



Siddhartha Social Development Centre

**Five-Year Strategic Plan (2026-
2030)**



DECEMBER 1, 2025

SIDDHARTHA SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Banganga 4, Siddhartha Chowk, Banganga Municipality, Lumbini Province

1. Executive Summary

This Five Year Strategy Plan of Siddhartha Social Development Centre (SSDC), based in Ward No. 4 of Banganga municipality, Lumbini Province, is developed through 6 days of consultation workshop participated by SSDC Board of Directors, senior Staff, multiple stakeholders, and rights holders. Besides, a rigorous exercise was put into SWOT Analysis and the subsequent outcome helped pave future pathways for the organization. This 7th Five-Year Strategic Plan provides a new roadmap for SSDC's vision, mission, priorities, and actions over the next five years. This Strategic Plan takes into account Nepal's evolving political transition, social transformation, economic constraints, and development challenges, with specific focus on inclusive democracy, human rights, child rights, gender equality, climate action, and empowerment of women, youth, and marginalized communities.

The Strategic Plan is aligned with the Constitution of Nepal (2015) that reflects the State's commitment to dignity, equality, inclusion, and social justice. It upholds fundamental rights including the right to live with dignity (Article 16), freedoms of expression, association, and assembly (Article 17), and the right to equality (Article 18) as the basis for inclusive and participatory development.

The Strategic Plan advances social justice and proportional representation in line with Articles 42, 84, and 176, emphasizing meaningful participation of women, Dalits, youth, children, and other marginalized groups in governance and decision-making processes. It supports inclusive local governance as envisaged under Articles 215–221, strengthening citizen engagement, accountability, and responsive local institutions. Consistent with constitutional guarantees, the Strategy promotes the rights of women (Article 38), children (Article 39), Dalits (Article 40), and the right to social security (Article 43) through targeted, inclusive, and rights-based interventions.

Guided by Article 51 on State Policies, the Strategic Plan contributes to Nepal's national vision of inclusive governance, equitable development, and social justice, ensuring that no one is left behind.

The Strategic Plan is also aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). The Plan advances gender equality and social inclusion, strengthens accountable and inclusive institutions, promotes peaceful and participatory governance, and integrates climate-responsive approaches to address vulnerability and resilience. Through this alignment, the Strategy contributes to inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development outcomes in line with Nepal's national commitments to the 2030 Agenda.

The Strategic Plan is also aligned with national policies and legal frameworks of Nepal on political and social inclusion, gender equality, human rights, access to justice, prevention of gender-based violence, climate change, child rights, and youth leadership development. It reinforces national priorities by promoting inclusive participation, rights-based approaches, and accountable institutions, while strengthening the capacities of women, children, youth, and marginalized communities to engage in social, political, and development processes. Through this alignment, the Strategy complements government efforts to advance equitable, resilient, and inclusive development across all levels of governance.

On the whole, the five-year Strategic Plan is meant to serve as a window on Nepal's existing ground realities while, at the same time, charts out a way forward for SSDC as one of the leading CSOs in Nepal's Lumbini Province.

2. Organizational Overview

2.1 Background

2.1.1 Legal Status and Year of Establishment

Siddhartha Social Development Centre (SSDC-Kapilvastu) is a non-governmental, non-profit, non-political, and non-religious social development organization. It was founded by socially conscious youth in 1995 and officially registered under the Organization Registration Act 2034 with the District Administration Office. Subsequently, SSDC became affiliated with the Social Welfare Council (SWC) in 1996.

2.1.2 Geographic Working Areas (Federal, Provincial, Local)

SSDC's work primarily covers Lumbini Province in Nepal, with programs implemented at provincial and local levels across multiple districts. Its initiatives are active in districts such as Kapilvastu, Rupandehi, West Nawalparasi, Dang, Banke, and Bardiya, indicating engagement beyond its home district in eastern and western parts of Lumbini Province.

