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# Implementing the LNOB pledge through a **gender and social inclusion approach (GESI)**

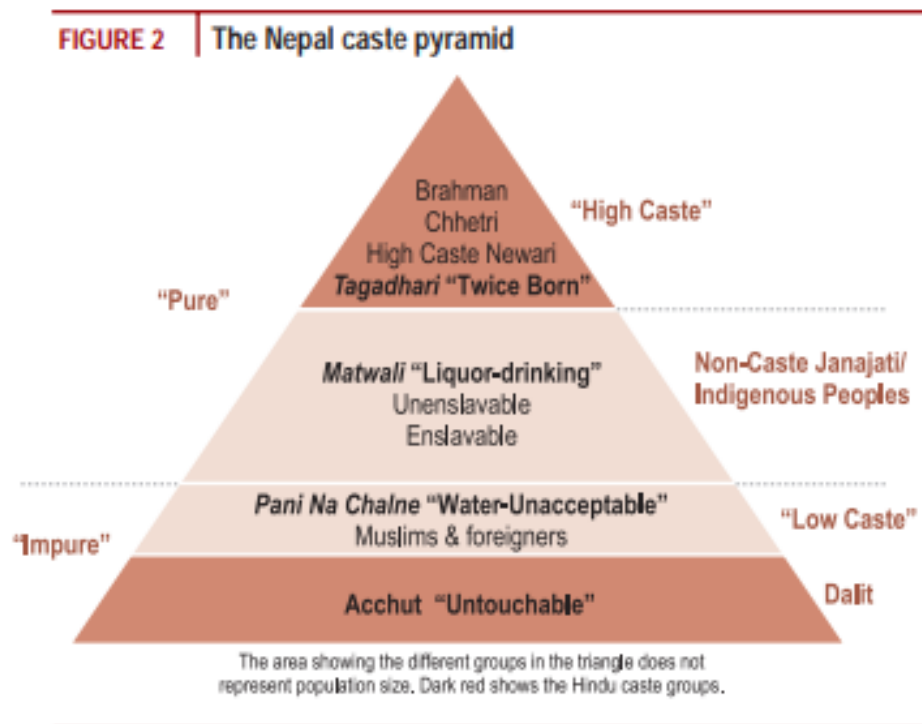
## Experiences and approaches of Nepal

02.12.2021

Sarita Moktan, GESI Focal Person



## Nepali polity interacts through a caste-based and patriarchal ideology, system, and structure



Source: **Unequal Citizens Gender, Caste and Ethnic Exclusion in Nepal, 2006** (main findings of Gender and Social Exclusion Assessment (GSEA) a multi-year study on social exclusion supported by the WB and DFID)

# Swiss Approaches in Different Political Era

1950-1990	1991-2000	2001-2006	2007-2015	2016-2018	Beyond 2019
Absolute Monarchy	Multiparty System and Armed Conflict	Royal Takeover and Heightened Conflict	Peace Process and Federal Constitution	Federal State Building	
Focus on technical knowledge transfer. From the 1970s onwards, Switzerland shifts towards an integrated approach to local development and starts to focus on system building in specific sectors.	Focus on institution and capacity building of government partners. With the start of 'The People's War', the use of diplomatic instruments starts to complement development cooperation.	Switzerland disengages with King's takeover government. It adopts a conflict-sensitive programme (CSPM) management approach with a strong focus on inclusion. It also introduces a Workforce Diversity approach in its projects and programmes as part of CSPM.	Switzerland fully aligns its portfolio with the government's national priorities and programmes.	Focuses on federal state building including through its sectoral interventions. The approach emphasises system and institution building.	Swiss cooperation will promote inclusive growth through the use of innovation and Swiss know-how, as well as new financing models and increased cooperation with the private sector.

1990

The Constitution of 1990 established Nepal as a more inclusive state. It describes the country as “multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and democratic” and states that all citizens are “equal irrespective of religion, race, gender, caste, tribe or ideology”. The Constitution also gives all communities the right to preserve and promote their language, script and culture, to educate children in their mother tongue, and to practise their own religion. **Nevertheless, it retains some contradictions and ambiguities – declaring Nepal a Hindu Kingdom, denying women the right to pass their citizenship to their children and explicitly protecting “traditional practices”. These have left room for the continuation of gender and caste-based discrimination.**

Source: Unequal Citizens Gender, Caste and Ethnic Exclusion in Nepal, 2006 (main findings of Gender and Social Exclusion Assessment (GSEA) a multi-year study on social exclusion supported by the WB and DFID)

**Gender and Social Exclusion Assessment (GSEA, 2006):** a multi-year study on social exclusion supported by the WB and DFID was crucial in conceptualizing exclusion in Nepal

