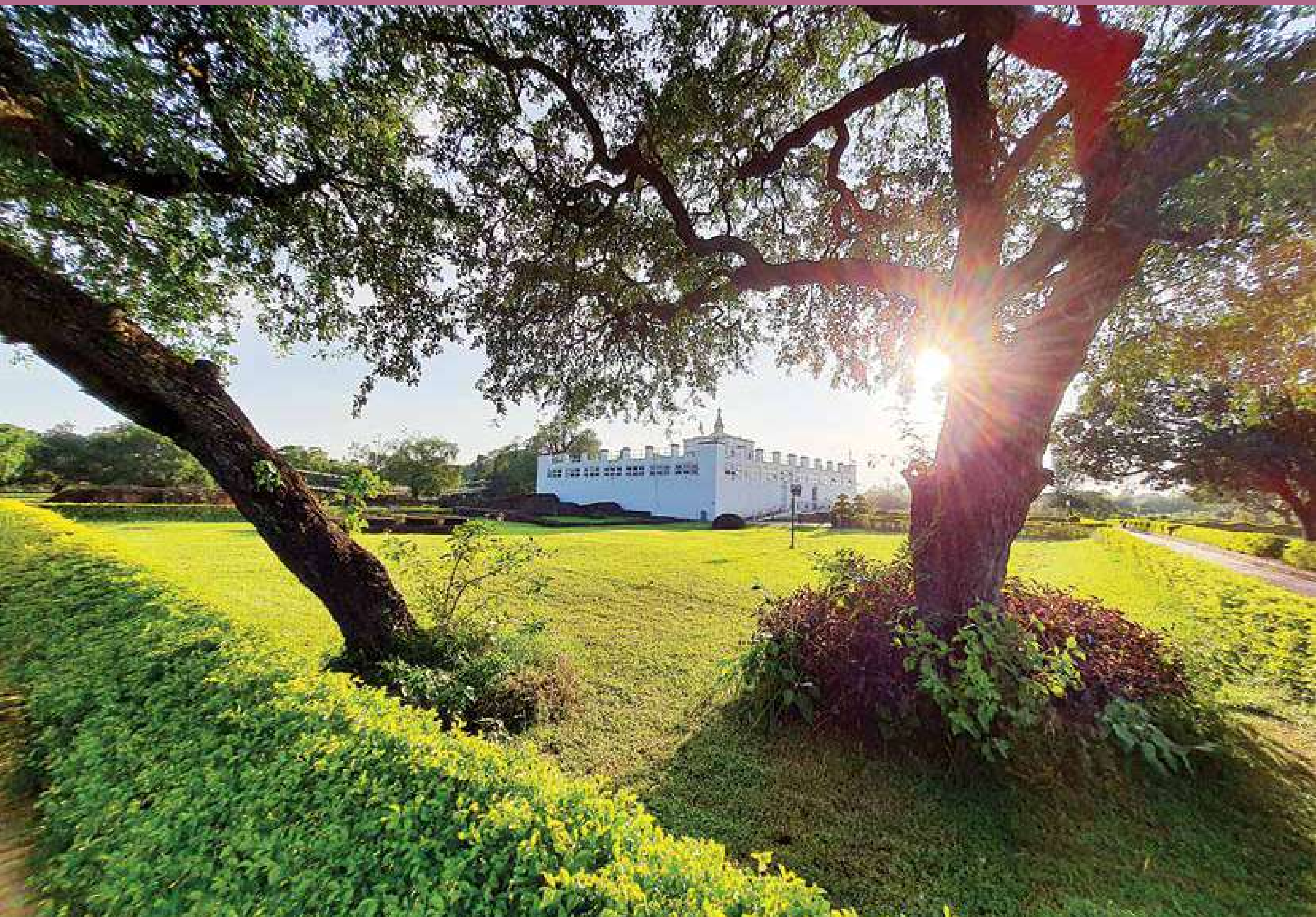
A SURVEY OF THE NEPALI PEOPLE IN 2022

SURVEY REPORT | LUMBINI PROVINCE



inter disciplinary analysts

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FOREWORD

The survey of Nepali people, conducted for the first time in 2017, is being conducted under the leadership of Kathmandu University School of Arts (KUSoA) in collaboration with Interdisciplinary Analysts (IDA). The fourth volume of the report, *A Survey of the Nepali People 2022 (SNP)* presents Nepalis' perception of the country's direction, the situation of their household, local conditions, security, identity and social relations, governance, public service delivery, elections, political participation, and economic outlook. For this volume, the survey reached 7,056 respondents aged 18 years and older, following a sample selection from 588 wards of seven provinces in Nepal.

The SNP 2022 is a comparatively shorter national report and is complimented by seven provincial reports that attempt to compare findings included in the previous three volumes (SNP 2017, 2018, and 2020). As such, the reader will find a comparative analysis, including charts and tables, as well as descriptions related to the various themes raised in this survey. Further, we will release a thematic report on one overarching theme based on the data generated by SNP 2022 and qualitative research.

Survey data have their own limitations, such as the selection of the right sample size for a survey of this scale is almost always a challenge. There are always possibilities of encountering sampling, nonresponse, coverage, and measurement errors. Therefore, the researchers need to be conscientious while cleaning the data for analysis. And another is the timing of the survey period.

In each round of the survey of Nepali people, the context of the data collection period has been detrimental to people's perceptions. The first volume of SNP (2017) documented the findings of a nationwide survey conducted after the first-ever local election under the federal governance structure in Nepal. The survey collected opinions and expectations of the people on issues, such as gender, ethnicity, and language in the evolving polity, national and local level problems, the service delivery of local and provincial governments, economic and social development, access to information, safety and dispute, governance, political participation, and local election.

While the 2018's survey took place after the first Federal and Provincial election. That year's survey attempted to capture people's opinions based on their experience of having lived for a year under the new governance system. It also documented their aspirations and expectations for the days to come.

While SNP 2020 captured the perception of Nepalis just before the onset of Covid-19. The data collected captured the national mood in the pre-Covid time and thus serves as a strong reference point for comparisons in a post-Covid world.

The 2022 survey, being the first post-pandemic time survey, provided an opportunity to assess the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic in the country and also ways to move forward in the post-Covid context. The survey team decided that including questions on the government's response to Covid-19 would be critical, as it would likely impact people's views on the overall performance of the government and the direction the country was moving in.

The data collection for the 2022 volume took place immediately after the local elections in May 2022. Consequently, many of the perceptions and experiences expressed could have been influenced by the performance of the second-tenure local governments. Among the respondents, more than three-quarters reported they voted in the 2022 local elections. Nine out of 10 respondents believed that elections were free and fair and more than three-quarters were "very happy," and "happy" with the results.

While this provincial brief presents the provincial trends in detail, I am presenting a quick snapshot of the national-level data which will help the readers compare the national outlook with the provincial perceptions. This year, only 41.7% of surveyed Nepalis, the lowest percentage yet, think that the country is moving in the right direction. The respondents cited better roads, increased access to education, and improved electricity supply as the top three indicators of the country's progress. Issues such as corruption, rising prices of necessities, and tax hikes are the three most mentioned problems ailing the country. For the youth (18-24 age group) difficulty in finding work/earning a living is the major problem.

