

## Committing to gender responsive advocacy and budgeting with a human rights approach in Nepal

13-14 August, Lalitpur, Nepal

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A workshop on 'Equity and Gender Responsive Budgeting and Advocacy', organised by NCE Nepal and ASPBAE, helped deepen the understanding of civil society organisations (CSOs) and local government representatives on budgeting processes and analysis through an equity and gender lens. Several CSO representatives participated in the workshop including journalists, teachers, women, and youth. The Mayor of Lalitpur, Deputy Mayor, and heads of municipalities and rural municipalities also took part in the workshop.

The workshop was facilitated ASPBAE's Rene Raya and Cecilia (Thea) Soriano. A presentation was made on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ways of localising and contextualising

the SDGs at the national level. Rene stressed the important role of CSOs in local budgeting processes.

A panel discussion on revenue flow and revenue generation, led by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, raised awareness of the budgeting process at the local level, identified ways that CSOs could engage in preparing education budgets, and offered insights in to the interventions CSO can make for determining needs-based financing. NCE Nepal's Ram Gaire spoke about SDG4 goals and targets and NCE Nepal's work on budgetary research and analysis. Human rights approaches and budget advocacy were presented based on the principles of non-discrimination, accountability, transparency, and participation.

Discussions were held about gender and equity-based education financing, especially recognizing the decreasing trend in Nepal in this regard. Participants identified the poor, *dalits*, marginalised communities, minorities, people with disabilities, women, and children as major groups to be considered for education budget planning in Nepal. A presentation was also made on gender responsive budgeting and tools where participants learnt about alternate budget proposals to influence the processes of preparing education budgets.

The workshop was a good opportunity to bring together CSOs and local government representatives to discuss the budget formulation process and identify areas where CSOs could contribute, such as in community meetings and during programme designing. It was also recognised that CSO participation in planning processes was not institutionalised due to resistance from local governments. However, CSOs and local government representatives at the workshop discussed effective ways of engaging with one another and working together for devising and implementing better public education programmes in their localities. [END]



**Ram Gaire of NCE Nepal addressing participants of the budget training workshop, facilitated by ASPBAE's Rene Raya and Cecilia (Thea) Soriano.**