2.1.3 Target Communities and Constituencies

SSDC focuses on empowering marginalized and vulnerable groups who face exclusion from socio-economic opportunities and public services. Target constituencies include:

- ✓ Children and adolescents, particularly those at risk or out of school;
- ✓ Women and girls, including survivors of gender-based violence and those facing social discrimination;
- ✓ Youth, especially those lacking opportunities for employment, leadership, and participation;
- ✓ Dalits and other socially excluded groups, who face caste-based discrimination;
- ✓ Poor and vulnerable households, including informal laborers and landless families;
- ✓ Local civil society organizations, youth groups, community-based organizations (CBOs), and networks that work on rights, inclusion, and governance issues.

2.2 Vision

A just, peaceful, inclusive, and prosperous Nepal where all people—especially women, youth, and marginalized groups—exercise their rights to claim and enjoy a dignified living.

2.3 Mission

To strengthen inclusive governance, protect human rights, prevent GBV, promote peace and social cohesion, and enhance climate justice through community-led action, advocacy, and partnerships.

2.4 Core Values

- Inclusion & equity
- Gender Transformative Approach and Rights-based approach
- Do no harm & conflict sensitivity
- Accountability & transparency
- Intersectionality & participation

3. Nepal Context Analysis

3.1 Political Context

Nepal's political landscape is characterized by a prolonged and complex transition following the end of armed conflict in 2006 and the promulgation of the Constitution of Nepal in 2015. While the Constitution established Nepal as a federal democratic republic with strong commitments to inclusion, social justice, and proportional representation, the practical realization of these commitments remains uneven. Persistent political instability, frequent changes in government, and coalition politics dominated by a limited set of political elites have constrained effective governance and weakened public trust in democratic institutions. The ongoing consolidation of federalism continues to shape the political environment. Tensions over the division of powers, resources, and responsibilities among federal, provincial, and local governments have affected policy coherence and service delivery. Although local governments have created new opportunities for citizen participation and inclusion, institutional capacity gaps, politicization, and limited accountability mechanisms often undermine their potential. These challenges have contributed to a growing perception among citizens that political processes are disconnected from everyday realities.

Within this broader context, youth—particularly Generation Z—have emerged as an increasingly visible and vocal political constituency. This generation, having grown up in the post-conflict period with expectations of peace dividends, inclusive governance, and economic opportunity, has experienced instead high unemployment, widespread labor migration, corruption, and limited avenues for meaningful political participation. As a result, many young people express deep skepticism toward traditional party politics and established leadership structures.

Gen Z political engagement differs from earlier forms of youth mobilization in Nepal. Rather than operating primarily through party-affiliated student unions or ideological movements, contemporary youth activism is largely non-partisan, issue-based, and digitally mediated. Social media and online platforms function as key spaces for political expression, mobilization, and debate, as well as sources of livelihood and global connectivity. This emerging pattern of political engagement reflects both opportunity and risk. On one hand, youth-led activism has expanded civic space, challenged political complacency, and brought renewed attention to governance failures, corruption, and exclusion. On the other hand, the absence of formal leadership structures and clear pathways for institutional engagement has made it difficult to translate public mobilization into sustained policy reform.

Overall, Nepal stands at a critical juncture. The growing assertiveness of youth and citizen-led movements signals not a rejection of democratic principles, but a demand for their meaningful realization. The extent to which political institutions respond through inclusive dialogue, accountable governance, and genuine reform will significantly shape Nepal's democratic trajectory. For civil society organizations, this context underscores the importance of strengthening inclusive political participation, supporting youth leadership, promoting social accountability, and contributing to peaceful, rights-based democratic transformation.

3.2 Social Context

Nepal's social context continues to be shaped by deep-rooted patriarchy, entrenched caste hierarchies, and persistent social exclusion, despite progressive constitutional and legal reforms. Gender norms and power imbalances restrict women's and girls' access to education, economic opportunities, leadership, and justice. Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, sexual and gender minorities, and geographically marginalized communities continue to face structural barriers to participation and equal access to services.

