



Role of Civil Society in SDG Localization: Reflections from Nepal

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Abstract

This study aims to thoroughly examine the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at both the global and national levels, shedding light on the process of SDG localization and the crucial role played by Civil Society in this endeavor. Drawing on a comprehensive range of reliable secondary sources from systematic review method, this research delves into the current status of SDG localization and offers valuable recommendations for its successful implementation. Furthermore, the study focuses on the challenges faced at the global and national levels in achieving the targets set by the SDGs for 2030. The findings of this research hold significant relevance for policymakers and researchers, providing them with valuable insights to inform their decision-making processes. SDG is a global term we need simply it in the local level, we have to rearrange the indicator and rewrite based on local government theorizing it from localization perspective. This paper concludes that the SDG localization in Nepal can promote ownership, participation, and targeted approaches, ultimately leading to more sustainable and inclusive development outcomes.

Keywords: sustainable development, localization of SDG, policy, civil society, CSOs

Introduction

The term ‘sustainability’ was first used about forest management in Europe in the eighteenth century, but it was only in the late 1980s that the ideas of sustainability and development were connected. The Brundtland Commission defined sustainable development as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (Banks et al., 2015). Especially since the first United Nations (UN) conference on environment and development in Rio in 1992, there have been a plethora of definitions, academic commentaries, and policy initiatives (Daly et al., 2019). The 2030



Agenda for Sustainable Development — adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at a UN Summit, officially came into force on 1 January 2016. One hundred and ninety-three countries adopted a set of 17 goals *to* end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all, as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the period of fifteen years by 2030 (Sachs et al., 2019). Sapkota (2025) argues that the development of a society is inherently linked to political philosophy, emphasizing that its research and analysis should be examined through diverse methodological perspectives, including both positivist and non-positivist approaches.

Civil society is considered as an unavoidable component of sustainable development. It refers to the sphere of voluntary collective action around shared interests, purposes, and values, distinct from the state and the market. It encompasses a wide range of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community groups, labor unions, social movements, and advocacy groups that work to promote social, political, and economic change. Civil society organizations (CSOs) are formal or informal entities that operate independently of the government to represent citizens' interests, provide services, and hold authorities accountable. Scholars like Alexis de Tocqueville (*Democracy in America*, 1835) and Jürgen Habermas (*The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere*, 1962) emphasize civil society's role in democratic governance, public discourse, and social mobilization. In contemporary discourse, CSOs play a critical role in humanitarian aid, environmental protection, human rights advocacy, and policy development, often acting as intermediaries between citizens and the state (Lerner et al., 2021).

Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) refers to the process of adapting global targets to local contexts, ensuring their implementation aligns with regional priorities, capacities, and challenges. It involves integrating SDGs into local governance, policies, and budgeting while engaging communities, civil society, and the private sector to drive sustainable change. Effective localization enhances policy coherence, promotes inclusivity, and ensures grassroots participation in development. Despite challenges like resource constraints and institutional coordination, localized SDG efforts, such as Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs), help track progress and create context-specific solutions, making global sustainability agendas more actionable and impactful at the local level (Bilsky et al., 2021).

The role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the localization of SDGs is crucial, as government efforts alone are insufficient to achieve sustainable development at the grassroots level (Jönsson & Bexell, 2021; Novovic, 2022). CSOs bridge the gap between policy and implementation by advocating for inclusive policies, mobilizing communities, and ensuring accountability in SDG-related initiatives. They facilitate capacity-building, promote knowledge sharing, and address local challenges through participatory approaches. In Nepal, CSOs play a vital role in aligning global SDG targets with local needs, particularly in areas such as poverty alleviation, environmental sustainability, and social equity. This paper aims to explore and analyze the significant contributions of CSOs in Nepal's SDG localization, highlighting their impact and challenges.



Methodology

This study employs a qualitative research approach, focusing on secondary data analysis, literature review, and synthesis. To examine the role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a diverse range of peer-reviewed journal articles, policy reports, and other credible sources have been systematically reviewed. A descriptive and analytical research framework has been adopted to critically interpret existing data, ensuring a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the subject. The study follows rigorous academic standards, with all sources properly cited to uphold credibility and scholarly integrity. It ensures a systematic, evidence-based exploration of the topic, contributing to the broader discourse on sustainable development governance along with the following specific strategies of study design.

