the government and engage meaningfully as ‘the era of pointing fingers at

the government alone was in the past'. He further said that for us to work with government, we need data on what it is that we are doing and what government is supposed to do. He also shared how new technology can be used to create CGD.

“There are people who do not have food to eat but have credit on their phone to access social media... We have an opportunity to use citizen-generated data in a creative way”

Panel session on “The state of gender data in Nepal”

The expert panel on ‘the state of gender data in Nepal’ presented the existing data available in the country with the challenges associated with generating and using the data from three different lens: CSOs, gender experts and from government.

A. Ms. Shanta Laxmi Shrestha, Chairperson, Beyond Beijing Committee

The first presentation was by Ms. Shanta Laxmi Shrestha, Chairperson, Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC). In the beginning of her presentation, she highlighted some key measurements of where Nepal stands. In the Human Development Index (HDI), Nepal ranks 145th out of 187 countries (2014 Human with value 0.540). Similarly, in Gender Development Index (GDI) ranks, the country is placed 102nd (2014 with value 0.912) and in Gender Inequality Index (GII) on 98th (2014 with value 0.479). Nepal ranks 110th in the Global Gender Gap Index with 0.661 score, according to the Global Gender Gap Report 2016, World Economic Forum. One thing she made clear during her presentation was that, Nepal has a lot of data through different national level surveys and administrative reports across different districts, but there is no gender statistics in lifecycle approach and system in national account. In addition, data that is available still lacks gender disaggregation, which is why measuring progress in gender equality has become difficult.

“What is not measured is invisible. What is invisible is lost. What is lost cannot be acted or remedied.” UN Women

Ms. Shrestha emphasising the SDGs motto of ‘Leaving no one behind’ said that the ones who are furthest because of social, geographical, cultural and economic reasons are difficult to reach and that CGD is needed to reach them. As noted by the previous presenters, the SDGs are standalone as well as intersectional and without meeting all the 197 targets and 230 indicators and objectives, SDG 5 will be difficult to be reached. Thus, for meeting the targets and indicators, SDG indicators are to be disaggregated, where relevant, by income, sex, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographical location, or other characteristics, in accordance with the Fundamental principles of official statistics (General assembly resolution 68/261).

She also briefed everyone on the history of gender data in Nepal through Nepalese women statistical profile published in 1979 ‘The status of women in Nepal’ by Centre for Economic Development and Administration (CEDA) and emphasised that to meet the SDGs, a new approach is to be applied, that is, engendering statistical systems and system of national accounts (SNA).

She further added that engendering SNA is important so that the contribution women has made in development is not excluded from the data and thus the policy database reflects the lives of those who are unseen.

B. Ms. Indira Shrestha - Pioneer in gender data

Ms. Indira, a pioneer in generating gender data in Nepal, presented her paper on 'The Status of Women in Nepal' and from her 35 years of lived experience working in the development sector in Nepal. Her experience also included her personal struggle being part of the National Planning Commission (NPC) for 10 years, coming from the CSO movement. She started by sharing the outcomes of the first study about the status of women in Nepal, that was conducted from 1977 to 1981, by CEDA of Tribhuvan University in eight different districts/sites targeting different ethnic groups. This proved to be a milestone study in Nepal, as well as South Asia, establishing substantive basis of evidence of rural women. The study also influenced the national level policy planning for the first time in the 6th five years plan of development and recognised the importance of women in development. This further influenced and initiated programmatic and structural change in the country. Ten years after the study, another study called 'Women Development Democracy' was conducted by Stri Shakti. The study covered the previously mentioned eight districts, with additional an eight districts, including urban and rural areas. The original study included 182 households (24 in each), whereas the later one included 55 households in each district. Eighteen years later another study was conducted, including all 16 districts covered in earlier studies with more samples, providing substantive amount of SDGs. This includes changes in roles and opportunities that women had faced during the Maoist insurgency, population growth over the time and environment degradation. The outcome of the study was published last year in two volumes. She said the study conducted from 1997 to 2012, provides enough scientific data collected by the community with a life-cycle approach. During her work at NPC, engendering macro economic plan was captured in government documents with the support of her advisors. She said, "we don't need to start the wheel again". She criticised the development cycle for not building on what we already have and starting from scratch.

"It's not that we don't have data, but change in the attitude is yet to be done at the civil society level."