### Dimension of Exclusion

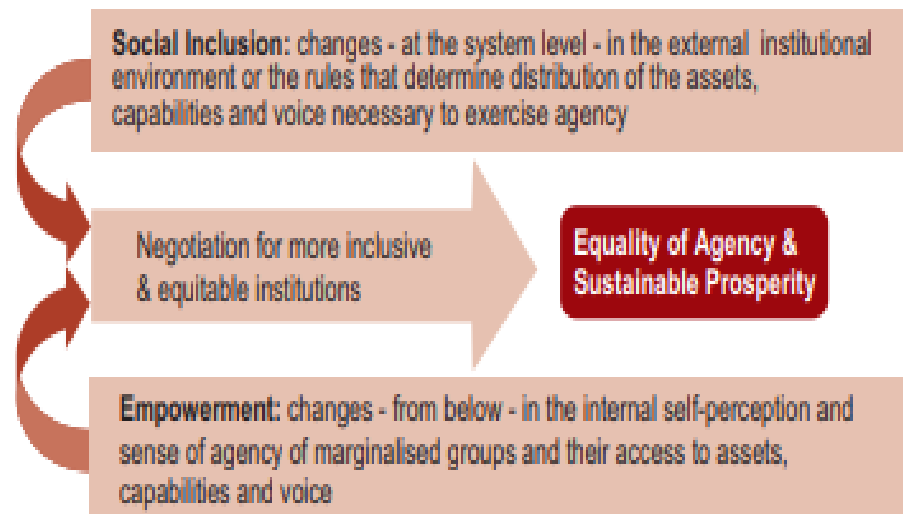
Social Category Status	Gender	Caste	Ethnicity/Race	Language	Religion	Geo-political
Dominant	Men/Boys	Tagadhari: Brahman, Chhetri	Caucasoid	Nepali	Hindu	Parbatiya (Hill dweller)
Subordinate	Women/Girls	Dalit	Janajati/ Mongoloid	Other	Non-Hindu	Madhesi (Plains dweller)

Source: **Unequal Citizens Gender, Caste and Ethnic Exclusion in Nepal, 2006** (main findings of Gender and Social Exclusion Assessment (GSEA) a multi-year study on social exclusion supported by the WB and DFID)

GSEA claimed that caste-based hierarchies continued to structure access to political influence and economic opportunities. It brought forth a strong argument that even under democratic polity, women, Dalits, the ethnic groups/Janajatis, the Muslims and the plain dweller or Madhesis remain on the margins.

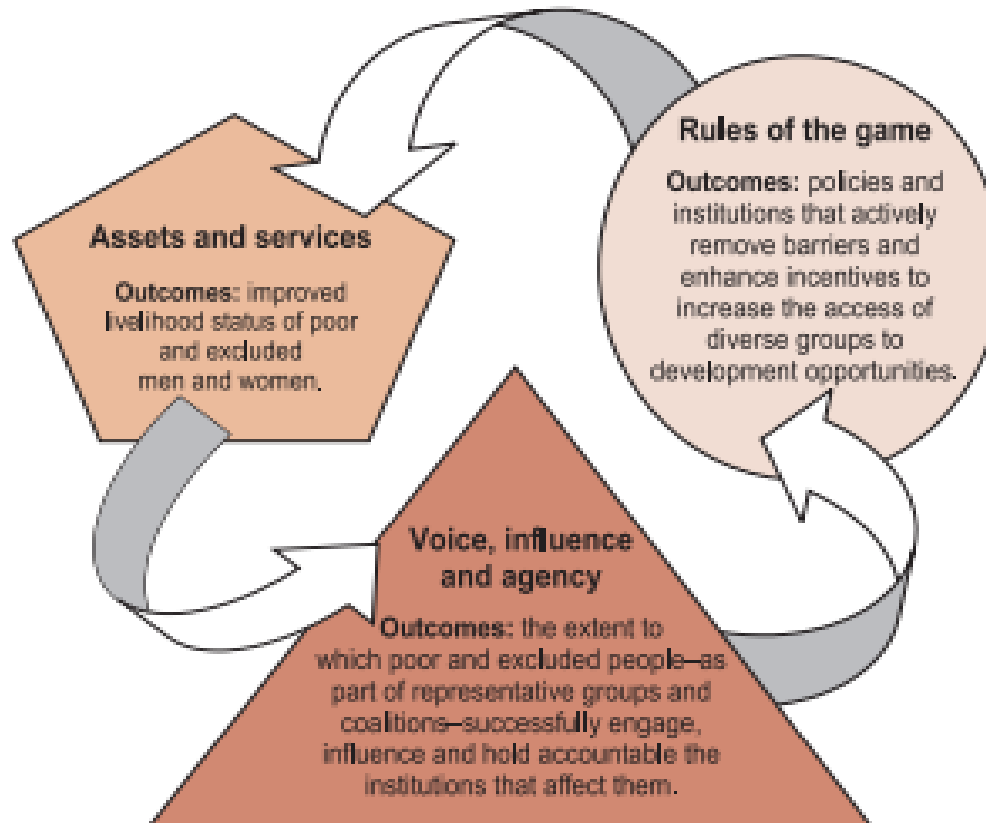
## GSEA Conceptual Framework highlighted:

- **Gender, caste and ethnicity** as three interlocking institutions that determine individual and group access to assets, capabilities and voice based on socially-defined identity.
- Relationships between people, institutions and organisations  
*Institutions are defined as the “rules of the game”; Organizations are groups of individuals, bound by a common purpose, involving a defined set of authority relations and dedicated to achieving objectives within particular “rules of the game”.*
- The interrelated processes of empowerment and social inclusion as means to shift these relationships and the institutions and organizations that embody them, towards greater equity and overall prosperity



The complementary roles of empowerment and social inclusion

**GSEA conceptual framework presented three domains of change and argued that this is where the state, civil society and donor organisations can intervene to improve access to the following for the poor and excluded**



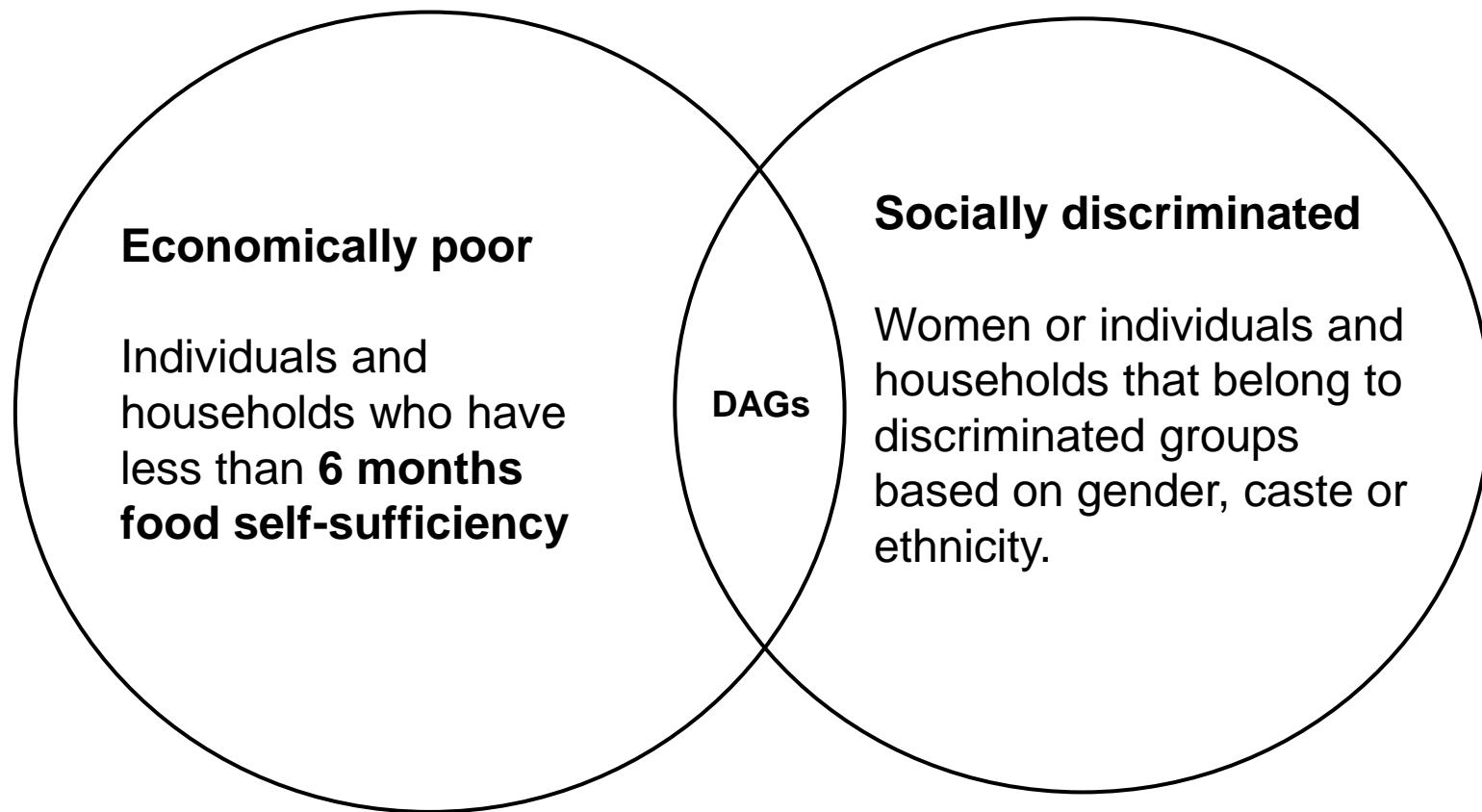
## With experiences from Conflict Sensitive Programme Management, SDC Nepal defines discriminated groups relevant for its project interventions

