

# Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio (SDIP)

## River Basins Programme, ICIMOD

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FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE

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Aid

### Bridging Gender Gap - Bringing Equality

#### Introduction

Gender disparities in societies of Koshi and Indus River Basin multiply water-food-energy insecurities emerging from socioeconomic and climatic stressors in these areas. Decline in crop productivity and farming failure due to variability in precipitation and changes in temperature have challenged livelihoods of agrarian communities, forcing one or two family members to leave villages to seek alternative income. In many parts of the basin, these trends have particular effects on women. Gender disparities in literacy, life expectancy, marital age and other well-being related indicators show women as more vulnerable to climatic and socioeconomic stressors. Thus, it is urgent to work towards achieving higher gender equality.

Gender work of ICIMOD within Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio (SDIP) focus on:

- strengthening existing gender statistics of the basins
- promoting regional cooperation through network of organisations and individuals working on gender
- gender focused research on local water governance, social entrepreneurship, water induced disaster, water management practices to understand interlinkages of different gender parameters



#### Gender statistics

Gender statistics are crucial to help identify gender gaps, gender sensitive program planning, and policy formulation.

In SDIP I, we added 60 parameters to Koshi Basin Information System that focused specifically on gender issues. In the future, we plan to add another 37 gender parameters from Indian part of the basin. This data is publicly available through Koshi Basin Information System online.

SDIP II aims to prepare a similar portal for Indus Basin.

#### Promoting regional cooperation through Gender Network

The programme is in the process of developing a regional gender platform and gender network. Through these systems, partners are likely to cooperate on mutual sharing of knowledge and practices.

#### Gender perspective of local water governance

An in-depth study documenting nearly 20 years history of Local Water Use Master Plan Practices in Nepal has showed the strength of incorporating gender and social inclusion in planning through a 17-step participatory practice. The study also identified key areas where inclusiveness could be further improved. The research findings are expected to contribute to gender integration in local water management under the new administrative structure of the state. A similar study is currently planned for the Koshi Basin in India.

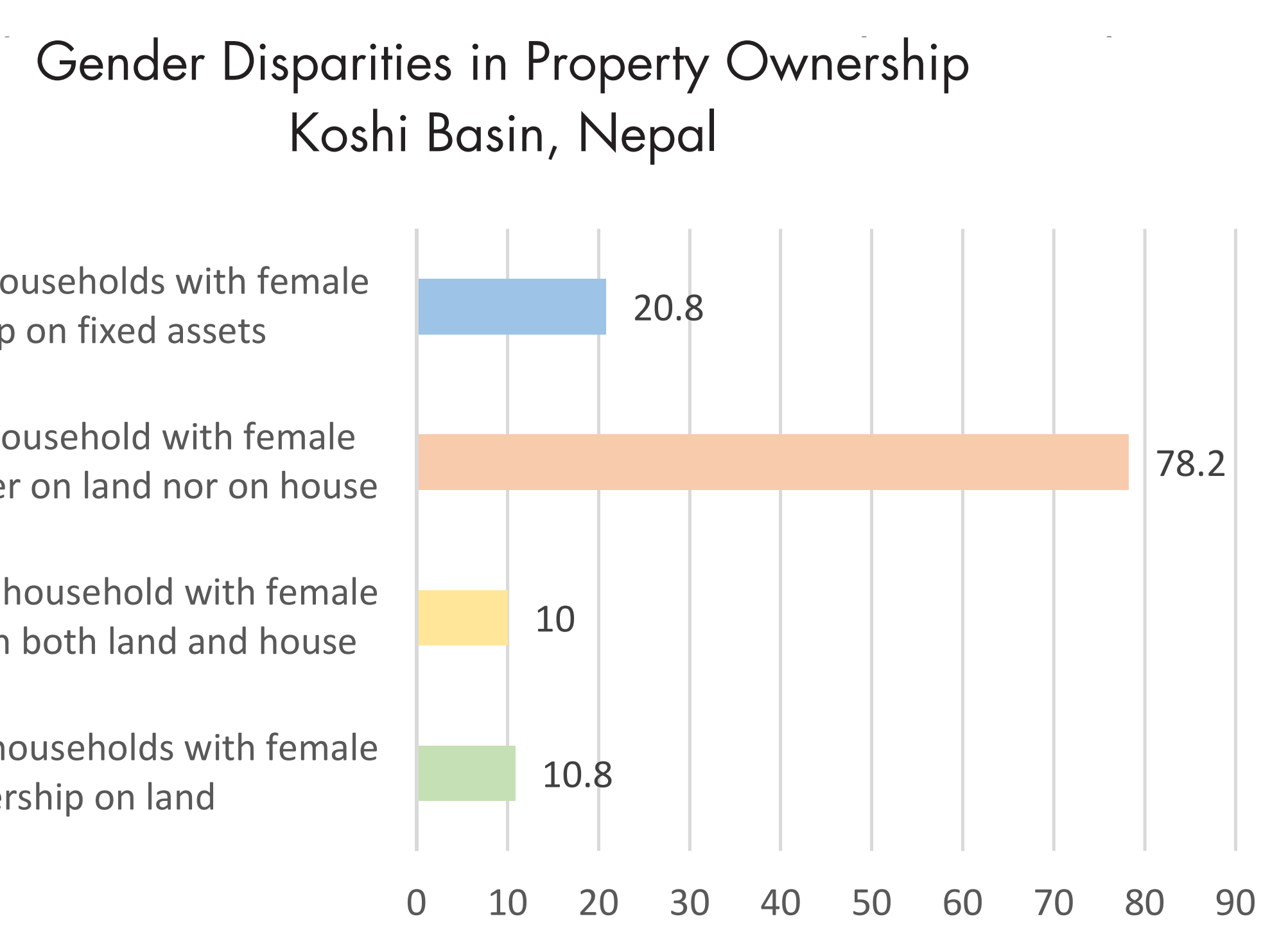
#### Social entrepreneurship

Social enterprise and entrepreneurship approaches have been adopted in the Upper Indus Basin to address gender problems in the face of climatic and socio-economic stressors. We expect this work will lead to promising policy formulation in Pakistan.

#### Gender integration on ongoing Community Based Flood Warning Systems and Water Management

Programs designed for gender transformative change have higher gender impact. Taking this approach, the Early Warning Systems pilot on the Ratu Khola, Koshi Basin is actively supporting women to be caretakers of these systems, rather than just beneficiaries.

Women's involvement in the promotion of soil conservation practices in the Upper Indus Basin shows women's involvement has contributed significantly to the success of the program.



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Gender and Social Inclusion in  
Local Water Planning: Lessons  
from Water Use Master Plan  
Practices in Nepal

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