

**Forum for Protection of Public Interest
(Pro Public)**

Since 1991

Five Years Strategy Paper June 2022 to May 2027

**Seeking and obtaining social, economic, environmental and political justice
for the disadvantaged and marginalized groups**



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Acknowledgement

Pro Public, established in 1991, completed 30 years of journey down the road achieving some important milestones in areas of good governance; peace building and conflict transformation; accessing people to justice; gender equality, social inclusion and women empowerment; rule of law and human rights; climate justice; education; health and other thematic issues, working across the length and breadth of country.

We were able to take some landmark initiatives and achieve important milestones thanks to technical and financial supports from our development partners, i.e., The Asia Foundation (TAF); Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC); GIZ-Nepal; Center for Integrative Mediation; Robert Bosch Stiftung (RBS); Institute for Foreign Affairs (IFA); UN Women; United Nations Development Program (UNDP); UNHIV/AIDS; United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR); World Food Program (WFP); United States Aid for International Development (USAID); Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA); Department for International Development (DFID); Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF); ARD Inc.; Ford Foundation; National Democratic Institute (NDI); the World Bank, MoTT Macdonald and many more.

Similarly, Pro Public, as a member, is grateful to the the Friends of the Earth International (FoEI); Consumer International (CI); Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW); UNCAC Coalition – Association for the Implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption; and South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE) for the support in various levels.

Having come this far through the journey, we deemed it necessary to look back, consolidate our achievements, and thoroughly examine oneself before we chart out a course for way forward. For this purpose, Pro Public Board of Directors, former presidents, and senior staff held several rounds of meeting, put their heads together, and hammered out the Five Years Strategy Paper (June 2022 to May 2027) which we are delighted to share with our development partners, networks/alliances and well-wishers.

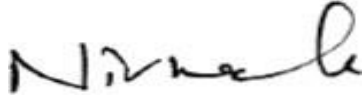
Besides capturing the current political, social, economic and development context and the challenges thereof, the Strategy Paper also outlines scope & space for development interventions brought about by Covid – 19; fast emerging global context, shifts in development priorities and preferences, and various development themes that Pro Public should work on over the course of next 5 years. Also the Strategy Paper identifies Pro Public's rights holders/stake holders, network/alliances, aside from issues, working approach, strategy, organization's strength, weaknesses, opportunity and threats.

The Strategy Paper also looks at and touches upon issues like governance of the organization, assets and property management, policies, regulations, resource generation, fund-raising schemes etc.

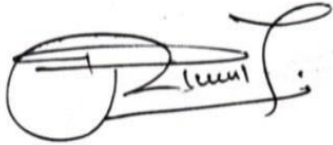
Pro Public appreciates the handwork, commitment, and dedication of its staff, creative and dynamic guidance of its Board, precious contribution of its members, and above all, the trust, confidence, and support of donor agencies and international partners that altogether helped achieve the height Pro Public boast of today , and we continue to bank on this incredible support to take the organization a quantum leap and achieve new heights, over the next five years driven by the new Strategy Paper.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt, sincere thanks to all the national and international development partners for their invaluable support in making this 30 years long journey possible. Similarly, Pro Public would like to express its gratitude especially to the local and federal government for their collaboration and support in the implementation of the program.

Once again, we earnestly appeal our development partners and network/alliance to continue their engagement with us, be a partner in our long march towards achieving social and economic security through exercise of social, economic, cultural, political rights as enshrined in the constitution of Nepal for one million women and marginalized groups over the course of next 5 years



.....
Dr. Nirmala KC
Chairperson



.....
Babu Ram Poudel
Executive Director

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Section – I

1. Context

1.1. Political Context

Nepal, a landlocked country, squeezed between India and China had been under the yoke of feudal monarchy and dynasty rule for over two centuries. Democracy and pluralism made its way into the Himalayan country only in 1990 which apparently means it has short and turbulent experiment with the British model multi-party democracy. Now, a democratic republic though, Nepalese society is yet to grow a democratic culture, and adapt a democratic way of life.

Decades of armed conflict led the country into Constituent Assembly, one of the key demands of the Maoists, for writing a new federal, democratic constitution. The Constituent Assembly gave new federal constitution in September 20, 2015 that cleared the path for election to the federal parliament and provincial assemblies held in 2017. In the general election, Communist Party of Nepal, United Marxist-Leninist (UML) and CPN (Maoist Center) formed a left electoral alliance promising, among others, a stable government, for they blamed chronic instability for Nepal's development woes. Nepalese people put through painful decade-long armed conflict and 8 years of turbulence post-peace agreement, got a constitution belatedly though, through Constituent Assembly. It rekindled hope that an era of uncertainty, chaos, conflict and chronic instability would be left behind and the country would walk a path of peace and prosperity. In the election held under new constitution, Nepalese people gave a clear mandate to the communist alliance, and it won 175 of the 275 seats in the federal parliament and formed a majority government at the center and formed provincial governments in the six of the seven provinces. Nearly 2/3rd majority communist government hardly lasted for 3 years. Once again, the parliament was dissolved prematurely blamed at intra-party feud. The opposition parties decried the prime minister's move 'foul' and 'unconstitutional' and took the matter to the court. The Supreme Court reinstated the House. The Supreme Court's verdict in favor of House reinstatement only intensified the internecine strife within the ruling party, breaking up the alliance.

Endless political wrangling, feud, and power struggle, both inter and intra-party, time and again, led the prime minister axe the federal parliament in favor of fresh mandate. The Supreme Court every time rejected the Prime minister's move as unconstitutional and reinstated the federal parliament. A new coalition government made of breakaway factions of leftists and rightists is now in the office. The political circus and the power tussle continue. The country is once again plunged into uncertainty and chaos.

The people of Nepal crying for parties and people held accountable for human rights abuses and crimes against humanity committed during the 1996–2006 conflict, but progress to address those concerns remains tardy. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) had received 53,000 complaints related to kidnapping or taking hostages; beatings resulting physical disability; physical or mental torture; rape and sexual harassment; and damage against property including looting and arson. Similarly, CIEDP had registered around 3,000 complaints related to enforced disappearances.

As the year 2022 is the election year for the local, provincial and federal Nepal continues to navigate through tricky waters of turbulence, instability, and uncertainty. Whether or not next parliamentary

election produce a matured, stable government that steer the country towards stability, peace and prosperity may not be predicted with certitude but what appears to be certain that Nepalese politicians have, time and again, proved that they are incapable of running a majority government to its full of 5 years.

There is section of intelligentsia that disapproves the idea of putting blame squarely on politicians and political parties. They see the source of instability, elsewhere, Nepal being a small landlocked country sandwiched between two emerging global powers and by virtue of its strategic geo-political location, it cannot help playing into the hands of different international interest groups.

1.2. Social Context

Nepal has acceded to all major human rights treaties, and the Nepal Treaty Act of 1990 stipulated those provisions in international treaties to which Nepal is a party will supersede Nepalese law where there is divergence. And to fight off all forms of gender/caste discrimination, human trafficking, violence against women and children, Nepal appears to have made some remarkable strides by introducing legislative measures aimed at the promotion of gender equality and the elimination of discrimination against women. They include; the five-year strategic plan of the National Women's Commission (2009-2014); the Domestic Violence (Crime and Punishment) Act, 2009; the Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act, 2007; the National Women's Commission Act, 2007; and the Gender Equality Act, 2006. The National Women Commission (NWC) was established by the Government of Nepal through an executive decision in 2002 and a separate Act was promulgated in 2007.

