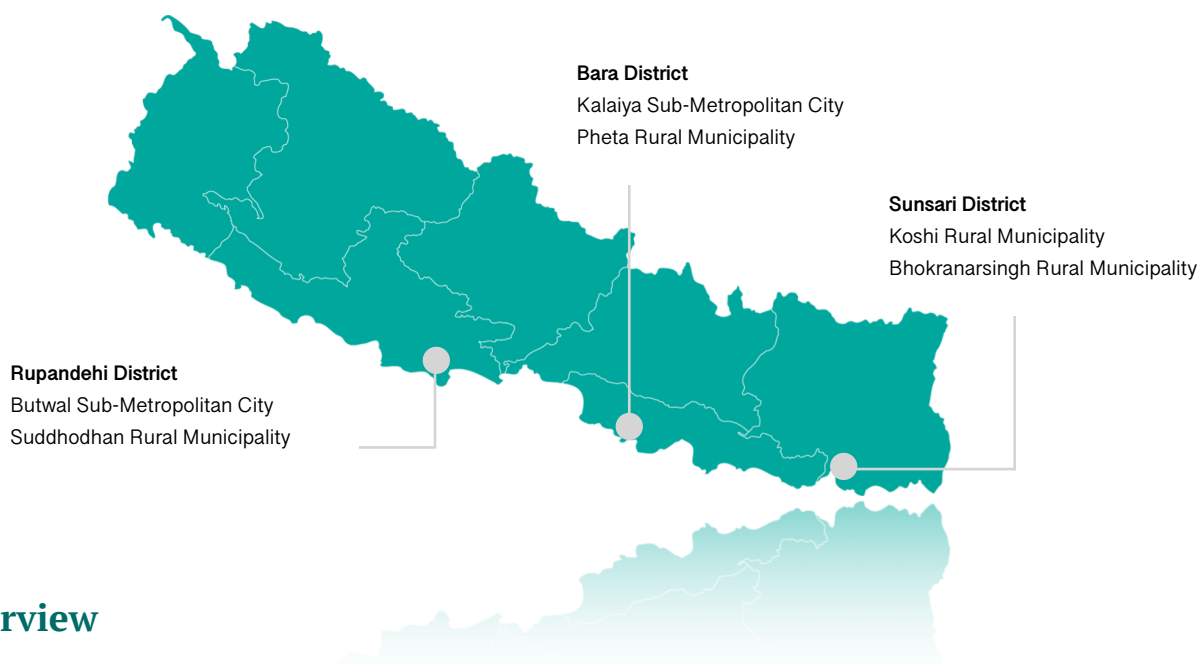


Fostering Civic Engagement for a Peaceful and Climate Friendly Governance

Project Duration: July 2024 - June 2027

Funding Partner: Brot für die Welt, Germany

Project Locations:



Overview

Nepal's transition to a federal system, established by the Constitution of Nepal 2015, decentralized the state power to three tiers of government. This transition expanded democratic spaces and offered opportunities for more inclusive governance. However, the shift has also introduced new challenges of governance with unresolved issues of social inequality, poverty and infrastructure gaps. These issues have been compounded by effects of climate change and by external shocks like the 2015 earthquake and the COVID-19 pandemic, which disproportionately affect vulnerable population.

The project focuses on four key areas of governance where conflicts are most prominent: Natural Resource and Environment Governance, Development Governance, Ethnocultural Governance, and Political System and Governance. It seeks to address three core challenges. First, the lack of systematic documentation of governance conflicts, inadequate multi-stakeholder dialogues and insufficient capacity at the local level to mediate and resolve conflicts. Second, the need for greater citizen involvement in governance, holding authorities accountable and fostering proactive participation in governance and climate justice advocacy. And the third, addressing the disproportionate impacts of climate change on marginalized communities, ensuring government accountability for climate commitments and integrating climate concerns into broader governance frameworks. By addressing these challenges, the project aims to promote peaceful governance and foster climate resilience at all levels of government.

Objectives

- Empower policymakers, CSOs and media to address governance conflicts related to policy implementation at the local, provincial and national levels.
- Strengthen community-level stakeholders' role in enhancing local government's capacity for service delivery and conflict resolution.
- Advocate for climate justice by enhancing public participation and awareness, and holding governments accountable for both local and international climate commitments.

Key Activities

This project takes a holistic approach to peaceful governance by addressing the interconnected challenges of governance conflicts, civic engagement and climate justice. It recognizes that resolution of conflicts is essential for a effective governance system. Meanwhile, civic engagement is critical in holding government authorities accountable, fostering inclusive participation, and empowering citizens to advocate for both democratic processes and climate action. Finally, climate justice focuses on addressing the impacts of climate change, especially on marginalized and indigenous communities, ensuring that climate policies are responsive to the needs of the most affected groups.

Governance Monitoring Centre Nepal (GMC Nepal): GMC Nepal is a platform for tracking, analyzing and addressing governance-related conflicts across Nepal, with a specific focus on the four governance areas. Through research, media monitoring and stakeholder dialogues, the GMC Nepal provides insights and recommendations on governance reform. It publishes blogs, reports, information graphics and policy briefs.

Civic Engagement: Activities under civic engagement focuses on empowering citizens, civic volunteers and local dialogue facilitators to participate in governance processes and hold authorities accountable. It includes capacity-building workshops, orientations and training programs. Civic volunteers are mobilized to address governance-related conflicts and push for climate justice in local development.

Multi-stakeholder Dialogue Initiative: Facilitate dialogues at local, provincial and national levels among elected officials, government officials, CSOs, local leaders and marginalized groups to address and resolve governance-related conflicts. These discussions focus on four specific governance areas emphasizing climate justice, equitable resource/service distribution and inclusive decision-making.

Climate Justice: Activities under climate justice initiatives addresses the disproportionate effects of climate change on marginalized groups through action research, policy analysis and community engagement. It assesses government actions on climate commitments and engages local stakeholders in advocating for climate justice. The project will disseminate research findings through reports, policy briefs, blogs, interactive contents and podcasts, raising awareness and mobilizing communities to demand action on climate-related governance challenges.



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