Gender-biased sex selection:

In Nepal, the total fertility rate has fallen to almost replacement level at 2.1 children per woman over the years, especially in the urban population as the majority of couples do not wish to have more than two children. As the number of children declines, many couples want to have at least one son leading to gender-biased sex selection.

Policies/Framework/Government Response

**In 1991**
Nepal signed the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and as such pledges to eliminate discrimination against the girl child, including son preference.

The Children’s Act (1992) and Regulations (1995) as well as the Nepal’s Children’s Act 2011 specifically prohibit any type of segregation amongst girls and boys.

**In 1994**
Nepal ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Nepal’s political will to tackle and bring about an end to gender-based violence and harmful practices is strong.


**2002 National Safe Abortion Policy in Nepal** outlaws ex-selective abortions/GBSS.

**Sex Ratio at birth**
110.6 boys for every 100 girls born between 2018-2016

Challenges/Opportunities

- Weak law enforcement
- Social norms that discriminate against women and girls
- Rapid decline in fertility rates