Social exclusion and discrimination characterize Nepalese history and has deep roots in cultural traditions. Discrimination against Dalits, women, Madheshi, indigenous people, persons with disabilities, Muslims, and sexual and gender minorities are bitter reality. Basis of discrimination include caste, religion, ethnicity, gender, and geographical region. The caste-based discrimination doesn't merely issue from the belief of cast superiority wherein one caste group seeing the other caste group inferior by birth, but it is equally intra-caste malady. For example; a member of lower caste, Dalit, whose social and economic status goes up due to political access and representation sees his or her fellow community members as inferior to him/her and looks down upon them. And hence, discrimination cannot be fought off by legal measures alone, it should be fought off socially, economically and psychologically.

It is no denying that certain caste and ethnic groups continue to be significantly underrepresented in most of the public sectors including decision-making bodies, civil services, the judiciary, law enforcement agencies, and local authorities.

As regards the caste-based discrimination, the caste system is characterized by denial, discrimination, deprivation, and domination. Under the caste structure, those in the lowest caste hierarchy—Dalits—are seen as “untouchable.” This form of discrimination denotes a rigid system of social stratification that is descent-based and hereditary in nature. It is typically associated with notions of “purity” and “pollution” that are deeply embedded in societal norms and practices.

Caste divisions are maintained through marriage, social interaction, housing and employment, and are often coercively reinforced through the practice of social ostracism, boycotts, and violence.

According to the 2011 Nepal Census, Dalits comprise of approximately 13% of the total population. According to the 2011 Nepal Living Standards Survey, almost half of the country's Dalits population lives in poverty. The average life expectancy for Dalits is far lower than the national average of 66.16, with males and females living just 51 and 58 years, respectively.

The Legislature-Parliament adopted a separate law entitled "Caste Discrimination and Untouchability (Offence and Punishment) Act" in 2011, which is considered a legislative milestone not only for Nepal, but also for the entire sub-region. It marks a positive step in promoting equal access to justice to marginalized groups, especially among the Dalit population. Although the new law criminalizes caste-based discrimination and untouchability practices, increases penalties for public officials found to be responsible for discrimination, and requires compensation to victims, several challenges remain to make the law effective.

Discrimination against indigenous peoples is another malady afflicting Nepalese society. Nepal's population is ethnically diverse, with more than a third of the population belonging to indigenous peoples. According to the 2011 census, the indigenous nationalities (Adivasi Janajati) of Nepal comprise 36% of the total population of 26.5 million. Although Indigenous Peoples constitute a significant proportion of the population, throughout the history of Nepal, indigenous peoples have been discriminated against, marginalized, excluded, subjugated, dominated and exploited in terms of land, territories, resources, language, culture, laws customary and political and economic opportunities¹. The majority of indigenous nationalities lag considerably behind the national average in terms of economic advancement and other human development indicators. Structural discrimination, manifesting in low levels of political representation, lack of access to education, training, and employment opportunities have perpetuated and deepened the poverty of indigenous peoples. The new constitution of Nepal 2015 includes greater protections for indigenous peoples and guarantees a right to social justice, which gives indigenous nationalities and others the right to participate in state structures on the basis of principles of proportional inclusion. However, there has been no legislation specific to indigenous peoples implementing these rights. The main challenges to overcoming the poverty of indigenous peoples include: eliminating the centralization of power and authority; reducing the control of social, political, and economic power by specific caste groups; mainstreaming gender, linguistic, cultural, religious, and regional diversity; targeting specific programs for the development of indigenous peoples; and implementing ILO Convention No. 169 and UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Discrimination against gender and sexual minorities is another ugly facet of Nepalese society. Sexual and gender minorities in Nepal are discriminated against and experience a wide range of human rights violations. These vulnerable groups have limited legal protections. However, for the first time in the history of Nepal, the 2011 national census included a third option in the gender categories that citizens can select, opening the way for stronger recognition of sexual and gender minority rights. The impact of this in practice was limited, however, because the census failed to record third gender citizens along with other meaningful data sets, and there were widespread reports of discrimination during the enumeration. Stronger official protection of the rights of sexual and gender minorities' rights follows a landmark decision in 2007 by the Supreme Court of Nepal that delivered a judgment

¹ <https://www.iwgia.org/en/nepal>

in *Sunil Babu Pant v. the Government of Nepal* and others, directing the Government of Nepal to take necessary measures to ensure that people of diverse gender identities and sexual orientations could fully enjoy their rights without discrimination, which also resulted in improving other rights, including greater access a range of health and legal services. In Nepal, the Third gender applicant is denied passport although Nepal's political and administrative systems have recognized the rights of citizenship for a "third gender,".

Discrimination against the Muslim community is another ill plaguing Nepalese society. Muslims have been historically marginalized and excluded in Nepal, and their representation in politics and government at the decision-making levels is consequently poor. The state has failed to recognize Muslims as a religious minority because of its tendency to define Muslims as "Islamists" rather than as a religious community. As a result, Muslim people have been excluded from the public sector and they continuously suffer from various forms of discrimination with regard to participation and economic, social and cultural rights. According to the 2011 census, Muslims constitute 4.4% of the total population of 27 million people in Nepal. However, the Muslim community believes that the figure is much higher than what is reflected in the census. Muslims are the poorest community in Nepal. The human poverty index of the Muslim community is 0.239 against the National Index of 0.325. Similarly, along the Human Development Index (HDI), Muslims are one of the poorest groups at 0.40 against the national HDI of 0.509.41 The new constitution of Nepal 2015, however, has incorporated provisions for supporting marginalized communities, including Muslims, by adopting an inclusive policy in the state mechanism.

Discrimination against people of the Tarai-Madhesh led to the series of Madhesh uprising in 2007, 2008, and 2015, which was successful in sowing the seed of deep discontent among Terai-Madhes people against ruling Pahari groups. Despite the fact that the Tarai (the low-lying region along Nepal's border with India) has the largest portion of Nepal's population, people with that geographic background lack proportional representation in the government and experience discrimination. The Madheshi community within the Tarai is discriminated against on the basis of colour, region, language, and socio-cultural identity. This community is multi-ethnic, multi-caste, multi-lingual, and multi-cultural.

Discrimination against persons with disabilities (PWDs) is old and roots in faith and belief system in Nepal. PWDs are among those historically most excluded from the mainstream socio-political and economic sphere and face multiple discriminations. The post conflict socio-political transformation process in Nepal has put social inclusion and human rights at the top of the political and development agenda. However, disability is not yet part of that discourse. Data regarding PWDs are extremely limited and often inconsistent. Estimates of the size of the PWD population in Nepal vary from 1.6 to 16%. According to organizations advocating for the rights of PWDs, the number include 450,000 persons with visual impairments, including blind and low vision; 60,000 persons with hearing disabilities; and 30,000 persons with intellectual disabilities. In addition, there are 150,000 people listed in other categories, such as "deaf-blind," "stutterers," and "hemophiliac." The meaningful participation of PWDs in the decision-making process and in the public sector is yet to be realized. De facto discrimination against PWDs still occurs in the field of education, employment, health, housing, among many other areas. For example, estimates are that 68% of PWDs have no education (59.6% of male and 77.7% of females). The rights of PWDs to participate fully in society have not

been implemented by the state. In terms of health, accessibility, education, economy, and employment opportunities, PWDs are still treated as second-class citizens.