Social vulnerabilities are compounded by the high prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), child marriage, dowry practices, child labor, and other harmful traditional practices. School dropout rates remain significant, particularly among girls, children from marginalized groups, and those in poverty-affected or remote areas. Rising drug and substance abuse, especially among youth, further deepens social and economic insecurity. Weak enforcement of laws, social stigma, and limited access to justice contribute to a culture of impunity, discouraging survivors from seeking redress and reinforcing cycles of abuse and exclusion.

Nepal's youth population faces growing challenges, including unemployment, underemployment, and limited livelihood opportunities. At the same time, frustration with governance failures, corruption, and limited political accountability has contributed to youth disillusionment with formal political processes, weakening trust in institutions and democratic participation.

The country's post-conflict context continues to influence social relations and cohesion. Unaddressed trauma, incomplete transitional justice, and political polarization have hindered reconciliation and social healing. Moreover, the shrinking civic space, increasing intolerance of dissent, and constraints on civil society and media freedoms pose risks to inclusive dialogue, accountability, and peacebuilding efforts. Together, these factors challenge social cohesion and underscore the need for inclusive, rights-based, and conflict-sensitive interventions to foster a just, resilient, and cohesive society.

3.3 Economic Context

Nepal's economy remains heavily reliant on remittances and subsistence agriculture, with remittance inflows sustaining household consumption and macroeconomic stability but also creating structural dependency and vulnerability to external shocks. Agriculture continues to employ a large share of the population, largely at subsistence levels, with low productivity, limited commercialization, and high climate sensitivity.

The economic landscape is further constrained by high inflation, limited productive employment opportunities, and uneven growth across regions and social groups. Job creation in manufacturing and high-value services remains weak, while the informal economy dominates, restricting income security and social protection. Rising living costs have disproportionately affected low-income households, exacerbating poverty and inequality.

Women and marginalized groups are disproportionately concentrated in informal, low-paid, and unpaid labor, including subsistence farming, domestic work, and care responsibilities. Persistent gender and social norms, limited access to skills, finance, and markets, and weak labor protections continue to limit their economic participation and upward mobility. These structural challenges underscore the need for inclusive, gender-responsive, and employment-centered economic strategies to ensure equitable and sustainable growth.

3.4 Development Context

Nepal has made notable progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); however, achievements remain uneven and increasingly at risk, particularly for marginalized populations and geographically remote areas. Gains in poverty reduction, education, health, and inclusion are fragile and vulnerable to economic shocks, governance gaps, and environmental stressors.

Climate change is emerging as a major development challenge, with increasing frequency and intensity of floods, landslides, and droughts undermining livelihoods, food security, and infrastructure. These impacts disproportionately affect poor and marginalized communities, who have the least capacity to adapt and recover, thereby deepening existing inequalities.

Development effectiveness is further constrained by weak coordination and coherence among state institutions, civil society organizations, and development partners, leading to fragmentation, duplication, and inefficiencies in service delivery. At the same time, Nepal is experiencing a growing momentum toward the localization agenda, with increasing demand for locally led, context-responsive development. Strengthening local actors, systems, and partnerships is therefore critical to achieving sustainable, inclusive, and resilient development outcomes.

3.5 Lumbini Province- Political, Social, Economic, and Development Context

Lumbini Province operates within Nepal's federal governance framework, where provincial and local governments are central to achieving inclusive development outcomes. However, institutional capacity gaps, political volatility, and coordination challenges continue to constrain effective service delivery and policy implementation.

Socially, the province faces persistent gender inequality, caste-based discrimination, and social exclusion, disproportionately affecting women, Dalits, Madhesi communities, and other marginalized groups. High prevalence of gender-based violence, child marriage, school dropouts, and harmful practices undermines human development outcomes and social cohesion. These challenges are closely linked to SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and provincial priorities on social inclusion, protection, and access to justice.

