

DEPARTMENT OF  
LOCAL  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
DEVELOPMENT AND  
AGRICULTURAL  
ROADS (DOLIDAR),  
GOVERNMENT OF  
NEPAL

WOMEN IN SCIENCE  
AND ENGINEERING IN  
NEPAL (WISE  
NEPAL)

HELVETAS SWISS  
INTERCOOPERATION,  
NEPAL

CARDNO EMERGING  
MARKETS(UK) LTD.

FOR

RESEARCH FOR  
COMMUNITY ACCESS  
PARTNERSHIP  
(RECAP)



Research areas and  
methodology



## PRESENTATION OUTLINE

Research background  
: Gender  
mainstreaming  
policies



Conclusions



Research Findings



## Researches on Gender Mainstreaming in Rural Transport Projects in Nepal: Transformative Changes

Rural Transport Pre-event – EST Forum Vientianne 13th March 2017

# RESEARCH BACKGROUND, OBJECTIVES, AREAS AND METHODOLOGY

## Research Background : Gender mainstreaming in rural roads, roads bridge and trail bridge programs

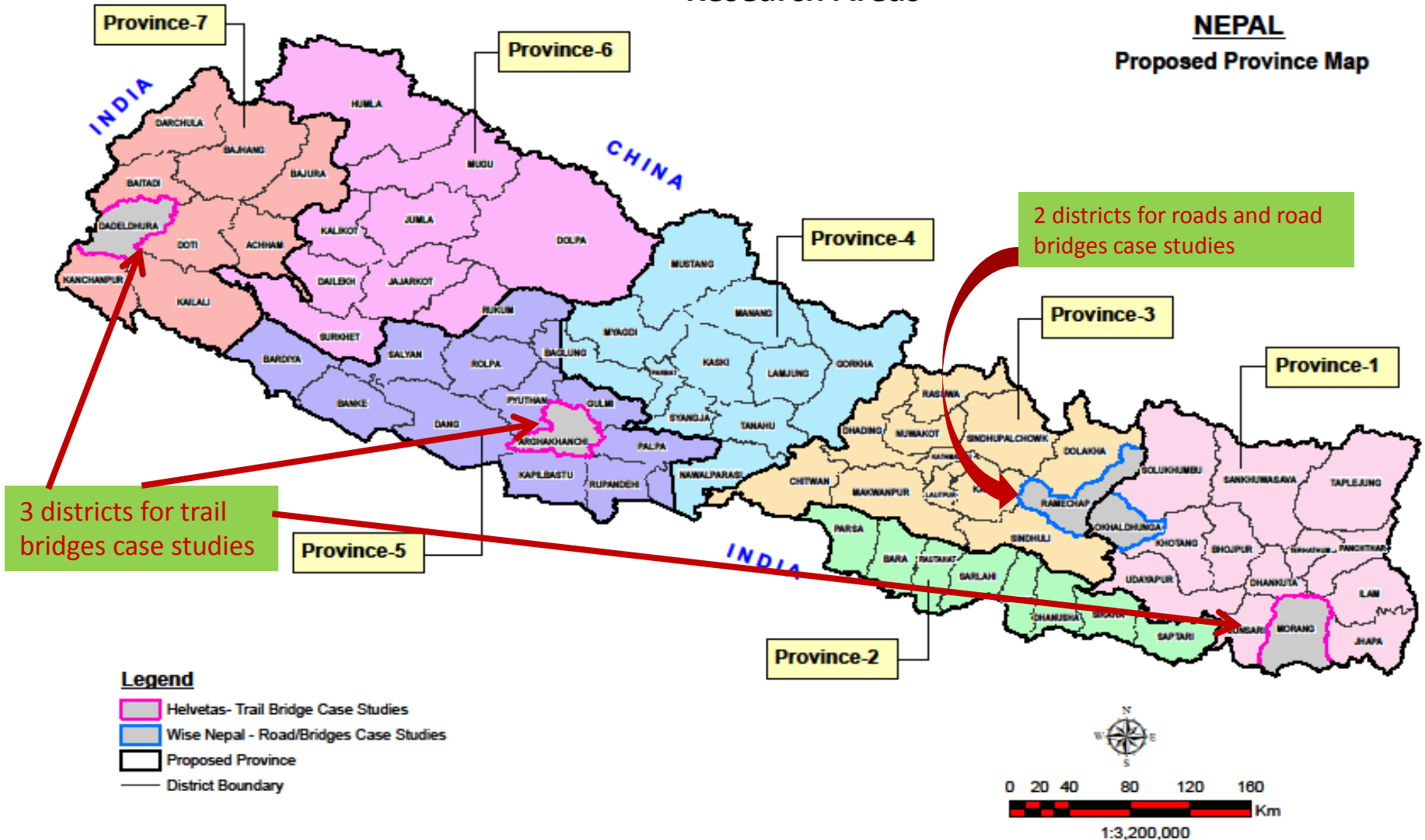
- Participation in planning, implementation and maintenance
- Conducive working environment (safety, insurance and child cares, separate toilets)
- Targeted employment (60% for disadvantaged groups and 40% women)
- Equal wages for equal works
- Reservations in the decision in making positions (33% for women)
- Training related to construction and maintenance



# RESEARCH BACKGROUND, OBJECTIVES, AREAS AND METHODOLOGY

## Research Areas

### NEPAL Proposed Province Map



Researches on gender Mainstreaming in Rural Transport Project in Nepal: Transformative Changes

