

# Nepal



The Asia Foundation supports Nepal's vision for sustainable peace, good governance, development, and prosperity through research, knowledge exchange, and accelerating more inclusive and accountable democratic governance practices. Partnering with government and civil society, we promote inclusive economic development, peaceful conflict mitigation and resolution, women's leadership, and cooperation on environment and human security.

## Project Highlights

### More efficient and effective government systems

A pilot municipality has registered and issued disability cards to 1400 people with disabilities on a central data repository hosted on secure government servers.

### Greater investment in clean energy, sustainable infrastructure, and green growth

Facilitated the creation of an Environment, Social, and Governance toolkit promoting sustainable and inclusive public-private partnerships and strategies to mainstream ESG in economic development.

### Increased cooperation on critical regional and international issues

Optimizing Screening and Support Services for Gender-Based Violence and Trafficking in Persons, recommended greater regional cooperation on policymaking, screening, and service delivery between government, law enforcement agencies, and service providers working in Nepal, India, and Sri Lanka

### Greater women's political voice and leadership

Mentored 21 elected Dalit women representatives to help them increase their leadership and representative skills over two years. Nine won in contested elections, 19 were elected to higher positions, and 8 negotiated for ward chair nominations.

### More participatory and inclusive governance

Supported communities to provide their inputs for more inclusive annual budgets and plans in 252 local governments. Facilitated 34 events with citizen-led committees to inform the public about their rights and increase their engagement.

## 2022 Snapshot



Subnational Governance Program rated top 5 DFAT investments



600+ election observers monitor local and general elections



70+ investors and industry leaders connected with tech innovators



Online transportation management system benefits 1.6 mil+ taxpayers



# Flagship Initiatives



## Data governance

We piloted an Integrated Data Management System to break data silos and improve data accessibility, and facilitated capacity-building efforts to empower local governments while fostering collaboration between federal and local authorities. By improving data accessibility and fostering a culture of data exchange, we can unlock possibilities for better local government planning and decision-making. Our UKaid-funded Data for Development program focuses on building strong communities and networks in Nepal and globally to advance and support women in data and technology.

## Regional cooperation

The South Asia Grants Program supports research institutions and think tanks to serve a productive role in public discourse on Nepal's foreign policy to advance ambitious domestic development objectives. The Foundation has invested in building a greater understanding of small state capabilities to navigate complex environments that are diplomatically challenging. We are expanding track 2 dialogues by supporting Nepali civil society and media networks' ability to engage on foreign policy and development issues at national and subregional levels.

## Support for more accountable, effective, and inclusive subnational government

In partnership with Australia's Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Subnational Governance Program supports Nepal's subnational governments to recover from the pandemic, strengthen public health systems, improve equality and inclusion, and reinforce the stability of the federal governance system. The program works with all three tiers of government to clarify roles and responsibilities, reduce overlaps, address gaps, and improve coordination.

## Rule of law and access to justice

When judicial committees, courts, legislative bodies, law enforcement agencies, and other public institutions operate in an open, equitable, and predictable manner, the rights of all citizens are more likely to be respected. In Nepal, the Foundation works with national human rights institutions and organizations to promote a rights-based approach in local policies and programs. We provide skilling for local judicial committee representatives and support mediation centers. The Foundation has been engaging the government, victim groups, and advocacy groups to draft a reconciliation framework for the transitional justice process.

## Advancing equality and inclusion

The Foundation integrates an inclusion and equality lens in the program cycle and implements targeted programs to promote the social, political, and economic rights of women and marginalized groups. In 2022, we conducted analyses of election processes and results to assess political underrepresentation of women and marginalized groups. We work with disabled people organizations to make subnational government responsive to their needs. And we partnered with USAID to increase access for women, youth, and marginalized communities to small grant funding opportunities.

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives and expanding opportunities across Asia and the Pacific. Informed by decades of experience and deep local expertise, our work across the region is focused on good governance, women's empowerment and gender equality, inclusive economic growth, environment and climate action, and regional and international relations.