In comparison in 2020, people's perception of a positive economic outlook has also dropped; it's 20.7% compared to 40.1% in 2020. The result, to some extent, reflects the impact of Covid-19 on people's perceptions, as the pandemic negatively impacted almost all economic activities in the country.

The findings, however, are not all bleak, Nepal seems to be a safer place as 92 % of the respondents report that they or their family have not encountered any violence or criminal acts in the past year. Theft is the most reported crime, followed by financial fraud and physical assault. The survey found that the majority of Nepalis prefer the police as their first choice to resolve disputes on land, debt, crime, and defamation or false accusation. For the resolution of domestic violence disputes, Nepalis go to their ward chairpersons or ward members. This is an encouraging indication of people's trust in the local government and significant evidence from the survey on the effectiveness of the newly restructured state mechanism.

The 2022 survey findings document more such evidence; in terms of the government's social security benefits, the survey findings showed that the majority of the respondents have heard of Senior Citizen Allowance, Single Women Allowance, and Disability Allowance. The survey also found that the proportion of households receiving health insurance nearly doubled in 2022 compared to 2020.

In the social context, while respondents still report feeling disadvantaged while obtaining public services and at their workplace due to their gender, caste/ethnicity, and mother tongue other than Nepali, there is a decline in the proportion of respondents, over the years. Similarly in 2022, more respondents said they would approve of inter-caste marriage of their children compared to the previous years. Only about one-fifth of the respondents didn't approve of inter-caste marriage.

The data also shows that over the years, there has been a significant increase in people who believe a person should be capable of leadership roles regardless of gender. The longitudinal data indicates that the share of people with this view increased significantly in 2020 as compared to 2018 but has remained the same this year. However, data states that women are less preferred to give executive positions compared to community-related status even if three out of four believe that both men and women are equally capable of leading different institutions/organizations.

The survey also measured the level of trust among Nepalis in government and nongovernmental institutions. There is a decline in the overall level of trust in the institutions mentioned in the survey. The top three most trusted institutions are the public service commission, the media, and Nepal Army while political parties are still the least trusted. In terms of sources to obtain information on government plans, programs, and budgets, more than half of the respondents cite friends, family, and neighbors as the key sources, followed by local community leaders, television, and social media. Over the years, there has been a steady increase in the share of respondents who mentioned social media and the internet as a source of information for local government activities.

The SNP team believed that in-depth analysis of the survey data is crucial to inform the government of the reasons and contexts behind people's perceptions of the state of the nation and the governance mechanisms. Thus, in the coming years, the survey of Nepali people needs to add qualitative analysis to help explain the quantitative data. We hope the data presented provides insight into the performance of the governments at all three levels, i.e., federal, provincial, and local.

Finally, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all who contributed to making the survey successful and to producing this National Brief Report of SNP 2022. First and foremost, the team at The Asia Foundation made funds available via two grant agreements: one from the Australian Government, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and another from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. Then, I would like to acknowledge Interdisciplinary Analysts, particularly for their assistance in designing the questionnaire, conducting fieldwork, and compiling the data. Equally important is the contribution of the distinguished steering committee members who helped guide the project with their critical insights during every step of the process. They deserve our deepest appreciation. The colleagues from KUSOA who took on the challenge of SNP 2022 and saw it through successful completion culminating in writing this report, I acknowledge their effort and dedication. Last but not least, I would like to sincerely thank the enumerators and the Nepali people without whose participation the survey would not have been possible.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In 2022, the Survey of the Nepali People (SNP 2022) interviewed a nationally representative sample of 7,056 Nepalis randomly selected from 588 wards across all seven provinces. This Lumbini Province brief, is based on answers from a sample of 1,008 respondents in 84 wards of Lumbini Province. This brief presents findings on peoples' views on the country's direction, the situation of their household, local conditions, security, identity and social relations, governance, public service delivery, elections, political participation, economic outlook, and the socio-economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The SNP survey series began in 2017 when the country was transitioning into a federal governance struc¬ture and the first local elections within the new political set-up had just been completed. Subsequent sur¬vey rounds were conducted in 2018 and 2020. SNP 2020 captured the perception of Nepalis just before the onset of Covid-19. SNP 2022, on the other hand, reflects opinions on the socio-economic impact of Covid-19 in the country. Data collection for SNP 2022 was completed in August of that year after the conduct of the second local election cycle held on May 13, 2022. Hence, the discoveries can additionally provide insights into the performance of the nation's federal, provincial, and local administrations over a span of five years, as perceived by citizens.

Between SNP 2020 and SPN 2022, Nepal wit¬nessed the dissolution of the Parliament and its subsequent reinstatement following a Supreme Court ruling. The country also experienced new electoral coalitions, an impeachment motion against the Chief Justice, a series of corruption scandals, nationwide Covid-19 lockdowns, and disruptions in supply chains and rising inflation due to the global economic downturn and the Russia-Ukraine war. These events have had huge impacts on the trajectory of Nepal's development and the daily lives of its citizens, as reflected in the survey results. However, the survey findings only reflect a snapshot of perspectives from a sample of citizens at the time of data collection.

Lumbini Province was also affected by the fall of the K.P. Oli government, the division of the UML into the CPN (Unified Socialist) led by Madhav Kumar Nepal, and the resurgence of the former CPN Maoist Center. This impact was evident as Chief Minister Shanker Pokhrel was replaced, with Kulprasad KC of CPN Maoist appointment as the new Chief Minister. The outcome of the local election held on May 13, 2022 and the election of Provincial Assembly on November 20 certainly also influenced public perception in Lumbini Province.

In 2022, Lumbini Province residents' outlook on the country's direction, economic conditions, and on political participation and governance was less optimistic than in survey previous rounds. In 2022, a lower share than in any of the previous survey rounds thought the country was moving in the right direction (54.3%). The socio-economic repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic were clearly reflected in the survey results, with people expressing the need for government support to aid their recovery in the following areas: improved health services, cash schemes, employment opportunities, and educational support for children. Furthermore, a smaller proportion of people in Lumbini Province than in previous survey rounds reported an improved household financial situation compared to the previous year. Increased corruption, inflation, deteriorating economic conditions, and difficulties in securing employment were the most frequently mentioned challenges in Lumbini in 2022. Additionally, optimism regarding the economic outlook in the region diminished with 18.9 % of Lumbini Province residents holding a positive economic outlook in 2022 compared to 43.1% in 2018.

People in Lumbini Province held more positive views of local areas and local governments, compared to national level. While the share of respondents reporting improvements in local condition slightly declined compared to 2020, it still remained more than twice the level of optimism about the overall direction of the country. Trust in local governments continued to surpass that in federal and provincial governments.

Furthermore, in Lumbini Province, there was an increase in the share of respondents who found it easy to receive services from local governments. Local governments were cited as the most responsive actor to manage Covid-19. Approximately two-thirds of respondents thought that the responsiveness of the local governments remained unchanged compared to the previous year. However, the level of public awareness and participation in local gover¬nance processes continued to remain low. Over time, there was a decline in the proportion of respondents who felt disadvantaged based on their gender, caste/ethnicity, and mother tongue when accessing public services or in their workplace. People held increasingly positive perceptions regarding gender roles and equality, especially in terms of women's control over income, freedom of movement and decision-making.