Economically, Lumbini Province remains heavily dependent on subsistence agriculture, remittances, and informal labor, with limited productive employment opportunities, particularly for youth and women. High unemployment and outward migration reflect structural constraints in local economies and skills systems, directly impacting SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and cross-cutting provincial results on livelihoods, economic resilience, and youth employment. Women and marginalized groups are overrepresented in informal and unpaid work, reinforcing cycles of poverty and exclusion.

From a development perspective, SDG progress across the province is uneven and fragile, with significant disparities between districts and population groups. The province is increasingly vulnerable to climate-induced floods, heat stress, droughts, and landslides, threatening agriculture, infrastructure, and food security—particularly for poor and climate-exposed communities. These risks align with SDG 13 (Climate Action) and provincial priorities on climate resilience and disaster risk reduction. Development effectiveness is further constrained by weak coordination among provincial institutions, local governments, civil society organizations, and development partners. At the same time, growing momentum around the localization agenda highlights demand for locally led, context-responsive development, aligning with provincial results on strengthened local systems, partnerships, and community ownership.

4. Problem Statement

Despite constitutional commitments, women, youth, and marginalized groups continue to face systemic exclusion, violence, rights violations, climate vulnerability, and limited voice in governance and peace processes. Structural discrimination, weak institutions, climate shocks, and shrinking civic space undermine inclusive and sustainable development.

5. Strategic Framework (2026–2030)

5.1 Strategic Goal

To advance inclusive, rights-based, peaceful, and climate-resilient communities by empowering women, youth, and marginalized groups to influence governance, claim rights, and lead social transformation.

5.2 Strategic Objectives & Pillars

Pillar 1: Political, Economic, & Social Inclusion

1.1 Political Inclusion

Objective

- Strengthen participation of women, youth, and marginalized groups in local governance
- Promote inclusive policies and accountable institutions

Key Issues

- Limited participation of women, Dalits, youth, persons with disabilities, and minorities in local and provincial governance
- Weak implementation of proportional representation and inclusion mandates
- Low civic awareness and political literacy, especially among youth and first-time voters
- Barriers to meaningful participation in local planning, budgeting, and oversight
- Shrinking civic space and limited accountability mechanisms

Areas of Intervention

- Leadership development for women, youth, Dalits, and marginalized groups
- Strengthening inclusive participation in local governance (planning, budgeting, judicial committees)
- Social accountability tools (public hearings, audits, citizen charters)
- Strengthen CSOs and support community networks to engage in policy dialogue and advocacy
- Youth civic engagement and democratic participation platforms

1.2 Economic Inclusion

Objective

- Increase equitable access to decent work and sustainable livelihoods for women, youth, and marginalized groups
- Enhance employability, skills, and entrepreneurship of vulnerable populations in line with local market opportunities
- Improve access to financial services, assets, and markets, particularly for women and socially excluded communities
- Strengthen women's economic empowerment, including recognition and reduction of unpaid care and domestic work

Key Issues

- High unemployment and underemployment among youth and women
- Dependence on remittances and lack of local economic opportunities
- Limited access to skills, finance, land, and markets for marginalized groups
- Gendered unpaid care burden and occupational segregation

Areas of Intervention

- Skills development and employability programs for youth and women
- Access to finance, savings, cooperatives, and entrepreneurship support
- Women's economic empowerment and recognition/reduction of unpaid care work
- Social protection access and labor rights awareness

1.3 Social Inclusion

Objective

- Reduce gender, caste, and identity-based discrimination and exclusion
- Eliminate child marriages, dowry, and other harmful practices through rights-inclusive and quality education.
- Increase equitable access to justice, services, and social protection for marginalized groups
- Decrease sexual and gender-based violence and harmful social practices
- Ensure meaningful voice and participation of excluded groups in community life and decision-making
- Strengthen inclusive community and local systems responsive to vulnerable populations