Discrimination/social exclusion (on the basis of)	Group
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Women</b>
<b>Caste</b>	<b>Dalits</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Janajati</b>

- **Women** from all social groups face discrimination; thus, considered as **socially discriminated**
- Individuals and households belonging to **Dalit caste groups** and **indigenous ethnic groups** from the Hills and Terai (plains) are considered as **socially discriminated**, though these groups face different degrees of discrimination. Members of these groups are targeted on the basis of the social category to which they belong.

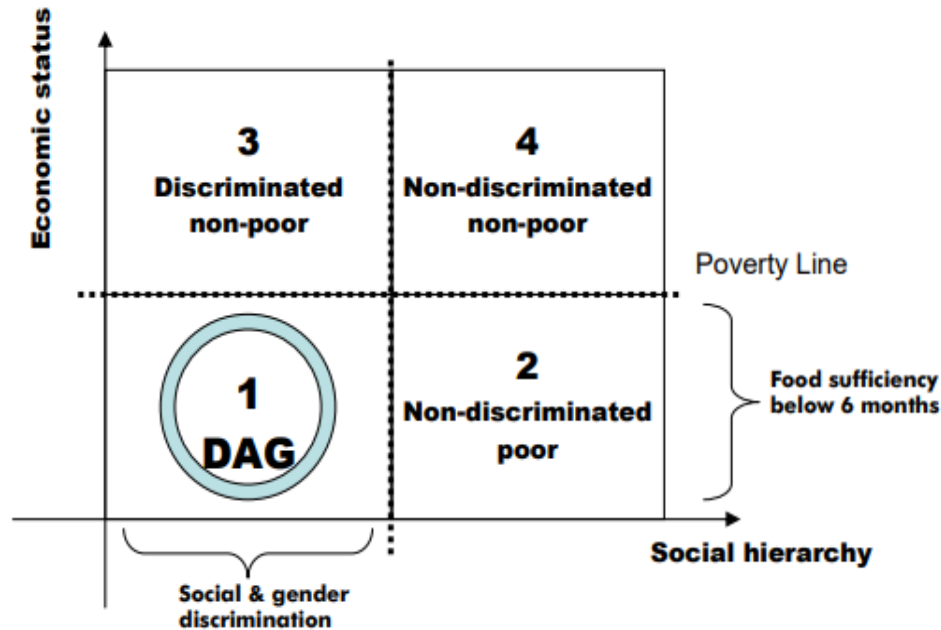
**In 2008, SDC Nepal decides to apply gender discrimination, social discrimination, and economic poverty to identify “disadvantaged groups (DAGs)” – primary target group for SDC funded projects/programmes**

