



STRENGTHENING FEDERALISM THROUGH EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY RESEARCH

GENERATING EVIDENCE. INFORMING POLICY. STRENGTHENING FEDERALISM.

Nepal's federal transition has created new opportunities for responsive governance, improved service delivery, and stronger intergovernmental coordination. While significant progress has been made in establishing federal institutions and systems, important challenges remain in areas such as functional assignment, fiscal federalism, digital governance, intergovernmental relations, gender equality and social inclusion, and evidence-based decision-making.

To address these challenges, the Provincial and Local Governance Strengthening Programme (PLGSP) is launching an innovative initiative to strengthen federalism through evidence-based policy research, linking academia, governments, Provincial Research and Training Academies (PRTAs), and young researchers to generate practical solutions for the country's evolving federal governance system.

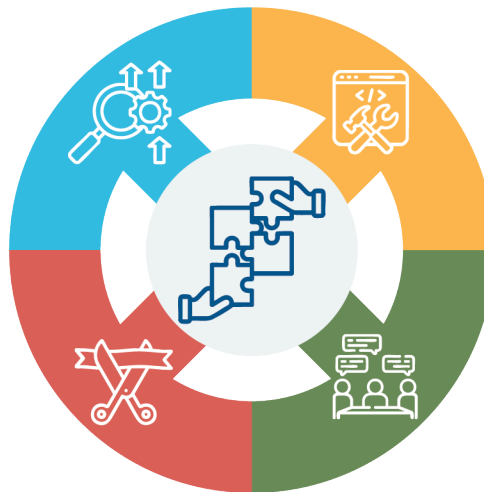
WHAT WE AIM TO ACHIEVE

Strengthen Research-to-Policy Linkages

Generate high-quality, policy-relevant research that directly informs federal, provincial, and local governance reforms and supports evidence-based policymaking.

Establish Federalism Policy Labs

Create dedicated Policy Labs within participating national universities to serve as centres of excellence for applied federalism research, policy innovation, and knowledge exchange.



Build Research Capacity

Strengthen the capacity of universities, researchers, provincial institutions, and young professionals to undertake rigorous policy research and support governance reforms.

Promote Policy Dialogue

Facilitate structured provincial and national policy dialogues that bring together researchers, policymakers, elected representatives, civil servants, and development partners to discuss reform priorities and evidence-based solutions.

KEY RESEARCH THEMES

Functional Assignment and Intergovernmental Relations

- Concurrent powers and responsibilities
- Intergovernmental coordination mechanisms
- Legal harmonization
- Effectiveness of coordination platforms

Fiscal Federalism

- Fiscal transfers and grants
- Provincial fiscal autonomy
- Own Source Revenue
- Budget credibility and Medium Terms Expenditure Framework alignment

Digital Federalism and Data Ecosystems

- Digital governance systems
- Data interoperability
- Management Information Systems
- Citizen-facing digital services
- Data governance and cybersecurity

GESI and Accountability

- Gender-responsive budgeting
- Inclusive governance outcomes
- Social accountability mechanisms
- Participation of marginalized groups
- Oversight and accountability systems

YOUTH DATA AMBASSADORS

A flagship feature of the initiative is the establishment of a Youth Data Ambassadors Programme, which will engage graduate students and young researchers in applied policy research. Youth Data Ambassadors will support surveys, data analysis, GIS mapping, fiscal diagnostics, policy communication, dashboard development, and evidence translation. They will play a critical role in bridging the gap between research and policymaking while building the next generation of federalism researchers and policy practitioners.

POLICY DIALOGUE AND LEARNING

The initiative will create structured platforms for continuous learning and policy engagement through:



**Provincial
policy
dialogues**



**Sectoral policy
roundtables**



**Knowledge
sharing events**



**Research
dissemination
workshops**



**National
federalism
policy forums**

These platforms will help ensure that research findings are translated into practical reforms and inform decision-making across all three spheres of government.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Stronger evidence-based policymaking
- Enhanced federal and provincial reform capacity
- Institutionalized Policy Labs within universities
- Strengthened PRTAs
- Improved research-to-policy communication
- Increased youth engagement in governance reforms
- Better-informed federalism reforms and service delivery improvements

WHY SUBNATIONAL EVIDENCE MATTERS

Governance challenges do not always look the same across provinces and local governments. Different institutional capacities, geographic conditions, population needs and development contexts can produce different policy challenges and results.

Subnational evidence can help decision-makers understand these differences and identify solutions that respond to local realities. It can also help national policies and reforms take better account of how federalism works in practice across different parts of the country. For PLGSP, better use of evidence ultimately leads to public decisions that respond more closely to real needs and produce results that people can see and experience.

PLGSP

SUPPORTING LEARNING, INNOVATION AND EVIDENCE FOR STRONGER FEDERALISM



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Land Management, Co-operatives, Federal Affairs and General Administration
Provincial and Local Governance Strengthening Programme

Technical
Assistance