- **Inclusion criteria:** Studies focusing on CSOs' involvement in SDG localization, policy implementation, governance, and stakeholder engagement.
- **Exclusion criteria:** Non-peer-reviewed sources, opinion-based articles, and studies unrelated to SDGs or CSOs.
- **Major keywords:** "Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)," "SDG localization," "policy implementation," "stakeholder engagement," "governance in sustainable development."
- **Search platforms:** Google Scholar, Scopus, Web of Science, JSTOR, and institutional databases.
- **Screening method:** A total of 45 scholarly readings were initially identified, of which 33 were selected based on relevance, credibility, and methodological rigor.
- **Analysis method:** Thematic analysis and comparative synthesis were applied to identify patterns, trends, and critical insights regarding CSOs' contributions to SDG localization.

Result and Discussion

Context and Background of SDG

The paradigm of governance is globally changing, which has now moved from the MDG to SDG and macro to micro narratives (Sapkota, 2023). The SDGs are unique in that they call for action by all countries (poor, rich and middle-income) to promote prosperity in their respective territory. SDGs emphasize on long-lasting development in the world from holistic and collective approach. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and addresses a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities while fight inequalities to ensure that no one is left behind. SDGs are broadly divided into four groups as Social, environmental, Economic, and Law and Governance Pillars and exhibited as follows (Hajian & Kashani, 2021). The Sustainable Development Goals or Global Goals are a collection of seventeen interlinked objectives designed to serve as a "shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future". The SDGs are: no poverty; zero hunger; good health and well-



being; quality education; gender equality; clean water and sanitation; affordable and clean energy; decent work and economic growth; industry, innovation and infrastructure; reduced inequalities; sustainable cities and communities; responsible consumption and production; climate action; life below water; life on land; peace, justice, and strong institutions; and partnerships for the goals.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focus on the interconnectedness of environmental, social, and economic dimensions of sustainable development, placing sustainability at the heart of global progress. These goals aim to create prosperity in people's lives and foster peace in society while respecting the planet's ecological limits. By emphasizing a holistic approach to development, the SDGs address the complex relationships between human well-being and the environment, ensuring that growth does not come at the expense of future generations. The core framework of the SDGs is built upon five key pillars, each representing a fundamental aspect of sustainability that needs to be achieved collectively by the international community (Ruggerio, 2021).

These five pillars are: Earth, which stresses the importance of conserving natural resources and preserving the environment for future generations; Humanity, which calls for the eradication of poverty and hunger while promoting dignity, equality, and justice for all; Prosperity, which seeks to harmonize human development with nature, ensuring a sustainable and prosperous life for future generations; Peace, which advocates for the creation of peaceful, inclusive, and just societies; and Partnership, which emphasizes the need for strong, collaborative global partnerships to successfully implement the SDG agenda. Together, these pillars form the foundation for achieving a balanced, equitable, and sustainable future for all.

Localization of SDG in Context of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) refers to the process of integrating global goals into local development policies and governance structures. While the SDGs are global in scope, their achievement depends on effective implementation at the local and regional levels, particularly through the efforts of local governments and non-state actors. Localization ensures that local communities engage in decision-making, set priorities, and mobilize resources to address specific socio-economic and environmental challenges. Moreover, the concept of localization emphasizes the active involvement of diverse stakeholders, including Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), in planning, implementation, monitoring, and advocacy to achieve sustainable outcomes (Guarini et al., 2022).

CSOs play a critical role in the localization of SDGs by raising awareness, fostering community participation, and ensuring accountability. Their involvement is particularly significant in mobilizing marginalized communities, advocating for policy changes, and holding governments and corporations accountable for SDG implementation. However, challenges persist in the meaningful engagement of CSOs due to structural inequalities, power imbalances, and lack of diverse representation within partnerships. Studies highlight that international and donor-driven organizations often dominate the SDG discourse, limiting opportunities for grassroots organizations to influence decision-making processes (Bolton et



al., 2023). Furthermore, the increasing reliance on big data for SDG monitoring raises concerns about data privacy, accessibility, and the technical complexity of evaluation processes, which may exclude civil society actors from meaningful participation.