Disadvantaged groups (DAGs) = economically poor and socially discriminated





## DAG Definition 2008



### Primary Data

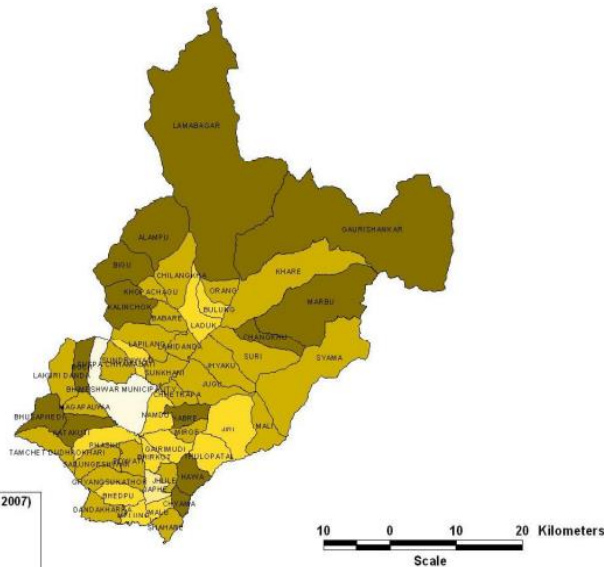
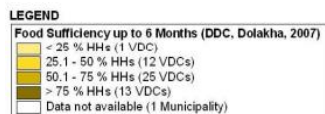
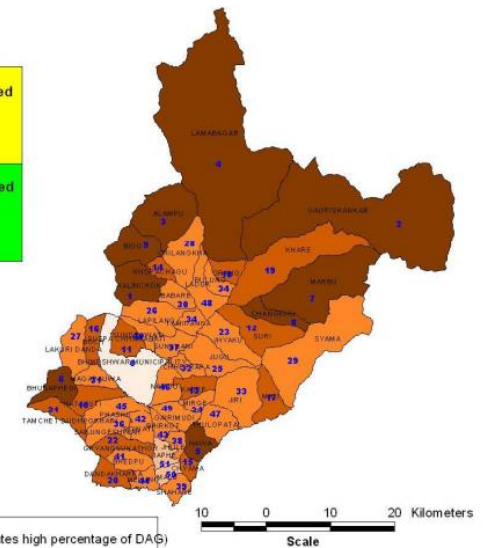
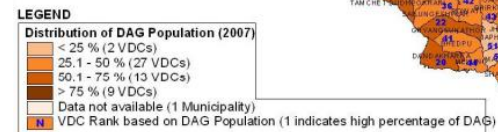
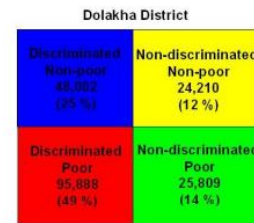
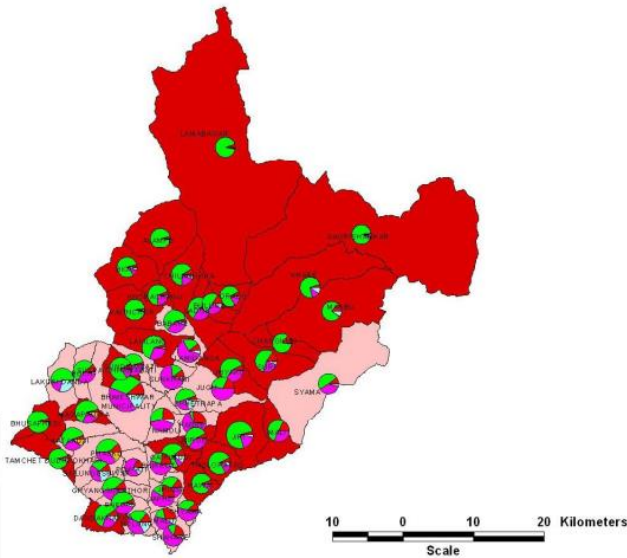
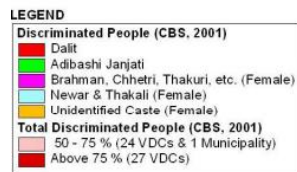
Food sufficiency data collected from each settlement

### Secondary Data

Gender and caste/ethnicity data from Census

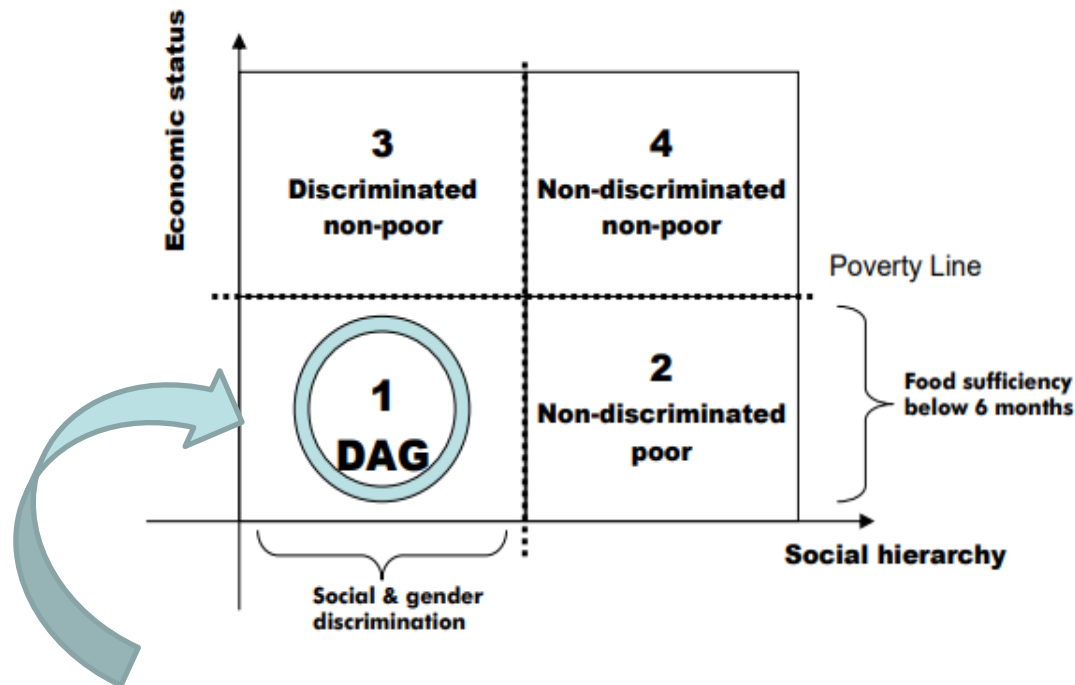
Topographic maps published by Department of Survey

