



GOAL PROFILE OF

SDG 17: PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS



Prepared by: _____



NAYA
Nepal APFSD Youth Alliance



Background:

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are global development targets adopted by all UN member states, including Nepal, in 2015. The Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) and the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), respectively, have regional and global institutions in place to monitor and review Agenda 2030. Every year, CSOs, institutions, and people gather at these forums to share their experiences, best practices, progress, gaps, and obstacles in achieving the SDGs. These forums are quite effective in SDG advocacy for diverse groups and constituencies.

To implement follow-up actions around APFSD in Nepal, the Nepal APFSD Youth Alliance (NAYA) was formed after the completion of the 8th APFSD Youth Forum. The alliance is made up of eleven youth-led and youth-serving organizations in the working group, and more than 200 individuals who represent a diverse geography, themes, disability, gender identity, and other factors. NAYA envisions young people at the forefront of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development at the national, regional, and international levels.

Visible Impact serves as a secretariat for NAYA. Visible Impact serves as the secretariat for NAYA. Visible Impact is a young women-led organization in Nepal that is creating a visible impact on the lives of adolescent girls, women, and youth by unleashing their social and economic leadership through participatory innovative interventions.

Every year, NAYA conducts a youth consultation prior to APFSD main event, to collect recommendations of Nepalese youths on different clusters of SDGs being reviewed that year.

This year, NAYA first prepared goal profiles of all five SDGs being reviewed in 2026 (SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation, SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy, SDG 9: Industry, infrastructure and innovation, SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities and SDG 17: Partnerships for Goals). The working group members of NAYA and other partner organizations contributed to its preparation through intensive desk reviews of all relevant articles and documents found online. After the preparation of the goal profile, NAYA conducted 'Nepal Youth Forum 2025' on 31st of October to draw first-hand information on issues and recommendations of Nepalese youths on these five SDGs being discussed in 2026. The forum was conducted online and about 60 youths from diverse backgrounds contributed to the findings.

Combining the information from both, desk reviews and youth consultation, NAYA is producing this comprehensive goal profiles of all five SDGs. While goal profiles of SDG 6,7,9 and 11 consist of information from both, desk reviews and youth consultation, the goal profile of SDG 11 is solely documented through a desk review. Since SDG 17: Partnerships for Goals can be a cross-cutting theme to all other SDGs, a separate thematic session was not designed for it, at the youth consultation



SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals

**Strengthen the means of implementation and
revitalize the global partnership for sustainable
development.**

Introduction:

Sustainable Development Goal 17 (SDG 17) aims to “strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.” It highlights the importance of collaboration among governments, the private sector, civil society, and international partners to achieve all other SDGs. SDG 17 focuses on areas such as finance, technology, trade, and capacity building, serving as the foundation for mobilizing resources and promoting cooperation globally (1). For Nepal, the goal is crucial as the nation prepares to graduate from Least Developed Country (LDC) status by 2026, requiring stronger partnerships and international cooperation to sustain progress and resilience.



Situation Analysis:

Nepal's journey toward achieving SDG 17 is shaped by multiple economic, political, and social dynamics. The country faces challenges such as limited economic growth, dependency on remittances, low foreign direct investment, and a persistent trade deficit. External shocks like COVID-19, the Ukraine war, and global



market instability have further constrained progress. Despite this, Nepal has shown progress in domestic revenue mobilization, digital connectivity, and development cooperation through mechanisms like the Development Partners Coordination Committee (DPCC). However, inequalities in internet access, weak local implementation, trade deficit, heavy dependency on remittance and limited absorptive capacity for aid continue to impede effective partnership outcomes. The recent withdrawal of aids from one of the biggest donors in development field, has worsened the situation (2)

Achievements:

Nepal has made notable achievements in strengthening partnerships and systems (3). Internet usage reached over 70% in 2022, surpassing targets for digital inclusion. Government revenue as a proportion of GDP improved to 24.8%, and debt levels remain within sustainable limits (4). The country successfully met the criteria for graduation from

LDC status for three consecutive assessments (3). The establishment of coordination bodies like DPCC and the inclusion of SDG principles in national development strategies indicate progress toward institutionalizing partnerships (4). In addition, the federal governance structure promotes cooperation among three tiers of government.

Gaps:

Despite progress, several gaps remain. Despite having a conducive governance structure post-federalism, federal government revenue as a proportion of (Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has fallen short and targets for the domestic budget funded by tax has decreased. The foreign direct investment (FDI) remains critically below expected levels, especially after a drastic steep of 31.62% during Covid-19 (4). Persistent trade deficits mainly due to limited export capacity and lack of diversification of goods and weak technology transfers systems is observed. Internet access disparities persist between provinces, particularly in Karnali, Sudurpaschim, and Koshi (4). Weak implementation at subnational levels, insufficient private sector engagement, and inadequate financing frameworks further limit SDG 17 progress (4). Similarly, there has been a limited strategic utilization of private sectors and their corporate social responsibility for overall SDG achievement. Meanwhile, the reputational crisis in cooperative sectors has affected small and medium enterprises (5) which has aggravated the existing inadequate costing and financing strategies at local and community levels.