Considering the maladies afflicting Nepalese society as stated above, it is absolutely necessary to work for a better society wherein citizens enjoy equal rights without facing different forms of discrimination and exclusion, and hence interventions on areas like i.e., public interest litigation; good governance, anti-corruption & social accountability; environmental and climate justice; strengthening of democracy and civic awareness; peace building and conflict transformation; women empowerment & gender equality; trade, development and poverty; access to justice; human rights; child rights; education; strengthening of CSOs and so forth, appear to be absolutely imperative.

1.3. Economic Context

A picture of Nepal's latest economic context is presented here borrowed from biannual reports from the World Bank. That gives a glimpse into ground realities as regards Nepal's economic state of affairs in the context of Covid -19. Nepal has been hit hard by COVID-19, although the situation has improved more recently. As the outbreak became widespread in mid-2020, a nationwide lockdown was implemented from March to July in 2020, followed by localized lockdowns, including in the Kathmandu Valley up until mid-September. During this time transportation, education and tourism-related activities were significantly restricted. Since October, the number of cases has been declining steadily, allowing a gradual easing of movement restrictions. Nepal launched its vaccination program on January 27, 2021, and about 5.9 percent of the population (or 1,791,606 people) were inoculated by mid-March 2021. Thus, there are good prospects that further outbreaks of COVID-19 can be contained.

After contracting for the first time in 40 years in FY20-by 1.9 percent-the economy showed signs of moderate recovery in the first half of FY21. Activity resumed in wholesale and retail trade, transport, and financial services, while favorable monsoons drove agricultural growth. However, tourism remained at a standstill and private investment anemic given high levels of overall uncertainty related to the epidemic as well as political developments. Uncertainty arising from the epidemic has also contributed to fiscal risks due to the degree of fiscal stimulus provided to support individuals and firms and which will need to eventually be rolled back for fiscal sustainability. The Supreme Court prevented fiscal uncertainty caused by the dissolution of Parliament in December 2000 by reinstating the Parliament.

Economic hardship is likely to have an impact on income and employment. The increasing number of unemployment applications and returning migrants could adversely affect progress in poverty reduction. The recent World Bank COVID-19 monitoring survey suggests there were widespread impacts of the pandemic on jobs and incomes, with more than two of every five economically active workers reporting an incidence of job loss or prolonged work absence. Women, young workers, and those engaged in nonagricultural activities have been the most severely affected.

Credit growth recovered in recent months, albeit moderately. In the wake of the COVID-19 crisis, the central bank lowered its policy rate and took additional measures to support credit to the private sector, including refinancing programs for COVID-19-affected firms. As a result, credit to the private sector grew by 11.6 percent in the first half of FY21, still below pre-pandemic levels. Over the same

period, deposits increased significantly due possibly to three key factors: higher precautionary savings, repatriation of savings by returning migrants, and reduced consumption amidst social distancing measures.

Muted domestic demand has contributed to an improvement in the current account balance. The current account deficit narrowed by 39.6 percent year-on-year (y-o-y) in the first half of FY21, thanks to a sharp contraction in imports (by 11.8 percent) and a recovery of remittance inflows (which grew by 6.7 percent y-o-y, after falling by 3.4 percent in FY20). Given limited amounts of foreign direct investment (FDI), external concessional loans have primarily financed the current account deficit. The central bank's foreign exchange reserves increased moderately to US\$11.3 billion by mid-January 2021, equivalent to 11.3 months of imports.

The economy is expected to recover steadily but gradually from FY21 onward. Assuming a successful vaccination rollout domestically and globally and a gradual resumption of international tourism, real GDP is projected to grow by 2.7 percent in FY21 and 3.9 percent in FY22. Growth is expected to be driven by services as social distancing eases up further, and by agriculture, on the back of recent favorable monsoons. Management and tourism diversification, the sector may not fully recover. This would stall the growth recovery, limiting its resilience. Tepid exports of goods, and services, matched against increasing imports, as consumption returns to normal, would widen the current account deficit to 3.2 percent of GDP by FY22.

The fiscal deficit is projected to remain elevated but to stabilize gradually over the medium term. Revenue performance is expected to remain weak, and additional spending will be required for economic relief measures, vaccinations, and the resumption of project implementation. As a result, the fiscal deficit is expected to widen to just under 8 percent of GDP in FY22 and public debt is projected to reach 46.7 percent of GDP by FY22. However, the country's debt will remain sustainable.

The economic outlook is subject to significant downside risks. The recent political uncertainty, if prolonged, may further undermine investment sentiment. On the upside, effective vaccination campaigns could facilitate a resumption of tourism and hospitality services. A resilient recovery could be further supported by investments, to enhance quality, market access, and livelihood opportunities for local communities in tourism and related value chains.

To mitigate downside risks to the outlook, it will be critical to address structural weaknesses in the economy that have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Over the years, remittance inflows have supported private consumption, poverty reduction, government revenues, and foreign exchange reserves. However, this heavy reliance on remittances has come at a cost, driving a real appreciation of the exchange rate, and undermining export competitiveness while encouraging imports. In turn, weak job creation has fueled further outmigration, while high imports have resulted in a heavy reliance on trade taxes, further weakening firm productivity. Developing exports to drive job creation and firm productivity is therefore central to a quick and resilient recovery. This will require higher levels of much needed FDI to leverage technical know-how and skills from abroad. Complementary reforms to promote exports would also be needed, including investments in resilient infrastructure to close existing gaps that undermine growth. Investments could also go to develop high value tourism

targeted at the mid-range segment and focused on nature-based tourism to support community livelihoods and conservation. This in turn would support greener growth, resilience, and inclusion.

Nepal's HDI value for 2019 is 0.602 which put the country in the medium human development category—positioning it at 142 out of 189 countries and territories. Between 1990 and 2019, Nepal's HDI value increased from 0.387 to 0.602, an increase of 55.6 percent.

Despite the successful and rapid reduction in poverty, there is an urgent need to change Nepal's development model because the current development path is not aiding Nepal's escape from the low-growth trap it is in. However, without comprehensive reforms to address its long-standing challenges, the report finds that Nepal will probably not become a lower-middle-income country before 2030².

Moreover, the socio-economic shock of COVID-19 has caused unprecedented disruption in transportation, service sector, tourism, hospitality industry, revenue, and remittances. The fallout will be in the areas of income, poverty, employment, and economic growth, while the existing financing gap widens. This is sure to have a bearing on Nepal's ambition for smooth and sustainable graduation from LDC category.

1.4. Development Context

To take a look at Nepal's current development context, this **Strategy Paper** takes a look at it through the lens of Sustainable Development Goal Knowledge Platform. Whether or not or to what extent has Nepal been able to achieve the SDGs targets in spite of the Covid -19 disaster and subsequent serious setbacks to its development drive.

The SDGs have been well-integrated into Nepal's national development frameworks. Nepal has developed the SDGs Status and Roadmap 2016-2030, SDGs Needs Assessment, Costing and Financing Strategy, and SDGs Localization Guidelines that spell out baselines, targets and implementation and financing strategies for each SDG. Necessary institutional set-ups are also in place for effective implementation.

Guided by the overarching national aspiration of 'Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali', the 15th Development Plan (2019/20-2023/24) has mainstreamed the SDGs. The 25 Year Long-Term Vision also internalizes the goals, targets and milestones of the 2030 agenda. Specific SDGs codes are assigned for all national development programs through Medium Term Expenditure Framework. Furthermore, SDGs have been integrated in the Sub-National Governments' periodic plans with effective monitoring and evaluation guidelines.