The effectiveness of SDG localization largely depends on formalizing the role of CSOs in governance structures. Beyond informal engagement, CSOs should be integrated into institutional mechanisms through structured consultations, representation in oversight bodies, and participation in accountability frameworks. Strengthening multi-level partnerships—between governments, civil society, and international agencies—is crucial to overcoming existing barriers and accelerating SDG implementation. While the 2030 Agenda provides a blueprint for sustainable development, it requires more than reporting mechanisms; it demands transformative governance approaches that prioritize inclusivity, equity, and long-term systemic change. Strengthening the role of CSOs in localization efforts is not just a policy necessity but a fundamental step toward achieving a just and sustainable future (Fonseca & van de Lande, 2021).

SDG Localization in Global Context

SDG localization is the process of integrating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into local and regional governance structures, ensuring that global objectives translate into concrete actions at the community level. It connects the SDGs with local development policies and frameworks, fostering a bottom-up approach to sustainability. Because many SDG targets align directly with local government responsibilities, their successful implementation relies heavily on regional and municipal leadership (Lanshina et al., 2019; Sapkota, 2020).

Since the official launch of the SDGs in 2016, efforts to embed these goals into governance have continued to evolve. The Decade of Action, initiated by the United Nations in 2019, further accelerated the push for SDG localization by emphasizing urgent and transformative strategies. Localization is widely recognized as a fundamental pillar of multilevel governance and multi-stakeholder collaboration, with local and regional governments serving as essential actors in delivering services, protecting social contracts, and fostering sustainable development (ElMassah & Mohieldin, 2020). The Voluntary Local Review (VLR) movement, which began in 2018, has played a pivotal role in advancing SDG localization by enhancing data collection, policy coherence, and financial strategies. However, resource limitations—financial, human, and technical—continue to hinder the ability of many local governments to implement SDG-related initiatives effectively.

At the global level, SDG localization involves raising awareness, aligning policies, fostering cooperation, strengthening data collection, mobilizing financial resources, and facilitating knowledge sharing. International organizations, including the United Nations, work to promote dialogue and build capacity for SDG implementation. Governments integrate the SDGs into national development plans, ensuring alignment with existing governance structures. Partnerships between governments, civil society, the private sector, and international organizations enable the exchange of best practices and mobilization of necessary resources. Monitoring and data collection frameworks track progress, ensuring accountability and



facilitating cross-country comparisons while respecting national contexts. Financial mechanisms, including Official Development Assistance (ODA), private sector investments, and innovative financing solutions, support localization efforts, particularly in developing nations. Global platforms provide opportunities for countries to share lessons learned, refine policy approaches, and build implementation strategies (Sterling et al., 2020).

Civil society organizations play a crucial role in SDG localization by advocating for inclusive policies, raising public awareness, supporting implementation, fostering partnerships, and holding governments accountable. Their engagement spans from global to local levels, ensuring that marginalized voices are heard and that development initiatives reflect the needs of diverse communities. Civil society organizations contribute to planning and implementation by working alongside governments to design and execute SDG-aligned policies and programs (Masuda et al., 2022). They engage in partnerships that enhance the effectiveness of localization efforts while also monitoring progress and ensuring that governments and corporations uphold their commitments.

Despite their significance, civil society organizations encounter multiple challenges in engaging with SDG implementation. Limited representation in decision-making processes often weakens their influence, with donor-funded organizations frequently dominating policy discussions (Li et al., 2024). The fragmentation of civil society, characterized by diverse priorities and approaches, sometimes creates obstacles to coordinated action. The increasing reliance on data-driven governance further complicates engagement, as reporting mechanisms can be technically complex and inaccessible to grassroots organizations. Indeed, civil society organizations have nonetheless demonstrated transformative potential in various sectors, including food systems, education, water governance, urban planning, housing, and health. Their contributions have shaped policy frameworks and influenced governance models in ways that prioritize equity, sustainability, and participatory decision-making (Issa et al., 2024).

Strengthening SDG localization requires formal engagement mechanisms that integrate civil society participation into governance structures. Institutionalizing consultation processes and representation mechanisms ensures that civil society organizations are not merely symbolic actors but active contributors to policy development. Subnational implementation must be strengthened through better coordination among national, regional, and local governments, addressing resource and capacity gaps at each level. Cross-sectoral collaboration among governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector is essential for achieving meaningful progress toward the SDGs (Zwitter et al., 2025).