# DAG Mapping of focus district (2008)



## Concept vs Operational Understanding

Swiss strategy sets a target of reaching to 60% Disadvantaged Group (DAG)

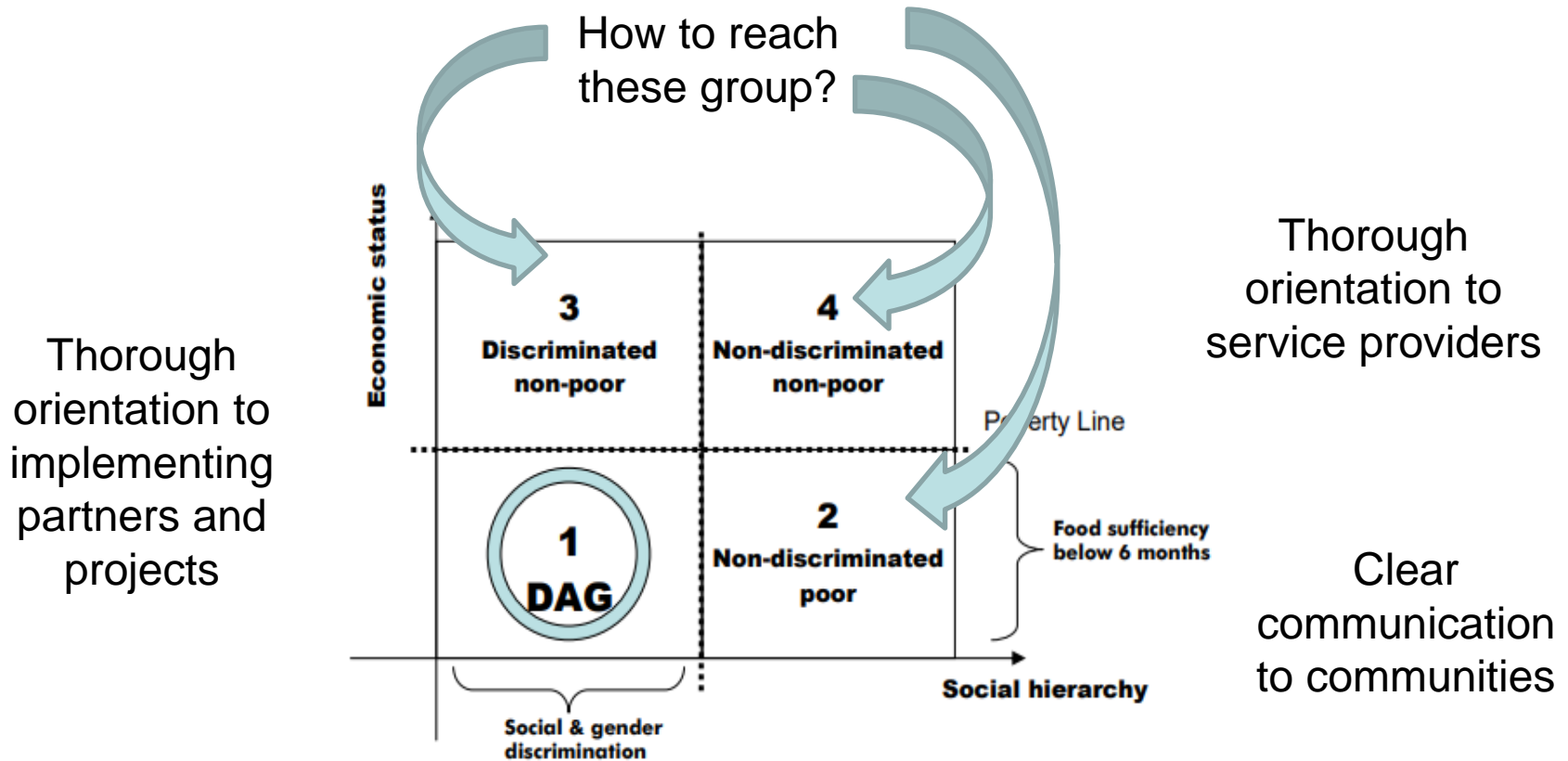


Projects could target 40% beneficiaries from the remaining 3 quadrants

Projects start to target women-headed, Dalit, and Janajati households with less than 6 months food sufficiency