Assessment of the SDGs implementation over the last four years exhibits some encouraging results. As of FY 2017/18, the incidence of poverty has been reduced to 18.7 (SDG1-). Similarly, prevalence of underweight, stunting and wasting among children under 5 years of age has decreased significantly (SDG -2). In health sector, infant mortality, maternal mortality, and child mortality rates have been reduced (SDG -3). The gross enrolments in basic and secondary level education stood at 93% and 46% against the 2019 targets of 98.5% and 72% respectively (SDG -4).

² <https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/sar/publication/climbing-higher-toward-a-middle-income-country>

The Constitution guarantees 33% of women representation in the national and provincial parliaments. Currently, women's representation in the local level governments is about 41%. The gender parity index in enrollment for secondary level (Grades 9-12) set for 2019 has been achieved (SDG -5). Similarly, over 90% of the population has access to drinking water and about 99% has access to basic sanitation facilities (SDG6). Over 88% of the population has access to electricity and the target of per capita electricity consumption set for 2019 has been achieved (SDG -7). In 2019, annual economic growth rate was 6.9% and per capita income increased to USD 1,051 (SDG -8). In infrastructure sector, the road density is 0.54 against the 2019 target of 1.3. Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment has increased to 15.1% against the target of 8.3 for 2019. However, share of industry in GDP is only about 15.1% against the target of 17.7 (SDG -9).

This shows that 2019 targets of social, economic and political empowerment have been achieved. However, reducing the income and consumption inequality remains a challenge (SDG -10). The households living in safe houses reached 40% against the 2019 target of 37.8%. Against the target of 23 planned new cities; 27 have been established by 2019 (SDG -11). The target for the use of plastics (per capita in gram per day) and land use for agricultural production (cereal as percentage of cultivated land) set for 2019 has also been achieved (SDG -12).

Likewise, the 2019 targets related to preparation of local and community level adaptation plan have been achieved (SDG-13). The forest under community-based management has reached 42.7% against the target of 39.8% for 2019. The target for protected areas which was set at 23.3% has also been achieved (SDG -15). The Rule of Law and Voice and Accountability indicators for Nepal show better performance compared to the previous years (SDG -16). Internet density (per 100 person) reached 65.9% in 2019 exceeding the target of 65% (SDG -17). Despite all these the bitter truth in Nepal is poor implementation plan, policy and program so it is extremely important to intervene for the excellent implementation to achieve the results in more satisfactory way.

Given this scenario, additional support in finance, technology, and capacity building are vital for achieving the SDGs. Currently, though the total government revenue as a proportion of GDP has increased and the target set for 2019 has been achieved, there still lies a huge gap to finance the achievement of the SDGs.

Other prominent challenges include localization of SDGs at the provincial and especially local government levels, lack of adequate data, and coordination and follow up. Therefore, closer cooperation, coherence and coordination among governments, development partners, civil society, business community, volunteers, and people will be critical. Enhanced level of global partnership is equally important.

As regards SDGs achievement over the years Nepal has made significant strides as shown above, however, there are other devastating socio-cultural impact brought about by Covid-19 that threatens to rollback achievements made this far, and hence, Nepal cannot afford to gloat over its SDG achievements turning blind eye to the threats. One of the social sectors that bore full brunt of Covid-19 is the Child marriage, a social evil, which has alarmingly gone high in Nepal during the Covid 19 crisis. During the lockdown period, the girls between the ages of 14-17 in rural areas mostly, the western part of Nepal, have run away from home to get married to classmates or local boys. (*Source: Socio-cultural impact of Covid -19 in Nepal by Gokarna Pd. Gyranwali, PhD*) Although the country has committed to ending child marriage by 2030, it raised the minimum age of marriage to 20 in the

2018 Civil Code. Yet more than 36% of girls continue to marry before they are 18 (Bhattraï, 2019). Lockdowns, school closures, and economic downturns linked to COVID-19 are disproportionately affecting girls, with reduced access to sexual and reproductive health services and a rising incidence of harmful practices (Anderson & Gouch, 2020).

The other area which brings up an appalling scenario thanks to devastating impact of Covid -19 is the Gender-based violence. The UNPFA (2020) suggests that 48 percent of women in Nepal had experienced violence at some point in their lives, with 27 percent of them experiencing physical violence. Besides, 61 percent of them had never told anyone about the abuse. Women Rehabilitation Center (2020) reported that 624 cases of Gender - Based Violence (GBV) between March to May from 55 districts during the lockdown period (Neupane, 2020). A study published in the Kathmandu Post mentioned that every ten minutes, a woman somewhere in Nepal dials 1145, the helpline operated by the National Women Commission (NWC), seeking assistance. The majority of these calls are made by survivors of domestic violence who are either looking to report incidents of abuse or calling to inquire about the support services offered by the group. (K.C., 2020). The mean score of the rigorousness of impact of COVID-19 for females is high due to their inability to find an alternative source of income, which is followed by the incapacity to pay loans, psychological problems, incapability to find a new job, and inadequacy to purchase the food (UNDP, 2020). Besides this, there are various causes like social, cultural, sexual, psychological, political, etc. of gender - based violence in Nepal.

Nepal Police dealt with 2,534 cases of rape in 2020-21 against 2,144 of previous fiscal, an increase by 18.19 per cent. Similarly, as many as 735 incidents of attempt-to-rape were reported in 2020-21 compared to 687 in 2019-20. It accounts for an increase of 6.99 per cent³.

Rape cases have surged mysteriously in Nepal despite the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Nepal Police, the number of other crimes decreased during the lockdown except for rape and suicide cases (Nepal Police, 2020). The survivors are often minors who are at high risk of being exploited. According to WOREC (2020), there were 367 cases of rape reported in the last six months (April/May to September/October 2020). Of these rape cases, 44 were gang rapes. The most upsetting fact revealed by the report is that of the total rape victims, 283 are girls below 18 years of age, including 39 victims between two and ten years (13 percent) and 244 between 11 and 18 years (86 percent) (cited in khabar online). Most of these cases are in minors, which is very critical and dangerous. According to Rising Nepal, a 13-year-old girl was raped by a 20 - year-old boy; a 17-year-old girl was gang - raped by a group of nine men in Sunsari, an 8-year-old girl was raped by a 14-year-old boy in Rupandehi, and a 61-year-old father was arrested on the charge of raping his 16-year-old daughter on multiple occasions (Karki, 2020). These severe cases are the examples of the lockdown period which indicate the future trends of the Nepalese society.

Nepal held its second local level elections on May 13, 2022 since the promulgation of federal constitution 2015. Of 17.73 million registered voters, only 64 percent cast their ballots, according to Nepal's national election commission. The first election was held in 2017. Then, ¾ of eligible voters (74.16%) had exercised their franchise rights. This time, however, the local poll witnessed significant decline in voter turnouts. Similarly, significant numbers of cast ballots were declared invalid and discounted. Though the reasons behind low turnout and spoiled ballots will be analyzed and

³ <https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/rape-cases-increased-by-1819pc-last-fiscal>

ascertained over the course of time, what could be said off the top of head is that the electoral process suffered from inadequate or poor civic education of the electorates.

The other frustrating scenario with Nepal's election is the voters' long, nail-biting, wait to know the poll results. Nepal is yet to bring technology into its election apparatus. Long and complicated ballot papers, large number of candidates, create confusions and give way to wrong stamping, resulting in significant number of void ballots, and the counting process gets tedious breeding suspicions of foul play, and so on. Smart electoral process and prompt results can quell suspicions of foul play and cement belief in democracy and faith in electoral process.

