

April 2026

Daayitwa

Governance Lab

From Rapid Insights to Longer-Term Solutions

The Nepal Action Research for Tourism Solutions team at Governance Lab conducted a rapid pulse survey to capture the immediate impacts of the West Asia crisis on Nepal's tourism sector and to identify emerging operational and financial pressures across the value chain.

The results point to a compounding shock: over a third of businesses reported revenue losses exceeding NPR 1,000,000 within weeks of the February 28 escalation, alongside disruptions in air connectivity and declining long-haul demand.

Read the full [pulse survey findings](#).

These findings will be incorporated into the team's broader research, with a comprehensive report to be released in May, aimed at informing actionable, evidence-based solutions for sector recovery.

From Commitment to Action: A Journey with the WEPs

Governance Lab is proud to begin its journey as a **signatory** of the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs). Joining this global initiative with UN Women is more than a badge - it is a commitment to uplift women, expand opportunities, and build a workplace and community where everyone can thrive.

At Governance Lab, this commitment is being translated into action through assessing organizational practices using the WEPs Gender Gap Analysis Tool, developing a Gender Action Plan, and tracking progress transparently with open reporting.

The team will be conducting a **Learning Series** this May to share how it is operationalizing this commitment as an organization, highlighting lessons, challenges, and the path forward.

Governance Lab is proud to stand alongside 70 other organizations in Nepal working toward a future where opportunity, leadership, and empowerment are not limited by gender, but open to all.



Governance Lab

is now a proud signatory
of the Women's
Empowerment Principles.

In support of:

**WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT
PRINCIPLES**

Established by UN Women and the
UN Global Compact Office

Women's empowerment isn't an add on. It's central to everything we do. Governance Lab is proud to join the growing WEPs community in Nepal, turning commitment into real impact.

DR. NISHA ONTA,
FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GOVERNANCE LAB

**GOVERNANCE
LAB**
RESEARCH • POLICY • NETWORK

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Growth Entrepreneurship And Employment Promotion (GEEP) Program

Gandaki

With technical support from GEEP, 55 selected entrepreneurs organized local exhibition programs across Gandaki Province, creating vibrant platforms that connected local producers directly with customers and strengthened market access. The exhibitions not only increased business visibility but also helped bridge the gap between producers and buyers within local communities.

In the first phase alone, each exhibition attracted nearly 200 visitors and generated average daily sales of around NPR 200,000, demonstrating the strong market potential of local enterprises. Building on this momentum, local governments have committed to allocating budgets for weekly markets and continued promotion of local products.

The exhibitions brought together both top 10 entrepreneurs and other program participants, reflecting a shared commitment among municipalities, stakeholders, and entrepreneurs to sustain and scale the initiative at both local and provincial levels.



Koshi

Following a thorough field jury assessment of local enterprises, the outstanding 10 enterprises from Gauradaha Municipality were selected for the acceleration phase of the program. The event was attended by Esrael Mansuri, Minister for Industry, Agriculture and Cooperatives along with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Ward Chairpersons, and key entrepreneurial stakeholders.

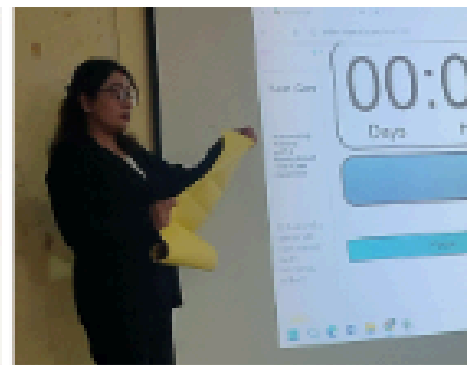
Addressing the event, Minister Mansuri highlighted the initiative's strong potential to reduce dependency on foreign employment and advance local economic empowerment through entrepreneurship. He also shared the provincial government's interest in replicating the model next year based on its impact and encouraged stronger collaboration between Gauradaha Municipality and Daayitwa to build a more enabling and results-driven entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The selected 10 enterprises will now enter an acceleration phase focused on technical capacity building, technology integration, value chain strengthening, and improved access to markets and finance.



Lumbini

The top 40 entrepreneurs from Tansen and Resunga Municipalities participated in an intensive session on enterprise mindset and business model development, supported by 20 business students throughout the process. The collaboration strengthened youth engagement and highlighted the potential for innovation and opportunities within local communities. Entrepreneurs later showcased their refined business models during a business gallery walk before an enterprise jury, with the top 20 entrepreneurs endorsed based on their growth potential and business plans.



GEEP Fellowship

On April 18–19, 2026, the GEEP Fellowship Launch and Orientation officially brought together fellows and the core team to kick-start a journey of local economic transformation.

Fellows were introduced to the Daayitwa Abhiyaan and GEEP Program, followed by intensive sessions on public narrative, policy analysis, political economy, data tools, and entrepreneurship ideation through an Udhyam Sambad workshop.

Insights on local governance were shared by Madhu Marasini, Former Secretary, Government of Nepal, while Program Director Sanjay Pokhrel guided fellows on effective stakeholder engagement. The program concluded with an inspiring experience-sharing session by Rojan Tamang, Daayitwa Nepal Public Administration Fellow 2022.