Key Issues

- Gender-based violence, child marriage, dowry, and harmful traditional practices
- Caste-based discrimination and exclusion
- Limited access to justice and survivor-centered services
- School dropouts, child labor, and substance abuse among youth
- Stigma faced by survivors, persons with disabilities, and minorities
- Quality and inclusive education

Areas of Intervention

- Prevention and response to SGBV (awareness, survivor support, referral mechanisms)
- Access to justice, legal aid, mediation, and paralegal services
- Child protection, inclusive education, retention, and life-skills programs
- Youth empowerment, psychosocial support, and substance abuse prevention
- Inclusion of persons with disabilities and marginalized identities

Pillar 2: Human Rights & Access to Justice

Objective

- Enhance rights awareness and legal empowerment
- Strengthen community mediation, referral, and justice mechanisms

Key Issues

- Limited awareness of constitutional and legal rights among marginalized groups
- Barriers to accessing formal justice systems due to cost, distance, language, and complexity
- Social stigma, fear of retaliation, and weak survivor-centered responses, especially in SGBV cases
- Weak enforcement of laws and prevalence of impunity
- Limited capacity and inclusiveness of local justice mechanisms (Judicial Committees, mediation centers)

Areas of Intervention

- Legal awareness and rights literacy for women, youth, Dalits, and marginalized communities

- Strengthening Judicial Committees, mediation, and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms
- Survivor-centered GBV response, including legal, psychosocial, and protection services
- Support to strategic litigation and advocacy for rights enforcement and policy reform
- Capacity building of local governments and justice actors on inclusive and rights-based justice delivery

Pillar 3: Gender Equality and GBV Prevention

Objective

- Prevent and respond to GBV using gender-transformative approaches (GTA)
- Engage women, youth, marginalized groups and institutions for norm change

Key Issues

- Deep-rooted patriarchy and discriminatory gender norms limiting women's and girls' rights and opportunities
- High prevalence of gender-based violence (domestic violence, sexual violence, political violence, child marriage, dowry-related violence)
- Under-reporting of GBV due to stigma, fear, and lack of survivor-friendly services
- Limited access to justice, protection, and psychosocial support for survivors
- Weak implementation of gender-responsive laws, policies, and services

Areas of Intervention

- GBV prevention through community awareness, behavior change, and norm transformation
- Survivor-centered GBV response, including legal aid, psychosocial support, referral, and protection services
- Strengthening local GBV response systems and coordination among service providers
- Women's leadership and empowerment in community and governance structures
- Legal literacy and rights awareness for women and girls
- Capacity building of local governments and institutions on gender-responsive planning and budgeting

Pillar 4: Climate Action & Resilience

Objective

- Strengthen climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction for marginalized groups
- Integrate gender and inclusion into climate action

Key Issues

- Increasing frequency and intensity of floods, landslides, droughts, and heat stress
- High climate vulnerability of smallholder farmers, landless households, and informal workers
- Climate impacts disproportionately affecting women, children, elderly, and marginalized groups
- Weak local disaster preparedness, early warning, and response systems
- Limited integration of climate risk into local planning and budgeting
- Degradation of natural resources and ecosystems
- Limited community awareness of climate risks and adaptation options

Areas of Intervention

- Community-based climate adaptation and resilience building initiatives
- Promotion of climate-resilient and diversified livelihoods
- Strengthening local disaster risk reduction (DRR) and early warning systems
- Climate-responsive planning and budgeting at local and provincial levels
- Gender-responsive and socially inclusive climate action
- Climate awareness, risk communication, and community preparedness

Pillar 5: Child Rights/Quality & Inclusive Education

Objective

- Protect children from violence, exploitation, and harmful practices
- Increase access to quality education, health, and essential services
- Reduce child marriage, child labor, and school dropouts
- Strengthen child protection and child-friendly governance and justice systems
- Promote children's participation, safety, and psychosocial well-being