2. Need for a Strategic Plan for the Next 5 Years (2022 to 2026)

Pro Public deems it absolutely imperative to revisit and seriously review its works on various thematic areas it undertook over the past 3 decades, analyze and understand its own strength, weaknesses, opportunity and threats in the context of changed local, provincial, national and global scenario as well as emerging new local, provincial and national development opportunities, broaden and deepen its understanding of the changing global development context as well as emerging challenges thrown up by the global Covid-19 crisis, and thus, chart a future course of action taking into account the global development context, international development preferences and priorities, new development challenges Nepal facing, and respond to the national development preferences and priorities and bring much-needed support to national development goals.

Pro Public, a national lead organization in areas of public interest litigation (PIL) and Governance, to name a few, cannot afford to take a traditional, dogmatic approach to development, it should rather play a vibrant and dynamic role in the face of development challenges faced by Nepal through creative, innovative and out-of-box ideas by ever pushing its frontiers of knowledge, sharing and exchanging ideas, and providing tested model of development on the strength of its own knowledge and experiences.

It is therefore, there is a pressing need for Pro Public in the post-Covid 19 situation to come up with a 5-year Strategy Plan following a massive brainstorming and thorough discussion putting heads together amongst its Board of Directors (BoD), selected members, and staff members and thus to roll out a realistic, overarching, and comprehensive paper and thereby set the course for way forward.

3. Development Opportunities in the Changed Context Brought about by Covid – 19

Pro Public considers ethnic minorities, Dalit, women, adolescents, children, children with disabilities & deformities, Muslims, Madhesis and sexual minorities (LGBTs) as the most vulnerable groups in the community who are routinely exploited by the perpetrators taking advantage of their vulnerable position, and hence, they are at the risk of violence, abuse, exploitations. These weak and vulnerable groups and the situation they live through provide the context, space, and scope for the Pro Public to work on various approaches and strategies to ameliorate their situation.

3.1. Young Girls Victim to Exploitation, Violence and Abuse

The COVID-19 pandemic has been the bane of young girls in the country. School closure blamed at lockdown increase the risk of girls living through violence at home and facing exploitation, violence, and abuse. As per anecdotal records, there have been 48 complaints of child sexual assaults in the first six weeks of lockdown, which is alarming, compared to a total of 211 cases in the last Nepali fiscal year (2018/2019,). In most cases, the perpetrator is a relative or a close person indicating the home is not always a safe place for women and young girls. In addition to the abuses, existing harmful practices like child marriage prevalent in the country that disrupts the wellbeing of young girls is further aggravated due to the pandemic. With increasing poverty as a result of the pandemic, parents are more likely to marry off their daughters soon as a mechanism to reduce the economic burden. The economic fallout, in addition to the disruption in various programs and interventions focused on preventing child marriages, is estimated to result in millions of more child marriages in the future. Nepal is one of the top 20 countries with a high prevalence of child marriage (40%). Some anecdotal records in the country indicate the increase in the prevalence of child marriage during the period of lockdown. Young girls are reported to be getting married by themselves, which is an alarming situation. It is worrisome to note that parents are not bothered to report or intend to bring their daughters back as the family is already in an economic crisis due to the pandemic. Child marriage also results in an increase in school dropout rate as shreds of evidence show that married girls aged 15–17 years are ten times likely to drop out school compared to their unmarried peers in the country. Drop out from schools will prevent young girls to complete their education, which compromises their opportunity to empowerment.

3.2. Violence Resulting in Mental Health Impact

Violence against women, girls, disables, or LGBTs, results in physical as well as psychological effects on victims, which can range from mild anxiety symptoms, worry apprehension, flashbacks and vivid recollections, feeling ashamed to more severe anxiety symptoms, post-traumatic symptoms, and even thoughts of self-harm and suicide. Lack of a support system and ways of escape further worsens the situation. A total of 648 women have been reported to commit suicide during the 83 days of lockdown in the country, which might be partly linked with violence. Women's stressful situations may further hamper child care in a household, which may impact children's nutritional as well as psychological wellbeing. Children's exposure to violence either witnessing it or facing it may disrupt their mental wellbeing.

3.3. Sexual Minorities (LGBT) Face Mental Stress

Members of sexual minorities — LGBT community in Nepal — have said they were facing more mental stress due to the crisis created by COVID-19. They spoke of the plight of LGBTs in a programme '*Challenges and Next Step Related to the Impacts of COVID-19 on LGBT Community*' organized by Blue Diamond Society recently, in Pokhara.

LGBT leaders on the occasion said that the members of the community were compelled to face increasing mental problems while staying with their families who did not accept their identity as sexual minority during the lockdown.

As per a survey carried out by the Blue Diamond Society among members of the LGBT community on the impacts of the pandemic, it was discovered that 27.1 per cent said they suffered excessive stress, while 21.6 per cent said they became short-tempered and 13.4 said they suffered from depression.

The survey was carried out among 172 members. Of them, 12.2 per cent attempted to commit suicide and 29.7 per cent experienced violence during the Covid -19 pandemic. The survey showed that those staying alone in a rented house had faced more violence.

3.4. Unsafe Abortions, Maternal Deaths Could Skyrocket as Coronavirus Closes Clinics Worldwide

The pandemic is decreasing women's access to sexual and reproductive health care worldwide as supply chains are disrupted, transport is restricted and services deemed "non-essential" are shut down. Charity Marie Stopes International (MSI), which provides contraception and abortion services in 37 countries, has estimated 9.5 million women and girls would lose access to its services in 2020 due to the pandemic. In Nepal, where it performs more than 75% of all safe abortions, MSI was forced to shut down services due to the lockdown on March 24, it said. It has since been able to reopen 12 of its 36 clinics at limited capacity but said it is far from meeting need. "We are trying every day to open more in coordination with the government," a spokeswoman said.

3.5. Increased Environmental Vulnerability

The weight of 7.6 billion humans makes up just 0.01% of all biomass on Earth, according to a report published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Bacteria, by comparison, make up 13% of all biomass, plants account for 83%, and all other forms of life make up 5% of the total weight, according to the report. Despite being such a small part of the planet, humans have been steadily destroying everything else for the past few millennia, the Guardian reports. Globalization, industrialization, and urbanization have led us to encroach on natural environments, resulting in increased contact with wildlife that we would not encounter otherwise. Beyond just increased contact with wildlife, habitat destruction disrupts the natural balance in ways that can fuel pandemics. The factors such as increased contact with wildlife and destruction of the environment created ample conditions for the emergence and spread of diseases such as COVID-19.

3.6. Digitization Addiction

Internet addiction and psychosocial problems among adolescents due to the COVID-19 pandemic is another alarming cause for concern. A research conducted by an organization "Science Direct" to investigate the prevalence of internet addiction and psychosocial problems and associated factors among adolescents during the COVID-19 pandemic has showed that more than half of the adolescents (total participants were 1572) used the internet 3 h and more per day during COVID-19 pandemic. One in five adolescents is at risk of psychosocial problems during COVID-19 pandemic.

