



NEPAL

POLICY INITIATIVES

SMES CONTRIBUTE 90% OF INDUSTRIAL GDP AND 70% OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS

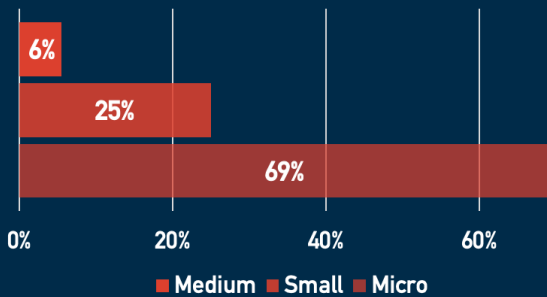
(1)

26.85%

OF ESTABLISHMENTS ARE OWNED BY WOMEN

(10)

MSME EMPLOYMENT BY SIZE OF ENTERPRISE



(6)

IN NEPAL, IT TAKES 8 PROCEDURES AND 22.5 DAYS TO START UP AND FORMALLY OPERATE A SME

(2)

SMES EMPLOY 80% OF THE WORKFORCE

(1)

19.7% WOMEN OWN LAND

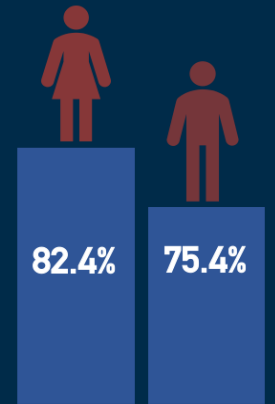
(11)

41% OF WOMEN HAVE BANK ACCOUNTS IN COMPARISON TO 50% OF MEN

(7)

INFORMAL EMPLOYMENT BY GENDER

% OF TOTAL NON-AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT



(5)

THE INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES ACT 2016

25% AND 50% TAX REDUCTION ON LAND REGISTERED TO WOMEN



(8)

MICRO ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION

- In 1998, the Government of Nepal and UNDP started the Micro Enterprise Development Programme (MEDEP), with the aim of reducing poverty and generating employment through the creation of micro enterprises.
- In 2018, MEDEP's progress was continued through the Micro Enterprise Development Programme for Poverty Alleviation (MEDPA) that came under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supply.
- The MEDPA is now working to establish units in all municipalities across 77 districts of Nepal, with the objective to promote and assist micro enterprises.
- Between 1998 and July 2018, the project successfully created 142,437 entrepreneurs.
 - 37,304 graduated, 29,417 became resilient, and 1,317 were able to convert their enterprises into SMEs.

(3,8,9)



Catalyzing Women's Entrepreneurship Creating a Gender-Responsive Entrepreneurial Ecosystem



ECOSYSTEM OF STAKEHOLDERS

The CWE project was launched in Nepal through a **national consultation** that brought together **more than 110 participants**. Participants included government leaders and policymakers from key ministries, alongside experts in the areas of gender equality, SME development, ICT and finance as well as representatives from key international organizations. The national consultation provided substantive background on the opportunities and issues faced by women entrepreneurs in their enabling environment. It facilitated a diverse dialogue around specific areas to advance women's entrepreneurship in Nepal. The press release from the event can also be found **here**.



TECHNICAL CAPACITY BUILDING

ESCAP has partnered with South Asian Women Development Forum (SAWDF) to undertake a research on bridging the gender divide in the digital ecosystem for women entrepreneurs in Nepal. Research will be undertaken to identify specific barriers and opportunities for women entrepreneurs in rural and other vulnerable segments in terms of their access to digital ecosystem in Nepal. Additionally, e-commerce capacity building for women entrepreneurs is being planned in identified provinces based on the needs assessment.

The Programme is active across
SOUTH ASIA, SOUTH EAST ASIA and THE PACIFIC.

With on-the-ground activities in:



(1) ESCAP 2020a (2) World Bank Doing Business (3) ESCAP 2020 (4) SME Finance Forum 2018 (5) World Bank 2019 (6) CBS 2019 (7) Global Findex 2017 (8) Industrial Enterprise Act 2016 (9) UNDP Nepal (10) Central Bureau of Statistics 2018 (11) Nepal Population Census 2021



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