Key Stakeholders Involved:

Key stakeholders include the Ministry of Finance and the National Planning Commission, provincial and local governments, bilateral and multilateral partners such as UN agencies, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank, as well as the private sector, civil society, cooperatives, academia, and diaspora communities. These actors collectively contribute through financial resources, policy development, knowledge sharing, and capacity building.

Current Policies Guiding SDG 17:

Nepal has integrated SDG 17 principles into its national planning through the Fifteenth Plan and the External Development Cooperation Strategy (6). The country's financial policies emphasize domestic resource mobilization, improved tax systems, and sustainable debt management. Institutional frameworks such as the Development Partners Coordination Committee promote dialogue between government and development partners (7). Sectoral policies support digital connectivity, economic monitoring, and COVID-19 recovery, while migration and remittance strategies aim to utilize diaspora resources effectively for national development.

Recommendations:

To strengthen progress toward SDG 17, Nepal should prioritize enhancing domestic revenue mobilization and improving tax efficiency.

Expanding inclusive partnerships that involve the private sector, civil society, and youth organizations can help bridge gaps in implementation.

Developing clear FDI policies, improving absorptive capacity for aid, and establishing localized SDG frameworks at provincial and municipal levels are critical.

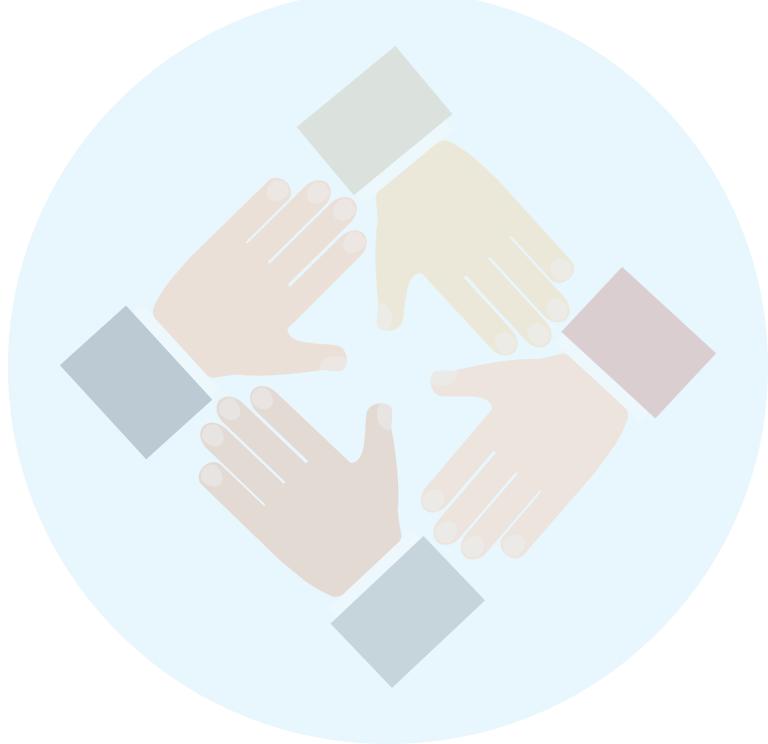
Strengthening digital infrastructure, promoting technology transfer, and fostering innovation partnerships between academia and industry should be long-term priorities.

In addition, Nepal should lead regional cooperation on issues such as climate adaptation and sustainable finance, ensuring regular policy coherence and multi-stakeholder review mechanisms.

As a long-term vision, Nepal should achieve sustainable annual economic growth through strategic partnership. The country should focus on reducing remittance dependency and prioritize job creation, develop export-oriented businesses through technology transfer partnerships, and work on establishing technology transfer hubs linking international research with domestic needs and relevance. It is also highly recommended that Nepal should take an initiative for better cooperation among the countries of Global South where an inter-country platform can be developed to share development experiences and lessons learned. It could also lead regional initiatives of migration (brain-drain), climate adaptation and sustainable mountain development.

Acknowledgements:

This goal profile was prepared through the compilation of information generated from intensive desk reviews conducted collectively by youths from working group members of NAYA and beyond, along with consultations with 100 youth participants of the Nepal Youth Forum. The desk reviews were carried out by Ms. Sabin Pun (BBC), Ms. Sindhu Sharma (NYCA), Mr. Sagar Koirala (All in Foundation), Ms. Swastika Parajuli (Rotaract Club of Kathmandu – Midtown), and Mr. Jaldeep Sapkota (BYAN) for SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11, and 17 respectively to construct a preliminary goal profile. The reviewed information was compiled and synthesized by Visible Impact to develop the final goal profile.





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