The survey findings revealed significant differences across variables such as ethnicity, gender, education, and geographical loca¬tion of respondents. While the national brief provided key findings and notable differences across variables, this particular brief for Lumbini Province aims to provide a more detailed provincial breakdown, specifically tailored to the characteristics of the province.

This provincial brief presents key findings around the following six broad topics:

Public outlook and national mood. Views on the general direction of the country, conditions in the area where they live, and the situation of their household; what has improved and what problems remain.

Security and dispute resolution. People's sense of safety and experience of crime and violence, preferred avenues for dispute resolution, and level of confidence in those institutions to deliver justice.

Identity. Views on patterns of discrimination, social values, and leadership positions.

Governance and political participation. Views on local-level restructuring, trust in institutions, awareness on government services and the quality of public service delivery (education, health care, and roads), local elections, and taxation.

Economic outlook and access to information. Views on local economic conditions, household income, migration and remittances, awareness and access to insurance, and preferred sources of information.

Impact of Covid-19. Government responsiveness to manage Covid-19, coping strategies, and what needs to be done for socio-economic recovery.

2. PUBLIC OUTLOOK AND NATIONAL MOOD

2.1 DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY

In all four survey rounds to date, people in Lumbini Province were more optimistic about the direction of the country than the national average. In 2022, more than half (54.3%) of the respondents in Lumbini Province believed that the country was going in the right direction compared to 41.8% of Nepalis overall. However, in Lumbini Province, the share showing optimism had decreased noticeably since 2020 (74.7%).

Direction of the Country, Overall and Lumbini Province, by year

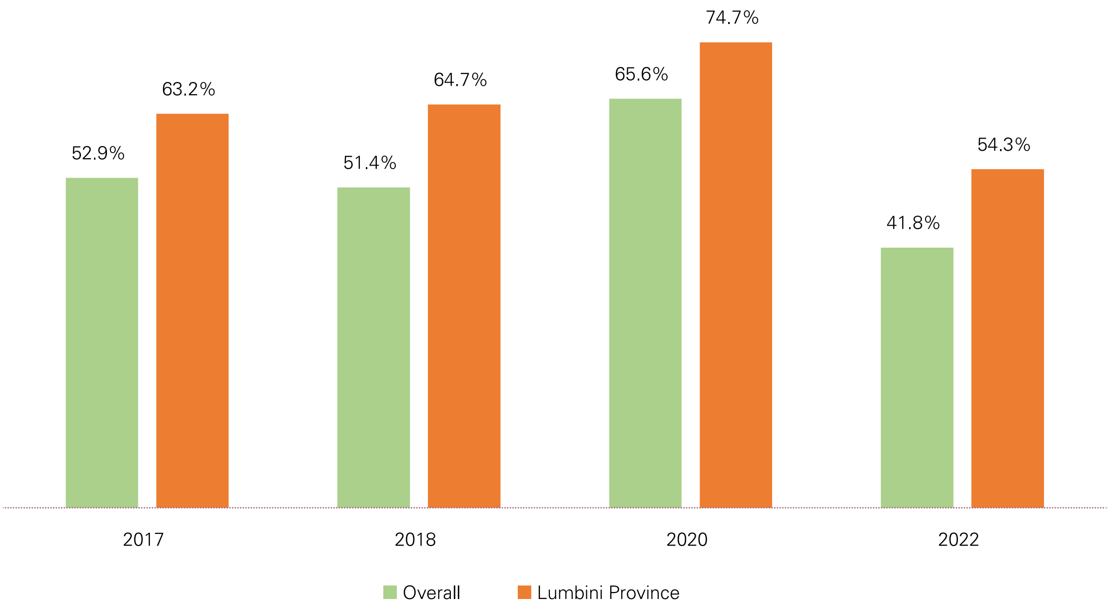

Figure 2.1.1: Q-B1a. Overall, do you think the country is moving in the right direction, or do you think it is moving in the wrong direction? (N=1008)

Two-fifths of the people in Lumbini Province (40.7%) were pessimistic about the direction of the country – up from 23.9% in 2020.

More young people aged 18-24 (58.3%) had a positive outlook than those aged 50 and above (48.4%). Respondents with higher levels of education (Bachelor's degree and above) (40.4%) tended to be less optimistic than those who are illiterate (62.7%). People in the Terai (60.9%) were much more optimistic than those in the Hill region (38.4%). Hill Dalit (54.0%), Hill Caste (44.3%) and Hill Adibasi/ Janajati (43.4%) community members were less likely to think that the country is moving in the right direction than Madhesi Dalits (79.1%).

The survey also asked respondents about their outlook on the status of social, economic, political, cultural, and physical infrastructure sectors across the country. Nepalis in Lumbini Province seemed less positive in 2022 across all sectors compared to 2020 (Figure 2.1.3). More than half of respondents were positive about social (65.3%), cultural (59.2%), and physical infrastructure (64.1%), while fewer thought the economy (37.1%) and political sphere (28.1%) were headed in the right direction.