3.7. Conflict/Peace building

Challenges of social cohesion in Nepal are emerging thanks to Covid -19 Pandemic. There are some key social cohesion issues facing Nepal that surfaced recently blamed at COVID-19 crisis. Hundreds of thousands of Nepalese economic migrants have been packed off to Nepal losing their jobs abroad. They

have come back from India and several other countries. It is highly likely that migrants returning home in large numbers will stir up tension in society threatening social cohesions in Nepalese society. While Nepali society in general is seen to be tolerant to religious diversity, religious tensions in the past have at times turned violent. These kinds of crises and disasters fuel existing frustrations created from an unequal access to employment opportunities and meaningful civic engagement in social and governance structures.

4. Development Challenges in the Changed Context and Mitigating Measures

DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES	MITIGATING MEASURES
Covid -19 pandemic and its fallouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Advocacy ➤ Awareness and campaigns for vaccination ➤ Physical or social distancing; ➤ Quarantining ➤ Hand washing
Political instability & uncertainty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Enhancement of the civic awareness; Strengthening of inclusion ➤ Debate/discussions with top political leaders in federal, provincial and local level; ➤ Capacity building of democratic norms, process and practices
Weak implementation and enforcement of legislative provisions policies and programs of the State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Advocacy ➤ Litigation ➤ Collaboration
Natural calamities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Adoption and enforcement of land use and zoning practices. ➤ Implementing and enforcing building codes. ➤ Flood plain mapping ➤ Civic education on climate change and adaptation
Trust deficit between service providers and service receivers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Interaction/dialogue between service providers and service receivers ➤ Capacity building of service providers ➤ Awareness development of service receivers
Caste, Ethnic and Geographical discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Advocacy campaigns ➤ Capacity building ➤ Awareness activities ➤ Research ➤ Media mobilization
Disputes among and between diversities and geography	
Growing disenchantment of people with political parties and leaders threatening nascent federalism	

Discrimination and exclusion of PLWHA (people living with HIV AIDS)	
Poor civic education among ordinary citizens	➤ Civic awareness
Discrimination against LGBTs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Advocacy campaigns ➤ Capacity building ➤ Awareness activities ➤ Research ➤ Media mobilization
Governance/Corruption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Advocacy campaigns ➤ Capacity building ➤ Strict enforcement of existing legal provisions; Revision of the existing legislation ➤ Awareness activities ➤ Research ➤ Media mobilization
Ethics/Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Advocacy campaigns ➤ Capacity building ➤ Awareness activities ➤ Research ➤ Media mobilization
Girls/Adolescents education	
WASH +	
Refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Research ➤ Economic and legal support ➤ Awareness activities ➤ Advocacy ➤ Education to the refugee's children

Section – II

1. Pro Public's Rights Holders and Stake Holders

<u>Right Holders</u>	<u>Stake Holders</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Women ➤ Children ➤ Adolescents ➤ Senior citizens ➤ Minority groups (ethnic, religious, language, LGBTs etc.) ➤ Poorest of the poor ➤ Youth ➤ PLWHA (People living with HIV/AIDS) ➤ Sex workers ➤ People with disabilities ➤ Conflict victims 	<u>State agencies</u>	<u>Civil Society & Others</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Federal and provincial Parliament ➤ Cabinet ➤ Federal and provincial ministries ➤ Commissions ➤ Departments ➤ Courts ➤ Local Governments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) ➤ NGOs/INGOs & NGO federation ➤ Human rights groups ➤ Corporate houses ➤ Private sector ➤ Donors/ UN agencies ➤ Network/ Alliances ➤ Financial institutions ➤ Media houses ➤ Academia ➤ Supreme Court Bar Association ➤ Nepal Bar Association

2. Network, Alliances and Development

Local Level	Province/District level	National level	International Level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local governments • Local CSOs • Community level loose networks/groups • School/colleges • Youth clubs • Dialogue facilitation/mediation centers • FCHV • Mother group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Province/District Administration Office • District Coordination Committee • Government line agencies for public service delivery • CSOs • School/colleges • Courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFGA) • Ministry of Forest and Environment • Ministry of Women and Social 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide Oregon, USA • Consumers International 24 Highbury Crescent, London N5 1RX, UK • Friends of the Earth International Amsterdam, The Netherland • UNCAC Coalition –

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Groups/Consumers Groups • Financial institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private Sectors • Educational institute • Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welfare (MoWSW) • NGO Federation • Social Welfare Council (SWC) • Different Commissions • National level CSOs • INGOs, • Donor agencies • Educational institute • Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Association for the Implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption, Vienna, Austria • Global Alliance for Ministries and Infrastructures for Peace (GAMIP) Geneva, Switzerland • South Asia Watch on Trade Economics and Environment Kathmandu, Nepal • Friends Foundation, Dripping Springs, TX 78620, USA
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3. Past Thematic Interventions of Pro Public

Pro Public worked on the following development themes in partnership with different donors, partners, and development agencies over the past 3 decades

Sr. no.	Theme	Past Projects/Programs/Initiatives
1.	Public Interest Advocacy Litigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy • PIL writ file and hearing
2.	Good Governance, Anti-corruption and Social Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good governance • Civil society Anti-corruption • Governance Reform • National Capacity Development Institute • Strengthening Advocacy Capacity and Local Government Accountability (SALGA) Project
3.	Natural Resource, Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGO Business Environmental Partnership

	and Climate Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity Conservation Training and Education • Workshop on Environment and Justice • Interaction Program on Proposed Environment Quality Standard • Medical Waste Management • Study on the Socioeconomic Impact of Glaciers Lakes Outburst • PILs
4.	Strengthening Democracy, civic awareness and civic education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining the Public Agenda: Strengthening Constituencies for Peace and Reform in Nepal • Public Debates on Issues surrounding the Constituent Assembly • Leaders, Listen to the Voice of People! • Observation of the Constituent Assembly Election in Nepal • Fostering Civic Awareness among Food Aid Beneficiaries in Nepal • Coalition for Constituent Assembly Support (CoCAS) • Community Dialogue and Round Table Discussion • Mock Parliament • Coalition for Gender Responsive Electoral Process in Nepal
5.	Peace building and conflict transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Mediation Program • Civil Peace Service Program • Reintegration of Ex-Combatants • Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation • Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation for Strengthening Peace and Social Harmony • Nonviolent Communication • Strengthening the Role of Judicial Committees • Supporting Reconciliation through Theatre Facilitated Dialogue
6.	Women Empowerment, Gender equality & social inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender Equality and Justice • Gender Sensitization • Drafting Shadow Constitution • PILs

7.	Trade, development and poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer protection • Farmers' Rights Program • Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction • Food security
8.	Rule of Law, Access to Justice and fundamental human rights promotion & strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Mediation Program • PILs
9.	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic education • Scholarships
10.	Strengthening of CSOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening Civil Society and its Organizations for Social and Political Transformation in Karnali
11.	Refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Research ➤ Economic, political and legal support ➤ Awareness and caring activities • Education to the refugee's children

Cross-cutting Issues

- Gender & social inclusion
- LGBTs
- Persons with Disability (PWDs)
- PLWHA (people living with HIV AIDS)

4. Selected Research Works Carried out by Pro Public

Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

- Gender and Justice
- The Status of Nepalese Women
- Women in Politics: Environmental Scan

Good Governance and Anticorruption

- Functioning of Anti-corruption Agencies
- Study on Good Governance
- Baseline Survey of Civil Society Organizations Involved in Governance and/or Advocacy Sector
- Review of Existing Policies, Acts and Regulations Related to Forest, Irrigation and Local Self Governance

Consumers Rights

- Study on SAFTA
- Study on TRIPs
- How Can Nepal Benefit by Signing ITPGRFA?
- Impact of Liberalization on Agriculture and Livelihoods of Farming Communities in Nepal

- Study on the Indigenous Knowledge and Traditional Practices of the Hill Farmers of Nepal
- Seed of Monopoly: Impact of TRIPs Agreement in Nepal
- Privatization: Expectation and Reality

Environment

- Study on the Socioeconomic Impact of Glacier Lakes Outburst
- Study on Industrial Effluent Standard Compliance Monitoring
- Biodiversity Conservation Resource material

Peace Building and Conflict Transformation

- Peace Building and Conflict Transformation
- I4P Market Study
- Community-based Reintegration of Ex-combatants
- End line Study of the Community Mediation

5. SWOT Analyses of Pro Public

Pro Public identifies its STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, and OPPORTUNITIES and THREATS as given below in the table.