At the end of her presentation, she suggested that CIVICUS find out what already exists and monitors databases to create wider networks of minds to make a difference.

C. Mr. Bharat Raj Sharma, Under Secretary of MoWCSW

Mr. Sharma presented 'Initiation of Government on Gender Data and SDGs'. He provided the government perspective, as he has been involved with the ministry, and more than 13 years of experience in Centre Bureau of Statistics (CBS).

Mr. Sharma shared that the main sources of data include; census, regular and ad hoc surveys and

official records. Population census in Nepal started in 1911, which wasn't very scientific until 1952/54. He made everyone aware that Nepal has a decentralised statistical system in which local and national bodies can collect data depending on their need. He highlighted the necessity of statistics and gender statistics. He presented what government has modified and improved throughout this time. In order to collect gender statistics data, huge mass campaigns were launched. Some of the messages through the campaigns included information on marriage, who is the head of the household, what are extended economic activities, property of women like; house, land, livestock, etc., detail of absentee population, who is involved in small scale business, information on disability, among others. He also shared that MoWCSW has started a health management information system and education management system that is yet to be named and announced.

Along with the initiatives from the government, he mentioned some challenges and gaps that exist in the system. The below section outlines some 'challenges':

For SDGs, targets and indicators of have been localised at national level but not yet at sub-national level yet. He shared that there is no baseline data on some indicators, so a huge gap in monitoring exists. In addition, linkage between SDGs, government's annual and period plan is not yet done. Besides the primitive report from the government, he also shared his concern about the need for people to be made aware of SDGs.



Panelist of the first session (from the left: Ms. Shanta Laxmi Shrestha, Chairperson, Beyond Beijing Committee-Nepal, Mr. Bharat Raj Sharma, Under Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, & Ms. Indira Shrestha, Former Hon'ble Member, National Planning Commission

Linking gender data to the SDGs

The session on ‘linking gender data in SDGs’ consisted of three panellists. Mr. Daya Sagar Shrestha from NGO Federation of Nepal, representing CSOs, Dr. Bimala Rai Paudyal as a former National Planning Commission (NPC) member and Mr. Davis Adieno sharing experience from the work of DataShift in Kenya and Tanzania.

Mr. Daya Sagar Shrestha provided a brief history of how the SDGs came into existence by intergovernmental negotiations, through various regional and international UN processes during and post Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In his words, the SDG process was the most inclusive and participatory process that is progressive and gender sensitive in comparison to the MDGs. As part of government initiative, he shared that a national preliminary report was prepared in 2015. Similarly a day long programme, ‘Envisioning Nepal 2030’ was organised in March 2016 in Kathmandu. He also assured that the SDGs have been aligned with the 14th National Plan (fiscal year 2016/17 - 2018/19). Likewise, NFN as the coordination body for SDGs Forum, are undertaking regular meetings between the forum members. In the forum, constituencies and themes are identified, and issue specific organisations are responsible for the particular constituencies and themes. Likewise, a CSO assembly held early this year released a joint statement realising the need to intensify involvement of CSOs agenda on SDG. The recently organised high-level national dialogue on the 2030 Agenda was very important to reach to the policymakers.

The second presenter **Dr. Bimala Rai Paudyal** provided her perspective from her past experience at the National Planning Commission (NPC) and around SDG 5 in Nepal. Ms. Paudyal stressed that working toward SDG 5 - “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” means it is to be included in other goals of SDG and thus, we need to think broadly when we talk about SDG 5. She added, SDG 5 itself is a political agenda. She said, gender data means talking about all the goals and indicators, and not the goal 5 only and should be included in policy, planning, data, etc. because of it being a political agenda. To prepare a country for SDGs, it is important to understand that it is a political agenda.

She shared that Nepal has recognised that we need national level preparedness and need disaggregated data sets along with a robust monitoring and review process. NPC has mentioned developing national indicators and has come up with indicators for all the goals and has started integrating it into national plans and policies (14th year plan). She said, though it isn’t much, but in the recent budget of Nepal government, certain budget has been allocated for SDGs implementation. Her observation is that the agenda is yet to be discussed in public forums and debates. There is also a need to generate data and evidence to find where Nepal stands, frame strategy processes and integrate it into sectoral policies and budgets, and strengthen coordination and monitoring mechanisms, she said.