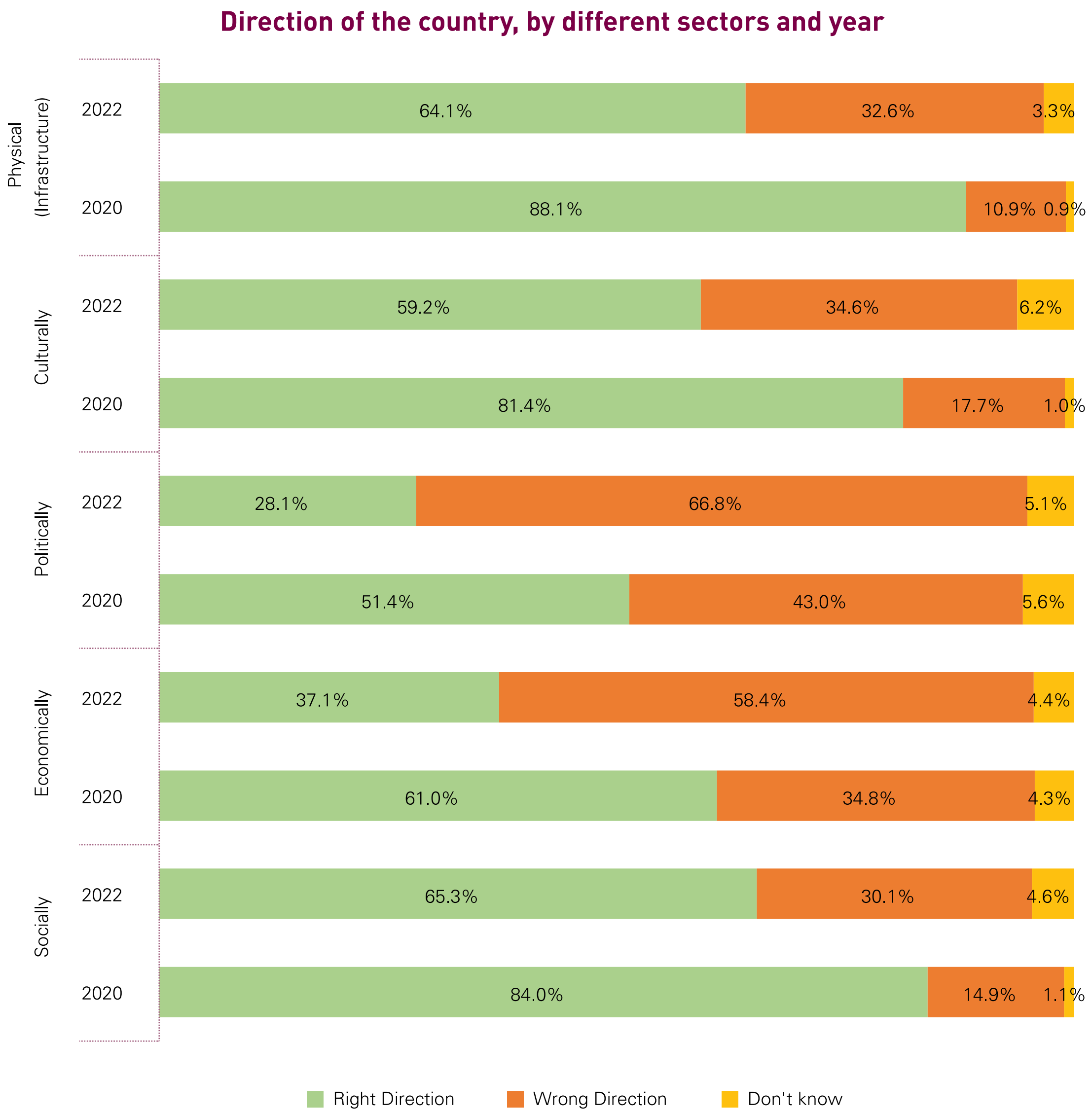

Figure 2.1.3: Q-B1b-f. Do you think things in Nepal today are going in the right direction, or do you think they are going in the wrong direction? Please answer considering the overall as well as social, economic, political, cultural, and physical (infrastructural) conditions of the country. (N=1008)

2.2 REASONS FOR OPTIMISM

Respondents of Lumbini Province who believed that Nepal was going in the right direction (54.3%) were further asked to identify the main reasons for why they felt optimistic. The most commonly cited reasons for optimism were better roads (39.5%), increased access to education (19.7%), good social aspects (17.8%), and the promulgation of the new constitution (15.5%) (Figure 2.2.1).

In the last three survey rounds (2018, 2020 and 2022), the most-mentioned reason why people in Lumbini Province felt optimistic about the direction of the country was improvement in roads/trails. In 2018, half of those respondents who were optimistic (51.9%) cited better roads and trails as the main reason for their optimism, compared to 34.0% in 2020 and 39.5% in 2022. The share citing increased access to education as reason for optimism increased over the years.

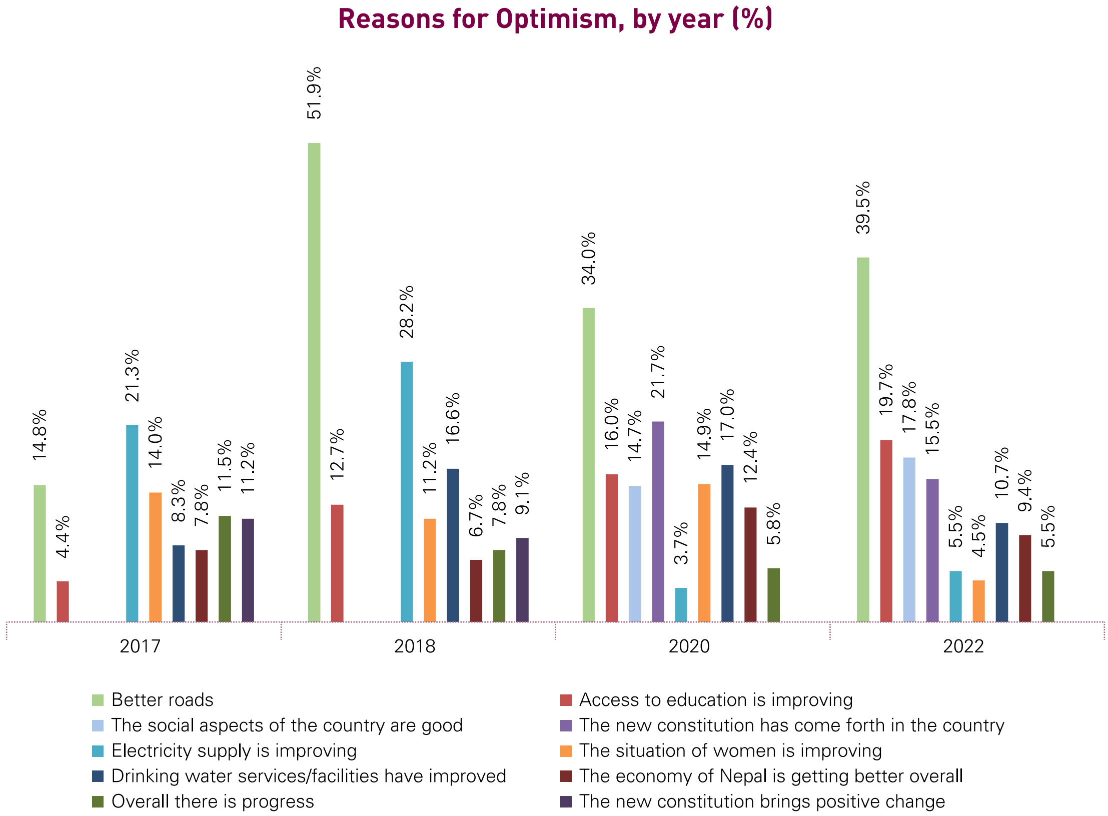

Figure 2.2.1: Q-B2. [If answered "Nepal is going in the right direction" to Q-B1] Why do you think that Nepal is going in the right direction? (N=547)[1]

2.3 PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

All respondents were asked what they considered to be the biggest problems in Nepal. In 2017 and 2022, difficulties finding work and making a living was considered to be the leading problem of the country but in 2020 and 2022, rising corruption/extortion was the most-commonly cited problem.

In 2022, about one-third (31.7%) reported that increasing corruption was a major challenge. Many respondents also thought that the increase in prices of essential goods (27.3%), difficulty in finding work and making a living (25.2%), the deteriorating economic condition of the country (17.4%) and limited access to education (13.0%) were pressing problems. Even though increasing corruption/extortion and rising prices of essential goods were the two most-mentioned problems in 2022, the shares reporting these challenges were lower than in 2020.

1 In SNP 2017 and 2018 respondents were limited to mentioning just two reasons for their optimism but in 2020 and 2022 respondents were allowed to give multiple responses. To compare the optimism of respondents across the four years, only the first two responses of respondents in 2020 and 2022 were considered and analyzed.