**This understanding varied across projects and partners!**

## Critical review, clarity, and adaptation (CSPM)



**Crucial for addressing potential risks for tensions within the communities and stakeholders**

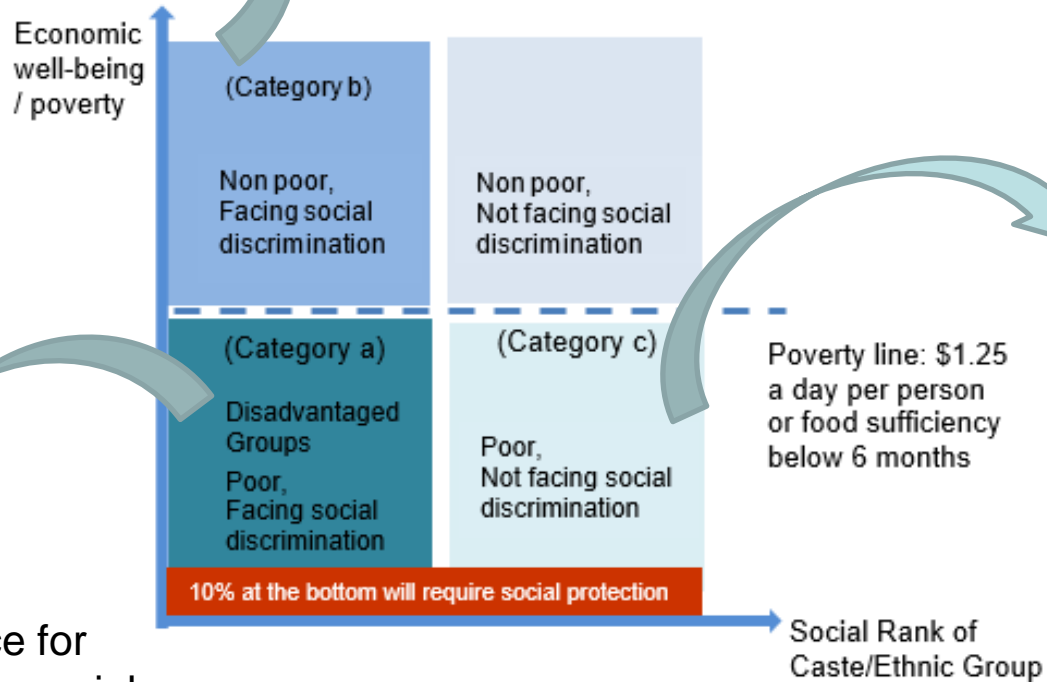
## Revisions 2010 and beyond

### Expanded economic criteria

- “individuals and households who have less than 6 month’s food self-sufficiency”; benchmark which is relevant where the intervention is among the **farm population**.
- “those who earn less than 1.25 dollar a day per capita (i.e. NRs 19’261 per capita per year)”; GoN’s official poverty line, applied in situations where **cash wages can be calculated**.
- Relevant **proxy indicators** in absence of such data e.g. education below grade 6 considered poor.

Further clarity for implementation

Might not require material benefits and livelihoods related assistance but are still eligible to involve and benefit from social empowerment related interventions



Require supports for material wellbeing improvement to reduce economic vulnerability and improve livelihoods but might not require assistance for their inclusion in decision-making processes

Require assistance for material wellbeing, social wellbeing and emotional empowerment

# Mandatory Data Disaggregation

Economic poverty			Social discrimination			
Less than 1.25 dollar a day (person)	Less than 1.25 dollar a day (household)	Less than 6 months food sufficiency	Sex		Caste	ethnicity
			Male	Female		

Note: Some projects were also found to hold disaggregated data by geographical location and religion