# RESEARCH BACKGROUND, OBJECTIVES, AREAS AND METHODOLOGY

## Research Methodology



12 Host Household (HHH)

Immersion



60 Focal Households (FHHs)

6 RAs lived in 12 Host Households in 3 villages around two road corridors chosen and interacted, conversed with 60 other focal households, and observed the situation

- Focus group discussions
- Key informants' interviews
- Policy review



Researches on gender Mainstreaming in Rural Transport Project in Nepal: Transformative Changes

# RESEARCH PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

## Physical, social and economic mobility

- Women's mobility has increased for seeking health services, social visits , markets
- Women have increased incomes from short-term employment in road and bridge building works
- Consumption pattern changed due to affordability and availability – meat, rice and vegetables

Administrative, legal and financial works - performed by men  
- education/literacy (major barrier)

*I have never made so much money”(referring to the NRs 12,000 she made for 40 days work), I now go to the market because it's easy and safe to cross the river and I can return home in time. I sell peanuts in the market myself ”*

Yasoda Lohar  
Bridge construction worker



# RESEARCH PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

## Decision-making at household levels

- Decisions on education of children are jointly made
- Women decides on managing household expenses
- Women make their mobility decisions

Decisions on investments, asset management are made by men



## Participation and decision making at community levels

- Women contribute labour and earn wages (un-skilled or semi-skilled workers)
- Women quotas are fulfilled in numbers in user committees (33 % )
- Women also hold decision making positions

Most of the decisions are influenced by men members in the users committees

*"Men generally take the lead, particularly in construction as this is still considered a man's job. Women members are in the Committee just to fulfill the quota."*

Bimala Dhami, Bridge UC member



# RESEARCH PRELIMINARY FINDINGS



**Women making their own choices** : Although child care provisions are made in the projects, these women decided to stay home as they do not feel confident to leave their children being attended by others.



**Women making their own choices** : Another woman who is participating in a training with her child., taking advantage of child care facility given.



*"I would like to express myself in the meetings, but when I see other women keeping quiet, I cannot speak up for fear of being accused of being talkative. Most of the men of the committee are my relatives, some are also my elder brother-in-laws"*

Sharada Pandey  
User Committee member of a trail bridge

# RESEARCH PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

## Access to and control over assets/resources

- Women invest their earnings in golds
- Most earnings are spent on household expenses
- Some women took advantage of access for business (tea-convenient shops)
- Major assets (land, house and property) are still owned by men
- Very few of the women hold their bank accounts



Assets in women's ownership after the death of their husbands.

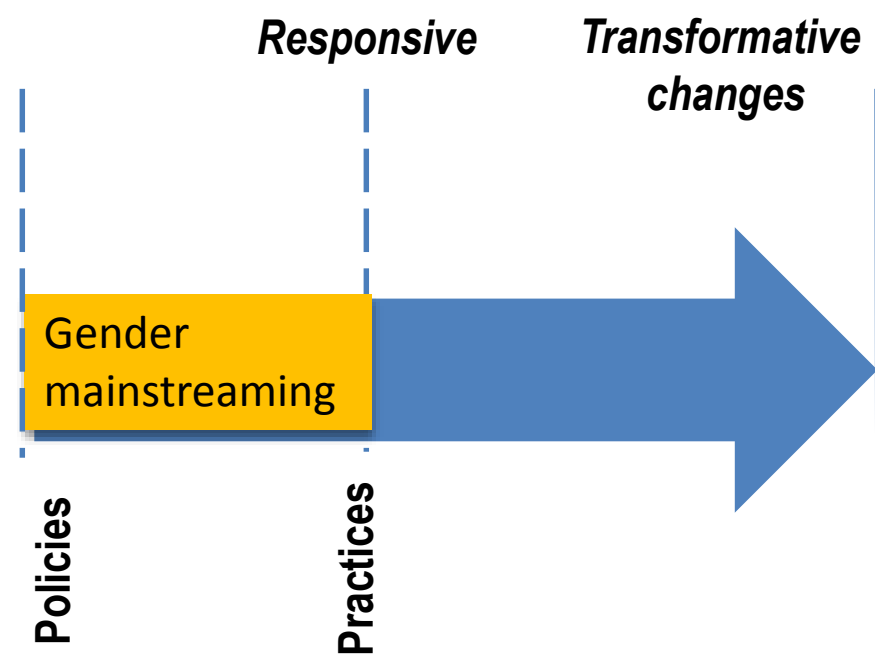
## Redistribution of unpaid labour

- Rarely, unpaid household chores and care taking works are shared between men/boys



# CONCLUSIONS

- Policies are aware of gender norms and partially responsive to changing them, primarily through quotas. Quotas are now widely accepted.  
*However, the percentage of women is not what makes the difference to their active participation – what makes the difference is family support, male UC support and community awareness. Recognising the burden of unpaid care work is crucial.*
- Practices are partially responsive to enabling women's full participation and leadership through trainings.  
*However, insufficient attention is given to the facilitation and social empowerment aspects through continuous supports for capacity building.*
- Women's lives have been enhanced through safer and better access to services and earning opportunities.  
*However, earning opportunities (during construction) for women are limited due to lack of skills trainings. Some of the women would be inspiring resource persons/role models.*



**World Economic Forum estimates that it will take another 100+ years to reach Gender Economic Parity !!**

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## WAY FORWARD

- Conscious efforts to tackle adverse gender norms
- Addressing women's unpaid and care works
- Better understanding on redistribution of women's workload
- Continued social empowerment
- Promotion of role models
- More investments on women's skills training



Thank you



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