While the SDGs provide a framework for sustainable development, their effective implementation requires localized strategies that address context-specific challenges and opportunities. Civil society organizations (CSOs) play a crucial role in this process by acting as intermediaries between governments and communities, advocating for inclusive policies, mobilizing resources, and ensuring accountability in SDG-related initiatives. Their involvement is particularly vital in bridging gaps in governance, amplifying marginalized voices, and fostering participatory decision-making. Additionally, collaboration between



CSOs, local and regional governments, and international stakeholders enhances policy coherence, strengthens institutional capacity, and promotes innovative, community-driven solutions. By integrating local knowledge and fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships, CSOs contribute to translating global SDG commitments into meaningful, actionable progress at the grassroots level (Fisher & Fukuda-Parr, 2019).

SDG Localization in Nepal: A Strategic Framework

Nepal has demonstrated a strong commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by integrating them into national policies and development plans. The National Planning Commission (NPC) has contextualized the global framework by adding 247 country-specific indicators, bringing the total to 479. Recognizing that sustainable development encompasses economic growth, social progress, and environmental conservation, Nepal has adopted a multi-stakeholder approach, involving government, private sector, cooperatives, and communities (Ghimire, 2025).

Since the fiscal year 2074/75, Nepal has actively prioritized the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by integrating them into budgetary frameworks, policies, and development programs at both national and local levels. The government has established a strategic roadmap envisioning Nepal as a just, inclusive, and prosperous nation by 2030, emphasizing economic growth, social equity, and environmental sustainability. To achieve these ambitious targets, financial projections estimate an annual requirement of NPR 2024.8 billion, covering key sectors such as infrastructure, education, health, and climate resilience. However, a substantial funding gap of NPR 585 billion persists, posing a major challenge to the realization of SDGs. Bridging this gap requires a multi-stakeholder approach, with enhanced contributions from public and private sectors, international development partners, and local communities. Strengthening domestic revenue generation, improving public financial management, and fostering private sector investment are crucial strategies to ensure sustainable financing. Additionally, innovative funding mechanisms, such as blended finance, public-private partnerships, and diaspora investment, can play a significant role in mobilizing resources. Without a robust financial strategy and stronger institutional commitment, Nepal may struggle to meet its SDG commitments within the projected timeframe (UNDP, 2018; NPC, 2024).

The Role of Localizing SDGs in Governance

Effective SDG localization requires a decentralized governance approach, aligning responsibilities across federal, provincial, and local levels to ensure context-specific development interventions. The constitutional and legal frameworks in Nepal establish a clear division of roles, enabling local governments to take ownership of service delivery, governance, and infrastructure development while maintaining coordination with higher levels of government. This decentralized model fosters greater accountability, enhances efficiency in resource allocation, and strengthens institutional capacity for sustainable development. By integrating SDGs into local planning, governments can mobilize resources more effectively, address region-specific challenges, and implement policies that directly benefit communities.



Moreover, localized SDG implementation encourages participatory decision-making, empowering citizens and civil society organizations to actively engage in shaping development priorities, thereby promoting inclusivity and long-term sustainability (Adhikari et al., 2023). Localization of development goals is essential for several reasons, including the transfer of key public service responsibilities to local governments, which enables more effective and context-specific prioritization of development needs. It enhances the efficiency of resource utilization and ensures higher quality in local expenditure. Localization also strengthens citizen participation and fosters inclusivity, ensuring that all voices are heard in the development process. Additionally, it facilitates better coordination between different levels of government, preventing duplication of efforts and promoting a unified approach to achieving sustainable development goals at the local level (Adhikari et al., 2022).

Institutional Arrangements for SDG Localization

Nepal was among the first countries to publish an SDG Country Report in 2015, signaling its readiness to implement the agenda. The NPC, as the focal agency for SDG localization, has integrated the SDGs into periodic development plans, aligning national policies and monitoring frameworks accordingly. The 14th, 15th, and current 16th periodic plans fully incorporate SDG targets, reinforcing Nepal's long-term vision of "Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali" by 2043 (NPC, 2024).

Institutional mechanisms play a crucial role in supporting SDG implementation at various levels. At the top, three high-level committees facilitate the execution of the SDGs. The Steering Committee, chaired by the Prime Minister, oversees the strategic direction and policy implementation. The Coordination and Implementation Committee, led by the Vice Chairman of the National Planning Commission (NPC), ensures effective coordination among government agencies. Additionally, seven thematic committees, each headed by a member of the NPC, focus on specific areas of the SDGs, ensuring specialized attention and targeted actions for their successful implementation. Sapkota (2024b) has thoroughly analyzed the incorporation of SDGs into local-level budgets and programs in Nepal, highlighting the alignment of development priorities with sustainable development goals.