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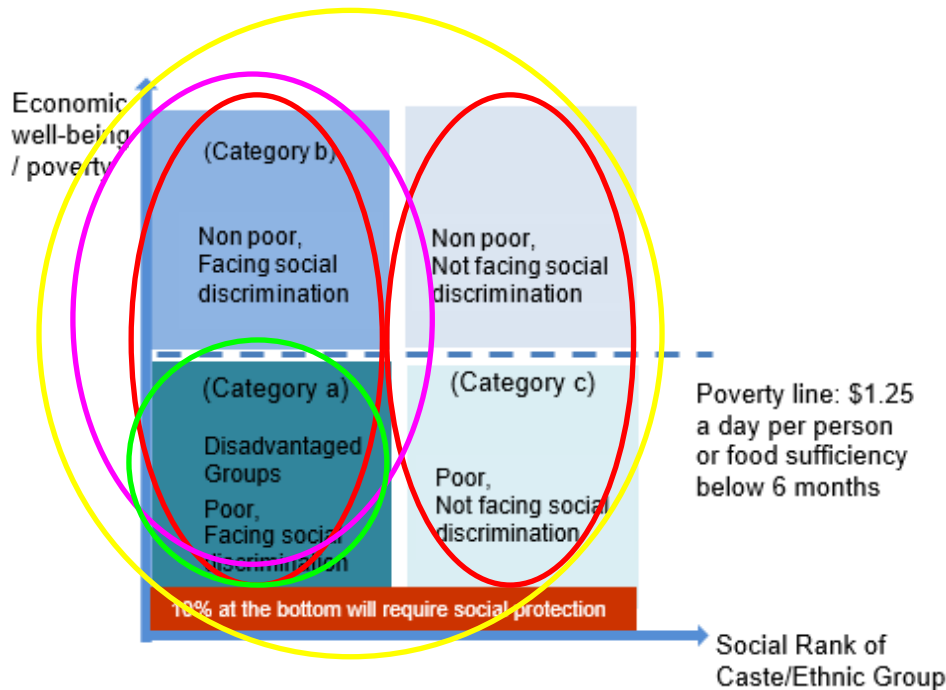
## Example from a project Application of GESI/Disadvantaged Group Targeting Approach

02.12.2021

Sarita Moktan, GESI Focal Person



# Concrete GESI application in the *Safer Migration Project (SaMi)*



Target group:

migrants and their families (red circle)

Further specified target group:

**Dalit community and women**

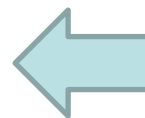
particularly vulnerable, more difficult to be reached

Everyone will benefit from changes in social norms and a more equitable society (yellow circle)

No disaggregation on economic poverty benchmark

-> project cannot report on “disadvantaged groups” (green circle)

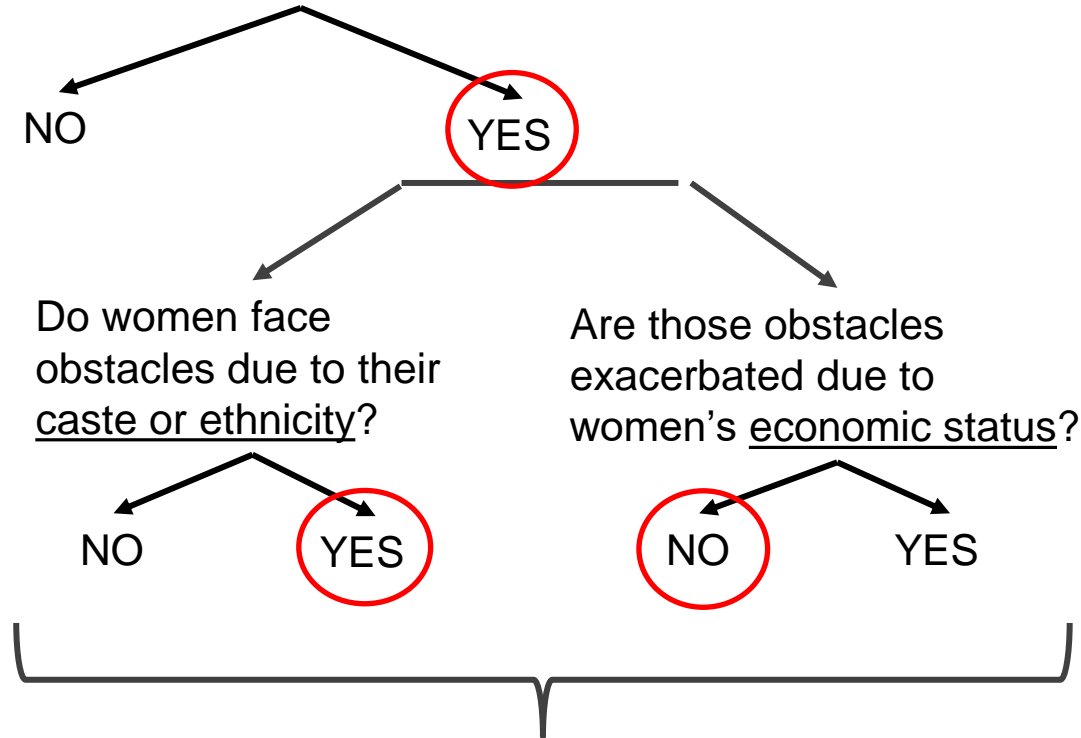
Does the Project work with DAGs?



Yes, but no reporting or measuring results on DAG

## Clear understanding of the context

Are there obstacles faced by migrant women in Nepal based on gender roles?



SaMi only considered gender and caste benchmark

Measures to address obstacles for women migrants

What  
Who  
Why  
How