Looking back at MDGs 3, which is around gender equality and empowerment of girls and women, while indicators around primary education were met, however, women still has low payment for

their work and wage gap still exists between men and women for the same work. Similarly, political participation of women was increased in the parliament in 2010 by 1/3rd but we are yet to see what will happen next.

Ms. Paudyal shared her analysis that,

“Issues that can be fixed technically are easy to fix but matters that requires distribution of power is difficult to achieve.”

In her presentation where she linked SDGs and gender equality, she said more than 50% of Nepal population are women who are the primary users of natural resources, like water and forest so they are affected more due to climate change. Similarly, unless gender equality is achieved, poverty will not be reduced. She also said mainstreaming gender in governance and peacebuilding, it is important because they are important pillars in governance, sustainability and peacebuilding.

In terms of preparedness and initiatives, the Nepal government is accountable to implement. Actions that are to be taken include:

1. Raising public awareness beyond inside government and from civil society
2. Apply multi-stakeholder approach
3. SDGs are to be tailored down to national, sub-national and local context
4. Horizontal and vertical policy coherence: E.g.: We are talking about encouraging migration at one end, whereas address food security issue in the country, this is not clear enough
5. Budgeting is to be done considering risk and assumptions that is to be led by government with multi-stakeholders approach



Ms. Bimala Rai Paudyal, Former Hon'ble Member, National Planning Commission

Challenges and opportunities around CGD for gender issues in Nepal (as presented by various panelists)

Former NPC member

1. The new NPC committee is yet to understand where to start the work around the SDGs.
2. Government hasn't given responsibilities to any particular body to work on SDGs specifically because it is still challenging to lead the work at national level. Therefore there is a need for strong coordination agency.
3. Implementation is expected from VDC secretary who has limited capacity to implement it; their capacity is to be strengthened.
4. In terms of finance and capacity, it is not that we don't have resources, but prioritisation and realisation is important.
5. Those who are making policies are not aware of data and thus the policies are not used as evidence-based.
6. Clarity on roles and building synergies among the agencies is needed. (She mentioned CBS isn't present in the room). In addition, political group participation is needed not just CSOs and bureaucrats.
7. Despite the huge amount of data produced by civil society, at the UN, government data are presented, so government and CSOs are to work together.
8. We are at the end of first year of preparedness for implementing SDGs, but we only see few areas where integration is visible, thus time is running out.
9. An integrated approach is required to implement SDGs, as the goals are interconnected. Class, caste, gender, ethnicity, disability status and other social elements are to be

integrated.

10. Data is very important and sensitive. However we need to make sure our produced data gets credibility and validity. If we want our data to be authentic and reliable, we need to involve government authority while in deciding methodology.
11. Mindset of people in the government system is to be changed. Gender equality is to be considered an issue to be addressed for benefit of everyone and not just for women.
12. The capacity of CBS is to be utilised and worked on to increase reliability and accessibility of the data produced.

Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare

1. Though gender disaggregated data are available, sex disaggregated data are not available by relevant variables, such as income, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability etc.
2. Some surveys are conducted on an ad hoc basis and the data are not supplemented on a regular basis.
3. Even now, statistics related to gender-based violence (GBV), human trafficking and domestic violence, are still not available because it cannot be found through surveys. The major source of GBV related statistics are officially recorded by police or court but the cases recorded are minimal.
4. Sometime users are not aware about their need and availability of data.
5. No data use survey to find what users are using, what do they want and what is being produced.
6. Lack of coordination between data producers and users about what data is required to be produced and how to make it user friendly.
7. Not user-friendly data. Example: definition of children according to the law in Nepal are those below 16 years but our data are mostly with intervals like 5-10 years, 10-15 years, etc. without specific data about children.
8. Linkages between SDGs, annual and period plans of government is to be done which hasn't happened.
9. Most of the surveys we have, do not happen regularly so the information produced can't be used in long term.

NGO

1. Government lacks resources and capacity for adequate data analysis
2. Data quality, accessibility and dissemination are problematic – particularly for non-government users
3. Donors still play a significant role in official data production and use but efforts are often narrow in scope and poorly coordinated
4. At every level of government, management culture and existing incentives do not promote evidence-based decision making
5. The national SDG indicators don't match the global national indicators and therefore to be re-framed so as to monitor our progress and report on SDGs in future.



