



# Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights Protection System in Nepal Programme (RoLHR)



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.



Trainee lawyer Mr Sunil Shrestha interning at in a law firm under 6 month internship programme for members representing women and vulnerable groups. © Indra Byanjankar

The RoLHR promotes rule of law and strengthens justice sector institutions to enhance access to justice for all, including women and vulnerable groups and to ensure compliance with international human rights standards throughout law making and law enforcement processes.



## BACKGROUND

While Nepal has undergone tremendous changes in the last two decades that have strengthened citizens' rights, there are still numerous challenges in institutionalising the rule of law, peace and development. Weak coordination among justice sector institutions, a costly and time-consuming justice delivery system and poor or non-implementation of laws and resulting impunity have weakened the rule of law. This has affected disadvantaged people the most, as they are unable to invest the considerable time, effort and money required to pursue cases through the courts of law.

## Quick Facts

**Duration:** 2013 to 2017

**Focus Area:** Democratic governance

**Source of Funding:** Norway, Finland, Denmark, UNPFN, UNDP

**Implementing Agencies:** Supreme Court of Nepal, Ministry of Law, Justice, Constituent Assembly and Parliamentary Affairs and UNDP

**Collaborating Partners:** Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, Office of the Attorney General, National Women's Commission, National Dalit Commission, National Judicial Academy, Judicial Service Training Centre, Nepal Bar Association

**Total Budget:** US\$ 24.09 million

## Main Achievements so far...

- Five socio-legal aid centers have been established in target districts to increase access to justice for women and vulnerable communities;
- Supported the introduction of a case calendar system (an auto-generated calendar for a registered case, detailing the important dates of judicial procedure and hearings) in seven district courts and trained more than 200 court staff on judgment execution and case management;
- Established public information desks in five district courts in target districts;
- Conducted studies on in-camera hearing, court mediation and judgment execution, among others, which created recommendations for the second five-year strategic plan of the judiciary;
- Five victim support forums and legal aid centers for conflict-affected victims were established in target districts;
- Supported the development of explanatory notes and a documentary on Nepal's proposed criminal codes to initiate civic discourse around them.

## Gender & Social Inclusion Interventions

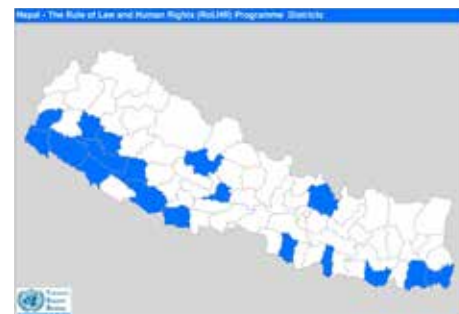
- > Gender and Social Inclusion perspective is incorporated in all of the programmatic interventions. The programme also has exclusively GESI specific interventions for women and disadvantaged groups that include law scholarship, internship for fresh lawyers, clinical legal education, and capacity enhancement of women officials in law and justice sector.
- > The Programme supported the Government of Nepal (Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development) through National Dalit Commission to respond to a decade-long gap in Nepal's reporting obligation to Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in preparing periodic report.
- > The Programme conducted a study on implementation status of Domestic Violence Act which will be an instrumental input for the policy reforms.
- > The internship program for fresh lawyers - a first batch of 15 lawyers particularly women and disadvantaged groups were trained, placed in various law firms and government offices, enhancing their exposure, representation and network.
- > Of total 563 conflict victims approached in 5 districts (Achham, Kailali, Dailekh, Dang and Surkhet), 57 Percent (316) were women to receive psycho-social and legal counseling services from Legal Helpdesks in these districts.

## Expected Project Results

(by the end of project cycle)

- At least 35 percent increase in the number of judgments executed; 14 percent reduction in the pre-trial detention population; and 15 percent increase in the number of convictions related to sexual and gender-based violence, caste-based discrimination and corruption.
- Legislative reviews and reforms introduced to increase access to justice for women and the vulnerable. The National Legal Aid Policy and Act is introduced in line with international standards. More than 12,000 vulnerable people will have received socio-legal aid services.
- Inclusive and gender-sensitive transitional justice mechanisms are developed and implemented.
- Full implementation of 40 Percent of Universal Periodic Review recommendations regarding transitional justice and conflict-related violations.
- 4,000 women victims trained on truth telling processes--an important aspect of the transitional justice system, especially the truth and reconciliation commission--which helps properly document sufferings and/or memories of the conflict era.

## Where We Work



**Project districts:** Dadeldhura, Kailali, Bardiya, Surkhet, Dailekh (2013) Kanchanpur, Achham, Dang, Salyan, Kapilbastu, Myagdi, Syangja, Bara, Mahottari, Sindhupalchowk, Jhapa, Morang, Saptari (2014)



Victims of domestic violence seeking for legal aid at the Socio-Legal Aid Centre (SLAC) in Kailali 📷 SLAC Team Kailali

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