Key Issues

- High prevalence of child marriage, child labor, and child exploitation
- School dropouts and limited access to quality education, especially for girls and marginalized children
- Exposure to violence, abuse, neglect, and harmful practices
- Weak child protection systems and limited child-friendly services
- Low awareness of child rights and legal protections at family and community levels

Areas of Intervention

- Prevention and response to child marriage, child labor, and abuse
- Strengthening child protection mechanisms and referral systems at local level
- Education retention, life-skills, and school-to-community support programs
- Parental, community, and institutional awareness on child rights and safeguarding
- Promotion of children's participation and voice in family, school, and community decision-making

Pillar 6: Youth/Adolescent Leadership Development

Objective

- Build youth/adolescent civic, political, leadership
- Address unemployment, migration, and digital inclusion
- Scale up Youth/adolescent-led initiatives
- Increased youth/adolescent participation in governance

Issues

- Limited leadership opportunities and decision-making spaces for youth and adolescents
- High youth unemployment, underemployment, and skills mismatch
- Political disillusionment and low trust in institutions and formal politics
- Unequal participation of young women, Dalits, marginalized and rural youth
- Exposure to substance abuse, violence, and psychosocial stress

Areas of Intervention

- Leadership, life-skills, and civic education for youth and adolescents
- Youth participation in local governance, planning, and accountability mechanisms
- Youth-led initiatives for social cohesion, GBV, and climate action
- Psychosocial support and substance abuse prevention programs
- Promotion of gender-responsive and inclusive youth leadership

7. Working Approaches

- Gender Equality & Social Inclusion (GESI)
- Conflict Sensitivity & Do No Harm
- Gender Transformative (GTA) and Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA)
- Localization & partnerships with local governments

8. Theory of Change

If women, youth, and marginalized groups are empowered with knowledge, skills, and resources to claim their rights; and if inclusive, gender-responsive, and climate-resilient systems and institutions are strengthened to be accountable and accessible; and if civic space, social cohesion, and multi-stakeholder collaboration are protected and expanded; then systemic exclusion, violence, rights violations, and climate vulnerability will be reduced, and meaningful participation of women, youth, and marginalized groups in governance and peace processes will increase; leading to inclusive, peaceful, and climate-resilient development in line with Nepal's constitutional commitments and the Sustainable Development Goals.

9. Implementation Strategy

9.1 Programmatic Approaches

In the next 5 years, SSDC will adopt the following approaches in its project/program interventions:

- Inclusion, equity, and dialogue
- Capacity building and leadership development
- Policy advocacy and research
- System strengthening and accountability
- Policy advocacy

9.2 Partnerships

In the next five years, SSDC will work in close collaboration and partnership with the following stakeholders and rights holders

- Federal, Provincial, Local governments and judicial committees
- Women, youth, and marginalized networks
- INGOs, donors, CSR, and academia
- Media, Users Committee, and private sector

10. Organizational Capacity Development

In the next 5 years, SSDC work towards organizational strengthening through capacity development in order to achieve its development goal and strategic objectives. SSDC will undertake initiatives in:

- Governance and board strengthening (Representation of Youth and Intellectual persons in the Board of Directors)
- Staff capacity on GTA, RBA, intersectional, and climate approaches
- Financial management and compliance restructuring
- Safeguarding, PSEA, and accountability

11. Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability & Learning (MEAL)

In the next 5 years, SSDC will carry out monitoring of its development works and interventions using strategic monitoring tools, document knowledge, process and share knowledge, and emphasize on iterative learning. For this, SSDC will develop;

- Results framework and indicators
- Participatory monitoring
- Learning and adaptation
- Accountability mechanism to communities

12. Fund-raising

SSDC will set up a Fund Raising Unit in its secretariat led by one competent Fund-raising Coordinator and 4 Unit members. The Unit will be served a TOR outlining its role and responsibilities in relation to fund-raising, identifying issues, developing ideas, building competitive project concepts and documents, responding to the call from donors, charities, and foundations, exploring diverse funding bases and so on. The Fund-raising Unit will be directed to work on diverse strategies. They are:

12.1 Target Institutional Donors

One of the strategies of SSDC will be to target donors already active in Lumbini Province and western Nepal and explore the possibility of partnership with them for Lumbini Province.