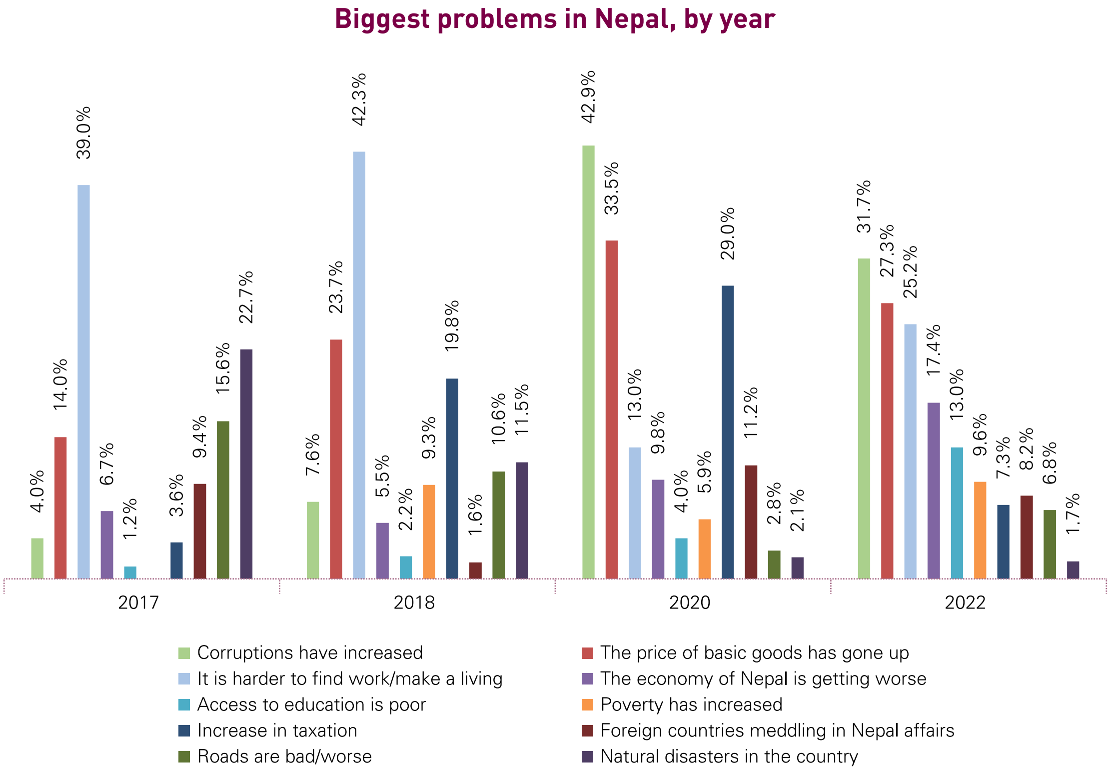

Figure 2.3.1: Q-B3. In your view, what are the two biggest problems facing Nepal as a whole? (N=1008)[2]

2.4 LOCAL CONDITIONS

Three-fourths (75.1%) of people in Lumbini Province thought that the overall situation in their local area was improving. A little more than two out of ten respondents (21.1%) reported that things in their locality were getting worse.

Between 2017 and 2020, the share of people reporting improving conditions in their local area increased steadily from 64.2% to 80.8%. In 2022, the share reporting the same (75.1%) decreased slightly, by 5.7 percentage points (Figure 2.4.1).

2 In SNP 2017 and 2018, respondents were limited to citing the top two major problems the country is facing, but in 2020 and 2022, respondents were allowed to give multiple responses. To fairly compare responses on major problems the country is facing in the four different surveys, the first two responses of respondent in 2020 and 2022 are considered and analyzed.

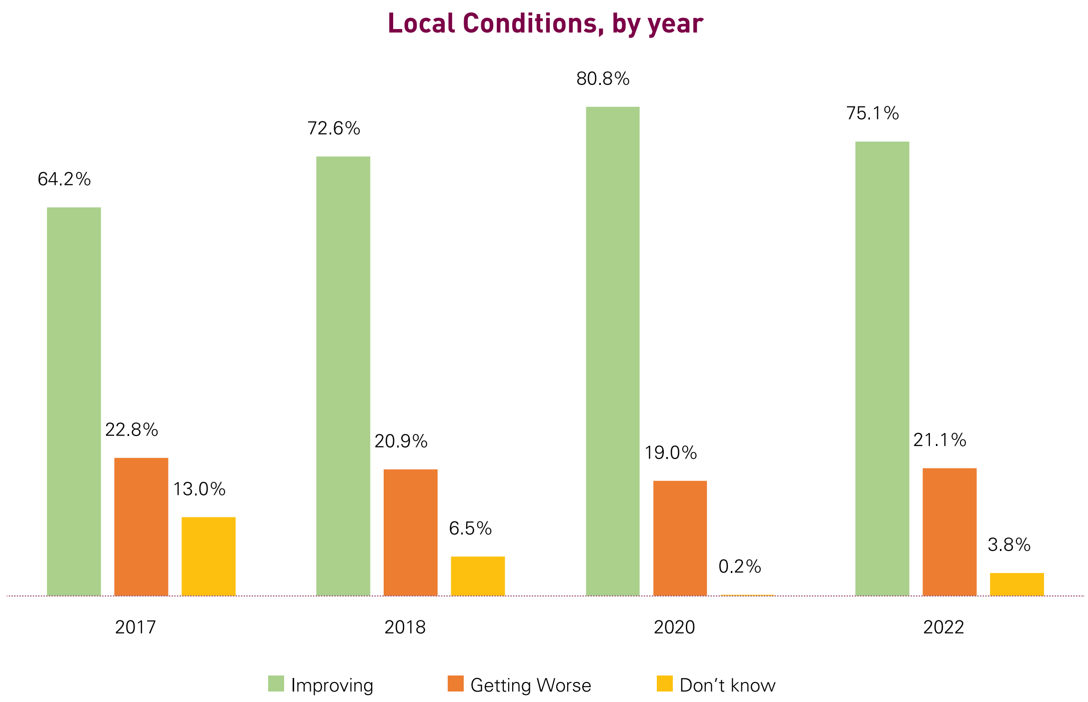

Figure 2.4.1: Q-B4a. Now I would like you to think about the area where you live and work most of the time. Do you think things in your area are improving, or do you think they are getting worse? (N=1008)

Young people in the 18-24 age group (79.2%) were slightly more optimistic about the situation of their local area than those age 50 and above (72.9%). Respondents with higher levels of education (Bachelor's degree and above) (78.3%) tended to be less optimistic than those without formal education (65.8%). People from rural municipalities (78.0%) were a little more likely to say things in their area were improving than people from urban municipalities (72.4%).

Across caste/ethnic groups, Madhesi Dalit (89.1%) and Hill Dalit (83.0%) community members were more likely to express that the things in their area were improving than any other group. Compared to the provincial average (75.0%), a smaller proportion of Madhesi (Adibasi/Janajati) (63.5%) were optimistic about their local area.

2.5 REASONS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN LOCAL CONDITIONS

Respondents who thought that the local situation in their area was improving were further asked to provide reasons. In 2022, people in Lumbini Province thought that improved local conditions were due to better roads and trails, better access to education, improved electrical supply, improved drinking water facilities, and easy access to health facilities.