<u>STRENGTHS</u>	<u>WEAKNESSES</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Recognition/credibility as a national level CSO across and beyond Nepal ✓ An excellent and intensive work performance profile of last 30 years on dozens of social issues from grassroots to policy level ✓ An inclusive team (members and staff) of committed, intellectual, experienced personalities ✓ Pool of experts with rich experience, ✓ Network/Linkage at global, national and local level ✓ Operational policies ✓ Well-equipped with its own building, transport and operational facilities ✓ A general assembly of established personalities ✓ A new leadership in the organization with second generation board of directors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Resource constraints ✓ Brain drain ✓ Shrinking funding base ✓ Documentation and marketing

OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Low level of awareness with citizen and capacity building requirements of selected and elected representatives ✓ Rampant corruption/bad governance ✓ Environmental degradation and global warming ✓ A renewed global commitment for environmental protection and climate justice ✓ Weak democracy, human rights and civic awareness ✓ Conflicts: lack of proper mechanisms/capacities to address them ✓ Poor gender equality and social inclusion ✓ A profound need of capacity building in federal system of polity ✓ An Environment for state and NGO partnership ✓ Lack of access to justice ✓ Child Rights ✓ Low quality of education ✓ Lack of proper and quality access on public health ✓ Lack of governance with the CSOs ✓ Need of humanitarian assistant ✓ Networks/Alliances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Shifting global priority and development preferences, ✓ Frequent outbreaks of pandemic consuming resource, ✓ Political uncertainty, instability, ✓ Natural calamities, disasters, social conflicts, ✓ Geo-political tensions resulting from Nepal being a buffer state between two Asian powers. ✓ Rampant corruption/bad governance ✓ Hiring and retention of quality human resource;

6. Thematic Intervention Areas/Issues

Pro Public, in the next FIVE years, will focus on thematic Issues and Intervention Areas as given below in the box:

Sr. no.	Theme	Issues	Interventions Strategy
1.	Rule of Law, Access to Justice and Fundamental Human Rights Promotion and Strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Human Rights ➤ Community disputes ➤ Strengthening legal system ➤ Legal aid ➤ Legal awareness ➤ Legal education ➤ Child right ➤ Women right ➤ Sexual and Reproductive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ PIL ➤ Awareness ➤ Research ➤ Advocacy letter ➤ Case filing ➤ Pleading ➤ Enforcement of the decisions ➤ Follow-up ➤ Publication

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> health rights ➤ Right to Information ➤ Farmers right ➤ Fundamental rights ➤ Senior citizen right ➤ Minority right 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dissemination ➤ Networking
2.	Strengthening Democracy, Governance, Conflict Resolution, Peace and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Electoral Processes and Procedures ➤ Transparency and Good Governance ➤ Media and Communications ➤ Fight against Corruption ➤ Empowering Local Governments ➤ Civic Education ➤ Civic Spaces ➤ Corruption ➤ Transparency, accountability and participation ➤ Rule of law ➤ Civic Education ➤ Public Expenditure Tracking ➤ Community Score Card ➤ Citizen Report Card ➤ Public Hearing, Public Audit, participatory Planning, Participatory Budgeting ➤ Community Led Procurement ➤ Community disputes ➤ Political disputes ➤ Caste, religion, gender, and geographical dispute ➤ Human rights violation ➤ Mediation ➤ Peace education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Advocacy/Campaigns ➤ Research ➤ Advocacy ➤ Capacity building ➤ Policy review ➤ Public hearing/dialogue ➤ Public Audit ➤ Social Audit ➤ & other social accountability tools ➤ Media mobilization (TV, radio, papers, social media) ➤ Facilitate in implementation of report of the Auditor General ➤ Collaboration with CIAA ➤ Publication Dissemination and Networking ➤ Civic & voter education ➤ Advocacy/Campaigns ➤ Social dialogue ➤ Community dialogue ➤ Enacting dialogue (Playback theater) ➤ Restorative Dialogue ➤ Peace education ➤ Civic education ➤ Community mediation ➤ Nonviolent communication ➤ Capacity building

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Nonviolent communication ➤ Peace research ➤ Peace journalism ➤ Quality education ➤ Health & sanitation ➤ Social security ➤ Quality education ➤ Physical facilities ➤ Enrolment ➤ Drop outs reduction ➤ Food for education ➤ Scholarships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Story telling ➤ Peace art & painting, speech competition among the youth ➤ Peace conferences ➤ Cultural exchange events ➤ Establishment of community museum ➤ Peace messages through multiple media (TV, radio, papers, social media) ➤ Spiritual conferences ➤ Peace research ➤ Political and gender dialogue ➤ Scholarship
3.	Natural Resource, Environmental and Climate Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mountain and Glacier lakes ➤ Rivers ➤ Urban pollution ➤ Forest ➤ Resilience/behavior change ➤ Environment ➤ Ecology ➤ Awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ PIL ➤ Advocacy/campaigns ➤ Research ➤ Advocacy ➤ Capacity building ➤ Policy review ➤ Public hearing/dialogue ➤ Support in implementing existing environmental laws and policies and developing environmental laws, policies and guidelines ➤ Publication Dissemination ➤ Networking
4.	Women Empowerment, Gender Justice, and Social Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gender, caste, religion based violence ➤ Equal participation ➤ Civic education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Awareness campaigns ➤ Research ➤ Advocacy ➤ Capacity building ➤ Policy review ➤ Conferences, interactions, meetings ➤ Networking ➤ Media mobilization (TV, radio, papers, social media) ➤ Advocacy/Campaigns ➤ Publication, Dissemination

			and Networking
5.	Promoting Good Society and Strengthening Institutional Integrity of CSOs; NGOs; Cooperatives and Private Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ NGO governance ➤ Fund raising and resource management ➤ NGO-Government-Private Sector interaction ➤ NGO-Government partnership ➤ Sustainability of the CSOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Advocacy/Campaigns ➤ Research ➤ Capacity Building; Publication; Dissemination ➤ Networking
6.	Economic Development and Livelihood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Food rights ➤ Land rights ➤ Production ➤ Market ➤ Entrepreneurship development ➤ Food security ➤ Sustainable agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Advocacy/Campaigns ➤ Research ➤ Income generation training ➤ Publication; Dissemination ➤ Networking
7.	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Psychosocial counseling training (basic and advanced) ➤ Psychosocial wellbeing and services ➤ Mindfulness/meditation/spiritual/emotional wellbeing ➤ Economic, political and legal rights ➤ Child rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Research ➤ Capacity Building ➤ Psychosocial support services ➤ Media mobilization (TV, radio, papers, social media) ➤ Referral/coordination ➤ Economic service ➤ Education Advocacy ➤ Economic, political and legal support ➤ Awareness and caring activities ➤ Education to the refugee's children

Section-III

1. About Pro Public

PRO PUBLIC, a non-profit, a non-governmental organization dedicated to the cause of public interest, was founded in 1991 by a consortium of environmental lawyers, journalists, economists, engineers, consumers and women rights activists. It raises voice against corruption, red-tape and irregularities and makes the government bodies aware of their duties and responsibilities. Its focus over the years has been on good governance, conflict transformation and peace building, protection of natural and cultural heritage, environmental justice, pollution control, gender justice and consumer protection. Pro Public has consistently succeeded in creating government accountability in Nepal through media campaigns, advocacy, negotiation, correspondence and public interest litigation.