Priority donors

1. GIZ / BMZ – peace, governance, DRR, migration
2. EU / EU Member States – human rights, CSOs, democracy
3. UNDP, UN Women, UNICEF – local governance, GBV, youth, child rights
4. GAC (Canada) – women, inclusion, governance

12.2 INGO & Consortium Partnerships

SSDC will present itself as strongest, trusted, and the most experienced local partner to work in Lumbini Province among INGOs based in Kathmandu.

Target INGOs

1. CARE, Oxfam, Save the Children, World Vision, CECI Nepal,
2. Mercy Corps, Helvetas, Saferworld, Search for Common Ground

12.3 Provincial & Local Government Resources

SSDC will seek Programmatic partnerships with:

- Ministry of Social Development (Lumbini)
- Provincial Women, Children, Youth sections

Municipal budgets for:

- GBV prevention
- Mediation & justice
- DRR & climate adaptation
- Youth engagement

13. Risk Analysis & Mitigation

Risk	Mitigation
Political instability	Adaptive planning, non-partisanship
Shrinking civic space	Legal compliance, alliances
Climate shocks	DRR integration, contingency planning
Funding uncertainty	Diversified resource mobilization
Pandemic	Contingency Planning

ANNEXES

- 1. Organizational Structure Organogram**
- 2. Position Papers**
- 3. SWOT Analyses**

SWOT Analysis – Siddhartha Social Development Centre (SSDC)

STRENGTH

- Good physical infrastructure
- Strong presence in Lumbini Province and legitimacy
- Deep understanding of local social dynamics, including caste hierarchy, patriarchy, migration, and cross-border vulnerabilities.
- Community trust and access among women, youth, Dalits, Muslims, and other excluded groups.
- Experience in social inclusion, human rights, GBV prevention, youth engagement, and community mobilization.
- Ability to bridge communities and local governments under Nepal's federal system.
- Flexibility and cost-effectiveness as a locally led organization.

WEAKNESS

- Limited core funding, poor fund-raising prospects at local level, and heavy reliance on project-based grants.
- Limited experience as a lead applicant for large, multi-year donor grants.
- Small technical team with high dependence on key staff.
- Limited visibility beyond provincial level.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Growing donor emphasis on localization, locally led development, and equitable partnerships.
- Increased funding interest in GESI, peacebuilding, climate resilience, and access to justice—all relevant to Lumbini Province
- Nepal's federal structure creates space for provincial and municipal partnerships.
- Scope to act as a local implementing partner for INGOs and UN agencies in Lumbini Province.
- Rising youth population creates opportunities for youth leadership, employment, and peace initiatives.
- Cross-border dynamics (migration, trafficking, climate risks) attract regional and thematic funding.

THREAT

- Shrinking civic space and increased administrative and compliance burdens on CSOs.
- Political instability and local power dynamics that may affect programming neutrality.
- Competition from larger NGOs and INGOs for limited funding.
- Climate shocks (floods, heatwaves) that divert resources toward emergency response.
- Donor funding volatility and shifts in geopolitical priorities.

POSITION PAPERS

1. Political, Economic, and Social Inclusion
2. Human Rights and Access to Justice
3. Gender Equality and GBV Prevention
4. Climate Action and Resilience
5. Child Rights
6. Youth/Adolescent Leadership development

Siddhartha Social Development Centre