Ms. Rita Thapa, Founder Tewa

Exploring civil society and citizen-generated data for gender issues in Nepal

Stakeholder mapping: CSOs in Nepal uses different sources of data for their work. Some produce first hand data through direct engagement with the community using methods such as: baseline study, end-line survey/study, case studies, digital storytelling, in-depth study, record of beneficiaries, during monitoring visits, during workshops and meetings, through public hearings and interaction programmes, etc. However, most of them shared using secondary data sources such as: Ministry of Health; CBS; journals; regular surveys; studies/reports from UN agencies and INGOs; local government bodies like VDCs, DAOs and DDCs; data from partner or local organisations; media and newspapers, social media reviews; HH surveys; university dissertation and referral system records.

Participants in the meeting also discussed the existing gaps and challenges they face in accessing and using this data. They are listed below in different clusters:

Type of data: limited data from local level; lack of issue specific data; lack of disaggregated data; lack of gender sensitive information/data; data isn't collected on regular basis; difficulty in doing advocacy work because of disparity in data available; collection of data of sensitive issues becomes difficult.

Role of government: Government does not encourage CSOs to conduct studies in terms of permission and ownership; many CSOs find data from government unreliable, but there also exists inconsistency in data at VDC level and CBS; lack coordination and information sharing from the

government to NGOs; CBS doesn't releases data timely.

Data from NGOs: the same time data generated by NGOs doesn't match with each other; data produced by NGOs and government does not recognise CSOs.

Reliability and validity of data: the government does not recognise qualitative data; there is confusion among data users on which data to rely on; verification of data from the community is almost impossible.

Accessibility: accessing data is not always easy, mostly from government offices; authorised persons at government office to share data/information are difficult to reach or unavailable; recent/latest data is difficult to collect; available data are not always user-friendly; process to access data could be lengthy; discrimination to data seekers on the basis of the organisation they represent, more attention is given to big NGOs and INGOs; data isn't stored and recorded systematically making it difficult to access; lack of financial resources for data management.

Users: Users lacks capacity in using the data; difficulty in doing advocacy work because of disparity in data available.

Data generation: coverage is limited to accessible areas; consideration for ethical issues isn't taken seriously; language barriers while collecting data; community not aware about importance of generating data; data collection methods and tools could be irrelevant for the local context; no good/trained enumerators in sensitive kinds of studies data collectors lacking knowledge around confidentiality; resource constraints in generation data and processing it (transcribing, etc.); women's and marginalised community's voice not heard and collected; lack of knowledge on how to use the data that has been collected;

Dissemination: Study dissemination and sharing culture is not strong, and dissemination becomes difficult through mass media sometimes because of language barriers.

Opportunities and lessons learnt for improving the coverage, credibility and complementarity of civil society data and CGD for gender issues in Nepal

Data generation: Needs to be participatory within the community; enumerators are to be trained to work with the community; need to reach out to marginalised groups so that the data represents all communities;

Accessibility: Data need to be synthesised and the information must be distributed quickly; Government should buy-in the process.

Working in coordination: Engagement of government in studies to increase the credibility of data; gender data produced by various agencies should be integrated and shared with UN agencies and NGOs; avoid possible duplication in data generation;

Use of data: Need for capacity-building on using data for advocacy; need to use the existing data in policymaking; CGD not currently used by government.



Participants of the event during group work

Key recommendations for civil society and CGD for gender issues in Nepal

Some of the key recommendations drawn from the forum include:

- CSOs including UN agencies and NGOs should collaborate with the government and vice-versa to generate credible and reliable data. Establish proper relationships and mediums between data producers and data users to make it more accessible and user-friendly.
- Data generation should consider community sentiments and they are to be involved in the process, including proper dissemination of findings.
- Work towards changing attitude of government officials around gender equality.
- SDG indicators are to be disaggregated, where relevant, by class, caste, gender, ethnicity, disability status and other social elements are to be integrated.
- Targets and indicators of SDGs are to be localised at national and sub-national level as well. Baseline data and evidence are to be generated for proper and timely monitoring.
- SDGs are to be discussed in public forums and spaces, including different layers of bureaucratic systems and civil society, and should be integrated into sectoral policies and budgets.