Nepal has also actively participated in global SDG assessments, presenting two Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) at the High-Level Political Forum under the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The SDG Status and Roadmap (2016–2030) outlines 494 indicators across 169 targets, supported by an SDG Needs Assessment, Costing, and Financing Strategy (2018), which estimates a 29% financing gap in achieving the goals. All 753 local governments in Nepal are aware of this assessment; however, their performance remains inadequate in effectively engaging civil society and promoting local resource management for SDG localization. Despite formal recognition of these priorities, challenges such as weak institutional capacity, limited public participation, and inefficient resource allocation hinder meaningful progress.



Multi-Stakeholder Engagement and Civil Society Participation

Beyond governmental efforts, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private entities, and civil society play crucial roles in SDG localization. The NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) coordinates through the "Nepal SDGs Forum," facilitating dialogues and capacity-building initiatives among civil society organizations. These engagements ensure that SDG implementation remains inclusive, participatory, and responsive to diverse social and economic contexts.

Nepal's approach to SDG localization highlights the importance of collaborative governance, resource mobilization, and evidence-based policymaking. While progress has been made, sustained efforts are needed to bridge financing gaps, strengthen institutional capacities, and enhance multi-sectoral coordination for the successful realization of SDG commitments by 2030. SDG has been a cross-cutting issue in Nepal and has been mirrored out in the national planning (e.g. budget and periodic plans) as well as provincial and local government policies and planning. The government has updated province-level data and invited local governments to join in the same domain (NPC, n.d.). However, there are various issues regarding the validity and reliability of data and proper monitoring and evaluation systems.

Localizing the SDGs at the sub-national level presents several challenges that require focused attention and an effective monitoring framework. For the successful implementation of SDGs, it is crucial to integrate and align these goals within national and sub-national plans, programs, and budgets. Local governments, being the primary entities responsible for service delivery, development, and community-level change, play a pivotal role in this process. If local governments fail to prioritize and align SDGs in their resource allocation and programs, it will be impossible to make significant progress. While agencies like the National Planning Commission (NPC) and Provincial Planning Commissions have made efforts to localize the SDGs, their actions so far have not been sufficient to meet the targets. Areas such as SDG indicator integration, resource allocation, and monitoring mechanisms require more attention to ensure that progress is on track (NGO Federation of Nepal (2022)).

Various organizations, such as the Nepal SDGs Forum (NFN) and civil society organizations (CSOs), have contributed to SDG localization efforts by focusing on awareness-building, service delivery, advocacy, and ensuring accountability. They have initiated dialogues and organized capacity-building activities for local governments, particularly on issues like SDG 6 (water and sanitation) and nature-based solutions. However, ensuring inclusivity and making sure that the "leave no one behind" principle is realized remain major concerns. Recently, a Voluntary Local Review (VLR) toolkit was developed through a consultative process and piloted in two local governments, with plans for broader implementation. Further capacity building for CSOs and local governments, along with the development of disaggregated SDG indicators, is critical to advancing these efforts and ensuring that local governments can effectively monitor and report on their contributions to SDG achievement.

On the other hand, women's inclusion in leadership is essential for the localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nepal, as it enhances representation, promotes



gender-responsive policies, and ensures equitable development. Sapkota (2024a) critically examines the role of women in Nepal's local elections, highlighting both progress and persistent challenges in achieving meaningful political participation. Similarly, Dahal (2025) explores the evolving political landscape in Nepal and how women navigate party politics. The study reveals that despite legal provisions for women's political inclusion, many female leaders face systemic discrimination, tokenism, and lack of institutional support within political parties. The reluctance of political parties to empower women beyond symbolic roles restricts their influence in policy formulation and governance. Given that SDG localization requires inclusive decision-making and grassroots-level implementation, the exclusion of women from leadership weakens the ability to address issues such as gender-based violence, economic disparities, and social justice, which are central to sustainable development.