Slightly more than half (52.2%) of the respondents mentioned that the roads and trails have improved, and share of respondents have increased by 13.7 percentage point in 2022, compared to the previous year. Similarly, the proportion of the respondents who mentioned increased access to education has been increasing steadily over the years - from 7.5% in 2017 to 14.6% in 2022.

In all survey rounds, improved roads/trails was the most-cited reason for optimism about local conditions although the percentage citing this reason fluctuated (Figure 2.4.2). In 2022, the share mentioning increased access to health services was higher than before.

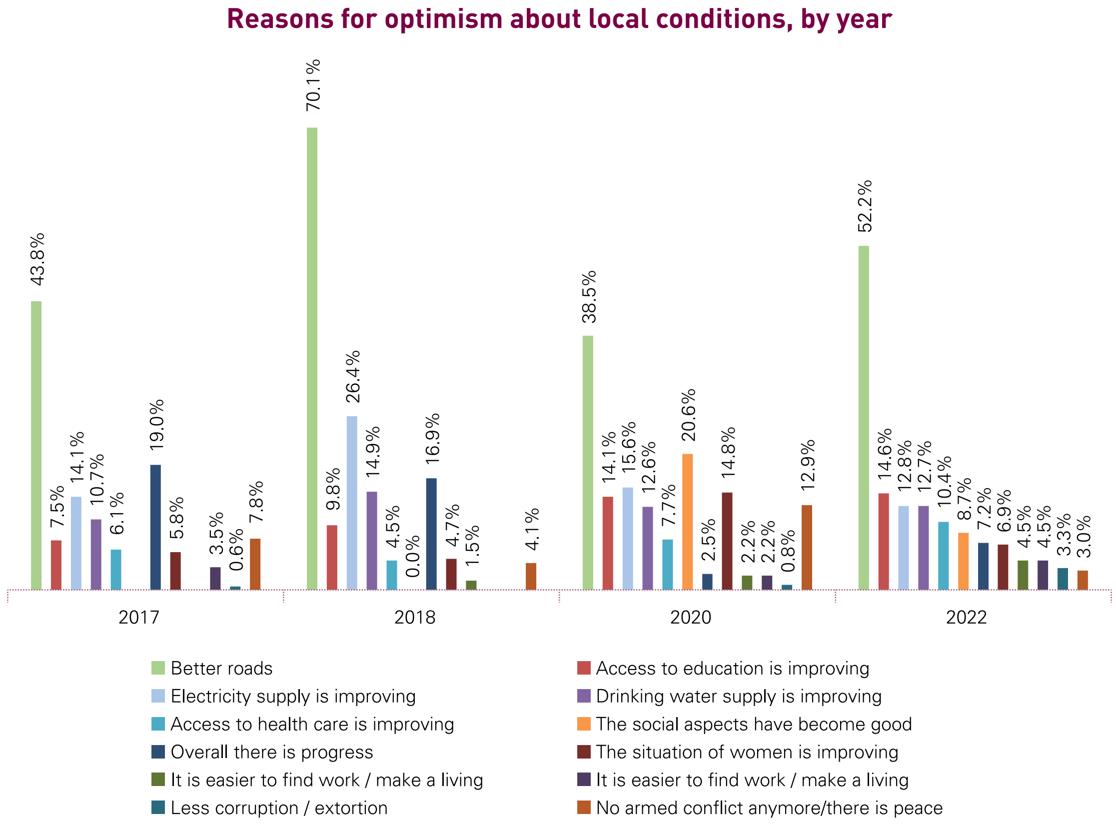

Figure 2.5.1: Q-B5. In your view what has improved in your area during the past year (N=757)[3]

2.6 PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

All respondents were asked about the challenges and problems in their local area. The most-commonly mentioned local challenges were deteriorating roads and trails (29.3%), rising prices of essential goods (20.3%), inadequate improvements to drinking water facilities (16.8%), difficulties finding a job and making a living (15.1%), corruption (12.5%) and increased tax (10.8%).

The share citing increasing prices of essential goods increased over the survey rounds; from 9.5% in 2017 to 20.3% in 2022. In contrast, there the share of people identifying deteriorating road conditions as a local challenge declined over the years from 48.9% in 2017 to 29.3% in 2022. Similarly, the proportion of respondents reporting inadequate drinking water facilities decreased from 27.6% in 2017 to 16.8% in 2022.

3 In SNP 2017 and 2018, respondents were limited to citing the top two major problems the country is facing, but in 2020 and 2022, respondents were allowed to give multiple responses. To fairly compare responses on major problems the country is facing in the four different surveys, the first two responses of respondent in 2020 and 2022 are considered and analyzed.

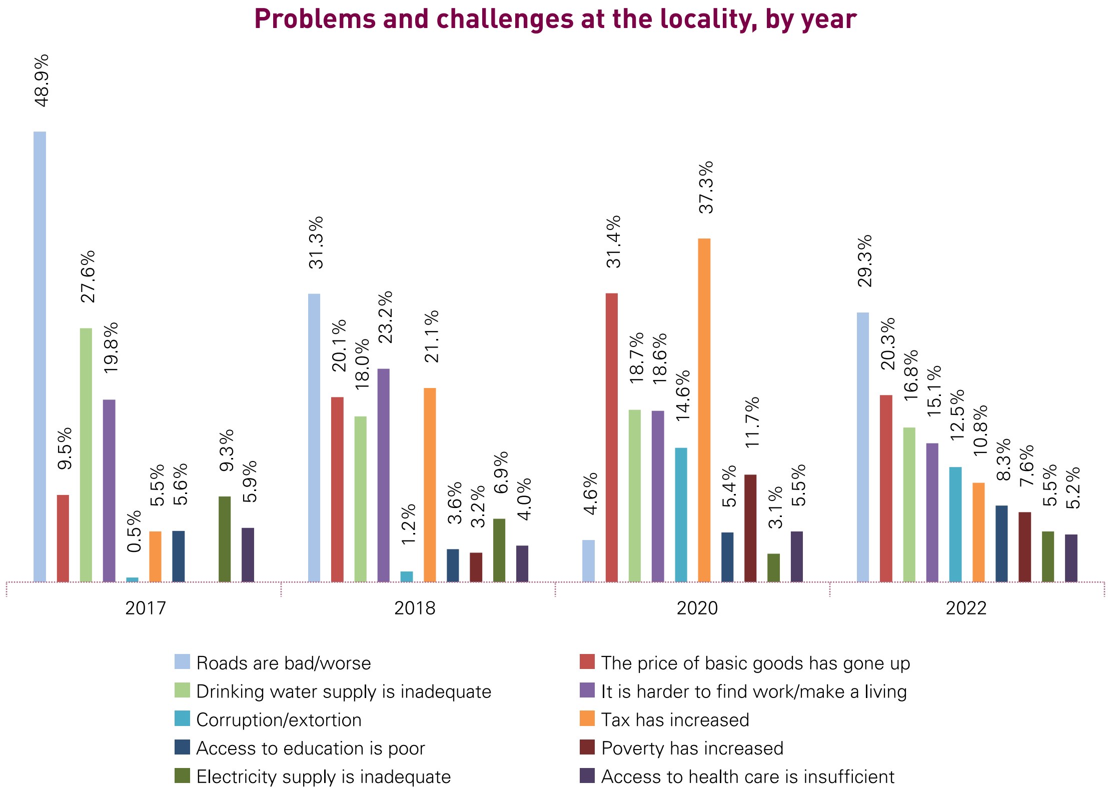

Figure 2.6.1: Q-B6. In your view what are the biggest problems in the area where you live and work most of the time? (N=1008)[4]

There were some differences in responses based on the geographical regions. Respondent from the Hill region were comparatively more likely to mention deteriorating conditions of roads and trails (42.9%), inadequate improvements to drinking water supply/facilities (30.3%), natural calamities like floods and landslides (16.9%), higher prices of basic goods and necessities (18.7%) and inadequate improvements to electricity supply (12.6%). People in the Terai were more concerned about finding jobs/work (16.2%), rising corruption (16.2%), poor drain/sewerage management (14.9%).