Fellows are now deployed across GEEP municipalities to support local governments in policy action for entrepreneurship, job creation, and local economic growth.



An experienced professional with a strong background in project management and organizational development. She has worked for various international organizations and has a proven track record in leading teams and managing complex projects.

She is currently working as a Senior Project Manager at UN Women, where she is responsible for the design and implementation of gender equality programs in South Asia. She has a Master's degree in International Development Studies from the University of Cambridge.

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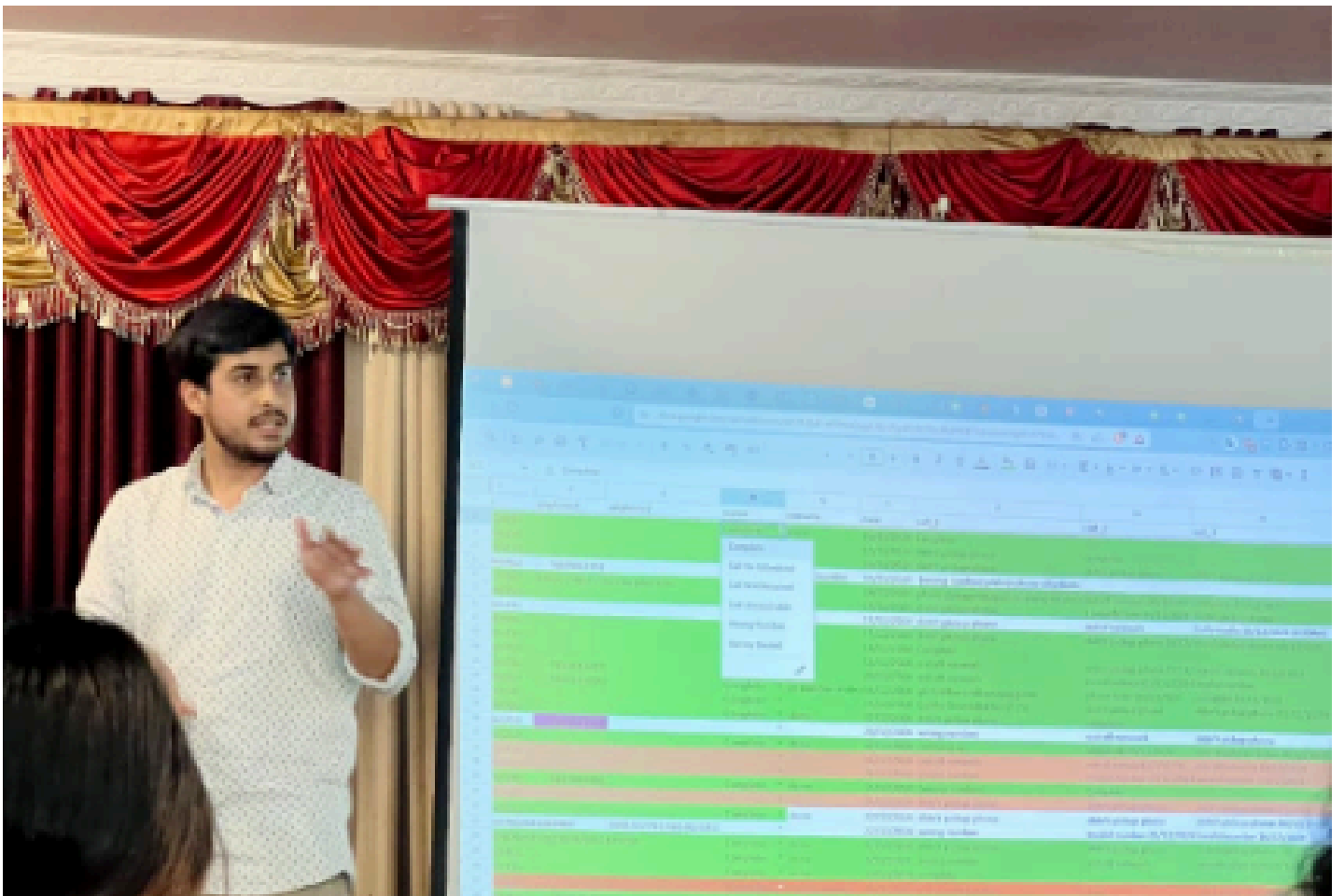
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IEN



IEN conducted a 3-day training for enumerators on the Women's Network Baseline Survey from April 22-24, 2026. The training prepared enumerators to conduct phone surveys with women politicians across multiple municipalities, including current and former elected representatives, past candidates, and politically active women who may contest future local elections. The survey aims to understand women leaders' political experiences, existing networks (family, party, voter, and peer connections), political aspirations, challenges including backlash, and interest in participating in a Women's Network intervention—a platform for cross-party peer connection and mutual support among women in local politics. The key components of the baseline survey include mapping existing political networks, eliciting future electoral aspirations, understanding barriers and backlash faced by women politicians, and assessing attitudes, solidarity, confidence, and political knowledge. The survey also employs a snowball sampling method to identify additional politically active women who may benefit from network participation. Training emphasized proper consent procedures, maintaining respondent privacy and confidentiality, and standardized use of SurveyCTO for data collection.

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