Synthesis and Future Research Prospects

The localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nepal is a critical step toward achieving equitable and sustainable development. While Nepal has made significant strides in integrating SDGs into its national policies and budgetary frameworks, challenges persist in ensuring effective implementation at the local level. The decentralized governance structure provides opportunities for tailored interventions, yet gaps in institutional capacity, resource mobilization, and participatory governance remain barriers to progress. Local governments often struggle with inadequate technical expertise, financial constraints, and weak coordination mechanisms, limiting their ability to translate national commitments into actionable local policies. Civil society organizations (CSOs) play a crucial role in bridging these gaps by advocating for policy reforms, ensuring accountability, and facilitating community engagement. Their efforts in promoting social inclusion, gender equality, and environmental sustainability contribute significantly to achieving localized SDG targets. However, meaningful collaboration between CSOs and local governments is often hindered by bureaucratic hurdles and limited recognition of civil society's role in governance.

Despite these challenges, strengthening the partnership between local governments and CSOs is essential for accelerating SDG localization in Nepal. Effective engagement of civil society can enhance policy implementation, mobilize alternative funding sources, and foster bottom-up development approaches that align with community needs. Furthermore, empowering marginalized groups through participatory governance can lead to more inclusive decision-making, ensuring that SDG-related interventions address the most pressing socio-economic disparities. The role of CSOs in knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, and monitoring progress is crucial for holding local governments accountable and fostering transparent governance. Addressing structural barriers such as bureaucratic inefficiencies, lack of political will, and limited access to financial resources will be key in maximizing the impact of CSOs in localizing SDGs.

In this context, this paper proposes following research prospects in the days to come:



- (1) **Impact of Decentralization on SDG Localization** – Examining how Nepal’s federal restructuring has influenced local governance capacities, policy implementation, and development outcomes in SDG localization.
- (2) **Role of Civil Society in Policy Advocacy and Implementation** – Investigating how CSOs contribute to shaping policies, monitoring SDG progress, and ensuring government accountability at the grassroots level.
- (3) **Sustainable Financing Mechanisms for Localized SDG Implementation** – Exploring alternative funding strategies, including public-private partnerships, community-based financing, and international donor support, to bridge the SDG financing gap.
- (4) **Community Participation and Social Inclusion in SDG Localization** – Analyzing the effectiveness of participatory governance models in ensuring the inclusion of marginalized communities, particularly women, indigenous groups, and persons with disabilities, in the SDG implementation process.

Conclusion

Despite the commitment to reaching the SDGs and introducing various structures and systems, implementation followed by effective monitoring is a consistent challenge. Localization and mainstreaming of the national SDGs at the provincial and local levels is challenging; there is a problem related to the data availability and quality. Lack of data, paucity of appropriately disaggregated relevant data, or lack of up-to date data impose SDG tracking and monitoring limitations. Citizen Generated Data (CGD) is being used by various CSO actors in different forms; such data are helpful for the Nepal Civil Society Perspective on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A revision of the SDG road map for Nepal is required to consider a new context. Such modification must concentrate on the practical strategy of reaching ‘leave no one behind’.

Civil Society as Stakeholders CSOs can take a variety of functions in implementing the SDGs; they can spur government action through persistent advocacy and autonomous monitoring. CSOs have a strong background in working with and for marginalized groups; therefore, can direct support in the implementation of the SDGs. International investments and support are needed to ensure innovative technological development, fair trade and market access, especially for developing countries like Nepal. Nepal is the least developed country and is scheduled to upgrade to a developing country by 2026. Accelerating efforts during the transition phase is essential, and support from the global community is vital in this journey. There are challenges in localizing SDGs at the subnational level; a strengthened, effective and accelerated mechanism for localization of the SDGs is essential to achieve SDGs and minimize the disparity among people.

The practical implementation of SDGs requires collaborating with different actors and stakeholders, including CSOs. Awareness, mobilization of the actors and their resources, participation and ownership create synergy and effective ways of promoting LNOB.



Streamlining efforts from national to local levels requires localization and integration into development plans along with robust monitoring, evaluation and feedback. This arrangement will support the promotion of ownership of the goals and accountability of all actors for sustainable development, as the state alone cannot reach SDG targets. It is essential for a culturally, economically, and geographically diverse and developing country like Nepal to include different social groups in economic, social and political processes and development. Macroeconomic policies need to be revisited in order to make them coherent with the financing needs of the SDGs. The collaboration within the country as well as at regional and global levels by the government institutions and the non-governmental sector must be further strengthened.

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