Respondent in rural municipalities were comparatively more likely to mention deteriorating conditions of roads and trails (32.0%) and inadequate improvements to drinking water supply/facilities (22.4%) while respondents in urban municipalities were more likely to report that it is difficult to work (16.4%), rising prices of basic goods (19.2%), rising local taxes (11.0%), and poor solid waste management (12.6%).

2.7 SITUATION OF THE HOUSEHOLD

Respondents were asked nine questions about various aspects of the evolution of their household over the past year (Table 2.7.1). For all different aspects asked about, the largest share reported that their overall household situation in 2022 was the same as it was in the previous year.

4 In SNP 2017 and 2018, respondents were limited to citing the top two major problems the country is facing, but in 2020 and 2022, respondents were allowed to give multiple responses. To fairly compare responses on major problems the country is facing in the four different surveys, the first two responses of respondent in 2020 and 2022 are considered and analyzed.

In 2022, far fewer people reported that the different aspects of their household's situation had improved compared to previous survey rounds. For instance, only 31.4% of respondents said the financial situation of the household was better in 2022 compared to 39.1% in 2017, 37.9% in 2018, and 55.6% in 2020. Similarly, 29.1% of respondents said access to electricity was better in 2022 compared to 39.0% in 2017, 48.0% in 2018, and 59.7% in 2020.

Nearly one in ten people (9.8%) said that the health/well-being family members had gotten worse over the previous year. The share reporting that the financial situation of the household had gotten worse almost doubled compared to 2020, from 4.3% to 8.3%.

Situation of the household, by year

		Better	Same	Worse	Don't know
Financial situation of your household	2017	39.1%	49.9%	11.0%	0.0%
	2018	37.9%	54.5%	7.4%	0.2%
	2020	55.6%	40.1%	4.3%	0.0%
	2022	31.4%	60.3%	8.3%	0.0%
Physical conditions of your house/ dwelling	2017	30.1%	64.7%	5.2%	0.0%
	2018	24.1%	72.8%	2.9%	0.2%
	2020	43.6%	54.3%	2.1%	0.0%
	2022	26.8%	70.5%	2.7%	0.0%
Health/well-being of your family members	2017	33.8%	53.0%	13.3%	0.0%
	2018	24.9%	62.2%	12.7%	0.2%
	2020	51.8%	40.6%	7.6%	0.0%
	2022	28.9%	61.3%	9.8%	0.0%
Relations with other people in the community	2017	34.8%	63.1%	1.9%	0.1%
	2018	33.2%	66.2%	0.4%	0.2%
	2020	64.8%	34.9%	0.3%	0.0%
	2022	30.0%	68.7%	1.3%	0.0%
Relations with local government and authorities	2017	21.7%	63.9%	3.1%	11.3%
	2018	19.3%	75.6%	3.2%	2.0%
	2020	51.3%	46.5%	1.2%	1.0%
	2022	25.8%	73.1%	1.1%	0.0%
Access to electricity	2017	39.0%	42.5%	18.4%	0.1%
	2018	48.0%	46.7%	4.5%	0.9%
	2020	59.7%	38.7%	1.7%	0.0%
	2022	29.1%	66.0%	4.9%	0.0%
Access to drinking water	2017	18.9%	55.2%	25.8%	0.1%
	2018	26.8%	65.7%	7.4%	0.1%
	2020	37.9%	53.9%	8.2%	0.0%
	2022	22.3%	73.1%	4.7%	0.0%
Access to markets	2022	22.4%	76.0%	1.6%	0.0%
Access to public transport	2022	29.1%	68.3%	2.6%	0.0%

Table 2.7.1: Q-B7. Now I would like you to think about the situation of your household. Compared to last year, would you say that the situation for your household has gotten better, remained the same or gotten worse with respect to the following? (N=1008)

2.8 HOUSEHOLD EXPERIENCES

When asked whether they had to skip a meal, go without medical treatment or medicine, and/or keep their children home from school due to financial issues, a vast majority selected "never." However, over the years, there was an increase in the share of respondents reporting "sometimes" for going without medical treatments (25.8%), not sending children to school (22.7%), and skipping a meal (9.4%) due to lack of money.

Household experience due to lack of money, by year

		Always	Often	Sometimes	Never
Skipped a meal	2018	0.3%	1.5%	8.1%	90.1%
	2020	0.0%	0.0%	4.7%	95.3%
	2022	0.0%	0.0%	9.4%	90.6%
Gone without medical treatment	2018	0.6%	2.6%	14.6%	82.2%
	2020	0.0%	0.8%	9.4%	89.8%
	2022	0.4%	2.3%	25.8%	71.5%
Not been able to send children to school	2018	0.9%	1.0%	7.5%	90.7%
	2020	0.1%	0.1%	5.4%	94.3%
	2022	0.4%	1.7%	22.7%	75.2%

Table 2.8.1: Q-B8. Thinking back over the past 12 months, how often have you or your household ...... because you didn't have money? (N=1008)

3. PERSONAL SAFETY AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

3.1 HOUSEHOLD EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE CRIME AND JUSTICE

To examine whether or not respondents or members of their household were victims of violence or crime in the past one year, 17 different types of violence and criminal activities were read out to respondents one by one.

The vast majority of people in Lumbini Province, more than 98%, did not report experiencing any type of violence or crime in the past year (Table 3.1.1). The shares reporting various types of violence or crime generally decreased between 2017 and 2022.

In 2022, the most-reported types of violence or crime were theft and cheating in lending/borrowing or transaction (1.6% each).