Mission

Play catalytic role in increasing access to social, economic, cultural, political and environmental justice for the excluded, women and other marginalized groups of Nepalese people and thus contribute to the creation of a just, inclusive, and fair society.

Vision

A just society where each citizen of the country is socially and economically secure, and where the state is politically, legally, and administratively inclusive and fair, and where every person enjoys social, economic, cultural, and political rights.

Goal

Work towards achieving social and economic security through exercise of social, economic, cultural, political rights as enshrined in the constitution of Nepal for one million women and marginalized groups over the course of next 5 years.

Objective:

1. To promote environment conservation, consumer rights, women rights and child rights;
2. To strengthen government accountability, transparency rule of law and democracy;
3. To promote Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI);
4. To promote peace, social cohesion and peaceful co-existence.

2. Our Values

- ✓ Mutual Respect
- ✓ Equality, justice, diversity and humanity
- ✓ Gender sensitivity and responsiveness
- ✓ Integrity
- ✓ Solidarity with people living in poverty and exclusion
- ✓ Zero Tolerance to corruption and all forms of discrimination

3. Pro Public Opposes

- ✓ All forms of violence against human beings. Child marriage/child labor/dowry
- ✓ Caste-based, gender-based, religion based discrimination
- ✓ Exclusion
- ✓ Violent means to achieve an end

4. Working Approach of Pro Public

Pro Public in the next 5 years will work on eclectic mix of approaches to development interventions. Our 3 decades of experience working in the development sector on various thematic issues has cemented our belief that there is no hard & fast approach nor is there one-size-fit-all theory of change. Several factors within our knowledge and beyond come into play in making a project/program success or failure. The socio-cultural context, social psyche, mindset, literacy level, community people's perceptions to development, their cultures and belief systems are some of the critically important factors that impact any project/program implementation. People's issues, needs, aspirations, expectations, must be studied, analyzed, and worked into any project/program design that increases the chances of success of a project/program. Hence, Pro Public will observe flexibility in taking an approach to any development interventions, and will do only after carrying out a comprehensive analysis and thorough understanding of the people, community, socio-cultural context etc. targeted by the intervention.

Pro Public in the next 5 years will take any of the following Approaches to development, or a combination of them, or even an innovative approach informed by the place and people, context, and situation.

- ✓ Human rights-based approach to development
- ✓ Integrated community development approach
- ✓ Empowerment approach (bottom-up approach) to help rights-holders take charge of their own development
- ✓ Conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity
- ✓ Need-based approach
- ✓ Issue based approach
- ✓ Eclectic approach

Section – IV

1. Institutional Development and Strengthening

Pro Public in the next 5 years will focus on institutional development and strengthening of the organization. It will do so by working on the following Strategy and carrying out several Strategic Activities.

1.1. Strategy

- a) Deepen understanding of Pro Public VISSION, MISSION, GOAL, OBJECTIVES, VALUES, STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES among Board members, Staff, Rights Holders, Stakeholders, Networks and Alliances;
- b) Develop and Implement project/programs in line with Pro Public's VISION, MISSION, GOAL, OBJECTIVES, VALUES, prioritized themes and issues;
- c) Develop project/program to meet the challenges thrown up by changing global context, global development priorities, development perspectives, and development approach;
- d) Develop competitive and action-oriented projects to achieve goals set out by Pro Public's Strategy Paper;
- e) Expand resource base by devising creative, innovative, and diverse strategies.

1.2. Strategic Activities

- a) Policies revisit, reviews, update, and compliance;
- b) Orientation program to staff, board and key stakeholders;
- c) Capacity-building training, exposure, skill development to build expertise and create pool of thematic experts;
- d) Networking, alliance-building and coordination with national/international Agencies/ stakeholders on issues undertaken by Pro Public;
- e) Building Provincial and district level networks with likeminded CSOs for the expansion of the partnership and collaboration;
- f) Draw up Work Plan and Action Plan to design project to cover all themes listed above over the span of 5 years. Design projects on themes informed by issues/needs and donors' development priorities.

1.3. Leadership Development

- a) Build capacity, give exposure, travel opportunities, responsibilities to facilitate leadership development of Pro Public members and staff;
- b) Build institutional capacity of network organizations, promote leadership;
- c) Explore ways and means to connect with the founding members for their continued engagement with the organization;
- d) Build and develop next generation leadership.

1.4. Governance

- a) Develop/update/refine policy documents guidelines, and code of conduct;
- b) Effective implementation of the existing policies, not conflicting with donors' legitimate requirements and state policies;
- c) Develop scientific and efficient working patterns and cultivate smart working culture,
- d) Introduce new technology;
- e) Build managerial and administrative capacity of staff;
- f) Periodic performance evaluation
- g) Scientific data collection and management of information, documentation and dissemination; and
- h) Develop accountability, transparency and rule of law within organization and networks.

1.5. Resource Management & Mobilization

- a) Develop projects/programs based on thematic issues identified and prioritized by Pro Public for next 5 years, explore prospective partners and negotiate partnership with NGOs, international agencies, donors and Government;
- b) Create Fund-Raising TEAM to select, design, develop project/programs, explore resource-base, potential donors as well as funding agencies, develop innovative programs to attract donors and tap resources;
- c) Influence planning and budgeting at different levels, engage, tap and mobilize resources to fund themes identified and prioritized by Pro Public;
- d) Develop innovative and creative ideas/strategies for local level resource generation.

1.6. Local Resource Generation

- a) Organize at least 2 Charity Programs in a year to raise funds;
- b) Raise fund selling T-shirts with logo of Pro Public on it amongst staffs, members and networks;
- c) Charity dinner once in a year to raise fund for social cause followed by dissemination of Pro Public's works;
- d) Explore other ways and means to raise income of the organization.

1.7. Monitoring & Evaluation

- a. Develop indicators to objectively verify outcome, output, and impact of programs implemented by Pro Public;
- b. Develop monitoring mechanism as well as scientific monitoring system and tools;
- c. Ensure involvement of Rights Holder and Stakeholders in monitoring and evaluation works;
- d. Create Monitoring Unit led by Board member/relevant Staff;
- e. Conduct impact assessment of projects/programs implemented by Pro Public, document and disseminate them;
- f. Evaluate project/programs by Internal and External Evaluator; Evaluate Institutional performance.

1.8. Knowledge Management, Documentation, Branding & Disseminations

- a) Publications of the 30 Years of Pro Public works
- b) Brochure of the organization
- c) Update of the website
- d) Create YouTube channel
- e) Media mobilization (Radio, Television)
- f) Social Media presence and mobilization
- g) Publication of periodic bulletin
- h) Periodic interactions, discussions, workshops and conferences
- i) Issues based campaigns
- j) Press conference organized from time to time
- k) Donor briefing meeting
- l) Provide expert services to other organizations