Experience of violence and crime in the past year, by year

	2017	2018	2020	2022
Theft	3.0%	4.4%	4.3%	1.6%
Physical assault/beating	2.1%	1.4%	0.8%	0.3%
Assault with weapon	0.6%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%
Racketeering/extortion	1.7%	2.9%	0.4%	0.0%
Cheating in lending/borrowing or transactions	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	1.6%
Burglary/breaking and entering looting	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%
Motor vehicle theft /property taken from vehicle or vehicle parts stolen	0.7%	0.5%	0.9%	0.2%
Livestock theft	0.9%	0.9%	0.7%	0.2%
Experienced any form of violence during a political rally, protest or bandh	1.0%	0.7%	0.1%	0.0%

	2017	2018	2020	2022
Kidnapping	0.4%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
Murder / murder attempt	0.5%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%
Sexual violence	0.5%	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%
Human trafficking	0.3%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%
Gender-based violence	0.0%	0.4%	0.5%	0.1%
Physical exploitation faced in course of foreign employment	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%
Sexual exploitation faced in course of foreign employment	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
Financial exploitation faced in course of foreign employment	0.0%	1.7%	0.9%	0.1%

Table 3.1.1: Q-C3A–R. Have you or has anyone in your household been the victim of the following types of violence or criminal acts in the past year? (N=1008)

3.2 JUSTICE AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION MECHANISMS

The survey also asked if people approached dispute resolution mechanisms over conflicts related to land, borrowing/debt, domestic violence, other forms violence or crime, and defamation/false accusation (Figure 3.2.1).

In the year 2022, a significant majority of respondents reported that they had not encountered any disputes, or that is was not applicable to them. This was consistent across all issues, with only a small percentage (0.2% to 2.0%) seeking help from an institution, official, or person for dispute resolution in the past one year, either for themselves or a family member.

The proportion of people seeking help for land disputes was relatively higher than for other issues, with 2.0% seeking help in 2022 and 2.2% in 2020. Some 1% or less sought help for borrowing/debt, domestic violence, other forms of violence, or defamation cases in 2022.

Longitudinal data from 2020 and 2022 revealed an increasing trend in the number of respondents no experience of violence or dispute. For example, the share of people who did not experience disputes over land increased to 69.2% in 2022 from 64.8% in 2020, and 71.1% no experience with domestic violence in 2022 compared to 68.3% in 2020. Moreover, the proportion of people who do not seek help despite experiencing disputes for all the issues decreased in 2022.

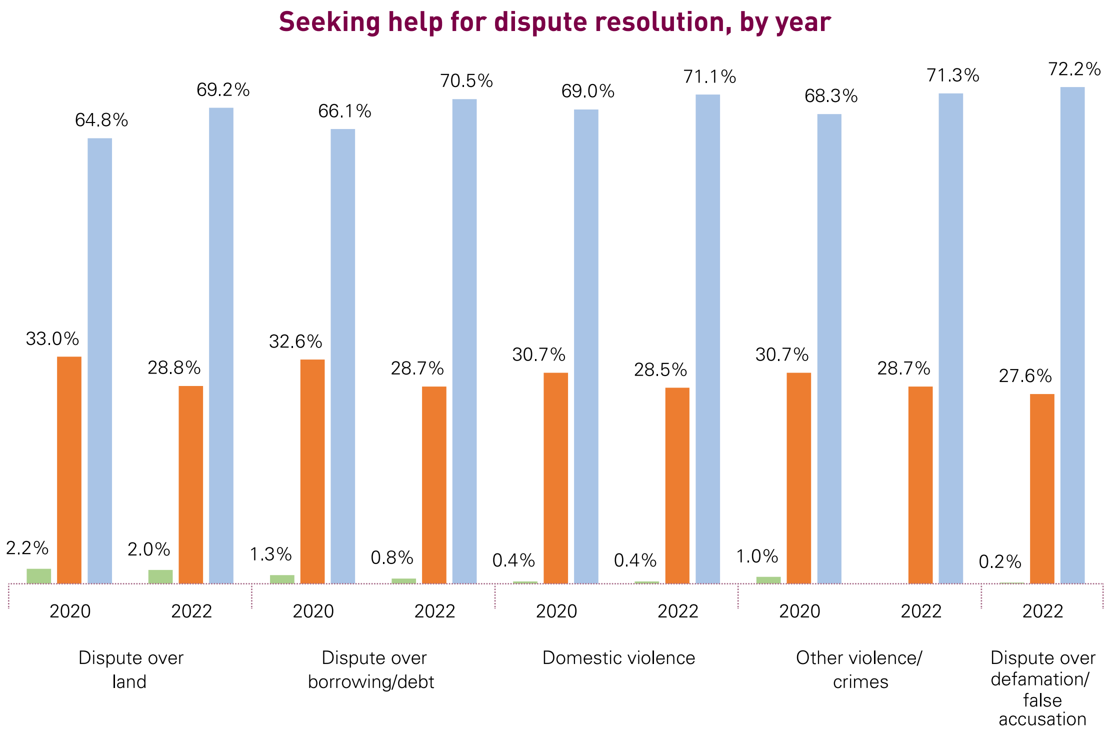

Figure 3.2.1: Q-C8A-E. In the past one year, have you or the members of your family been to any institution, official or person to seek help for dispute resolutions? (N=1008)

4. IDENTITY

4.1 MOTHER TONGUE

In Lumbini Province, less than half of the residents (44.8%) from Lumbini Province reported speaking Nepali as their mother tongue[5]. The rest (55.2%) mentioned a language other than Nepali as their mother tongue. The highest share of respondents (21.7%) said they speak Awadhi followed by Tharu Bhasa (18.6%).

Mother tongue, overall and Lumbini Province

		Overall	Ecological Region		
			Mountain	Hill	Terai
Across the Country	Nepali	48.3%	69.6%	66.9%	29.4%
	Other than Nepali	51.7%	30.4%	33.1%	70.6%
Lumbini Province	Nepali	44.8%	-	83.8%	28.7%
	Other than Nepali	55.2%	-	16.2%	71.3%

Table 4.1.1: Q-D1. What is your mother tongue? (N=1008)

4.2 PERCEIVED DISADVANTAGE DUE TO MOTHER TONGUE

The 55.2% of respondents whose mother tongue is not Nepali were further asked whether or not they felt disadvantaged in five different situations because Nepali is not their mother tongue. The shares reporting feeling disadvantaged decreased noticeably between 2017 and 2022 (Table 4.2.1).

5 According to 2011 census, Nepali is spoken as mother tongue by 44.6 percent of the total population. The latest census data about mother tongues is not available in preliminary findings of the 2021 census.

In 2022, in all situations asked about, the large majority did not feel disadvantaged. However, some 7.1% to 18.2% reported disadvantages. Nearly one in five felt disadvantaged when visiting the police station to report a problem (18.2%). Far fewer people felt disadvantaged studying at a school or a university (7.1%).

Feeling of disadvantage due to mother tongue other than Nepali language, by year

		2017	2018	2020	2022
To interact with other people (N=633)	Disadvantage	37.1%	32.1%	21.6%	16.7%
	Not a Disadvantage	62.9%	67.9%	78.4%	83.3%
To report a problem in police station (N=341)	Disadvantage	28.9%	11.4%	15.7%	18.2%
	Not a Disadvantage	71.1%	88.6%	84.3%	81.8%
To obtain services in a government office (N=649)	Disadvantage	32.9%	25.4%	22.3%	14.7%
	Not a Disadvantage	67.1%	74.6%	77.7%	85.3%
To access health services in a hospital/ health post (N=674)	Disadvantage	26.9%	25.3%	24.5%	14.5%
	Not a Disadvantage	73.1%	74.7%	75.5%	85.5%
To study at a school or a university (N=447)	Disadvantage	24.5%	20.7%	12.9%	7.1%
	Not a Disadvantage	75.5%	79.3%	87.1%	92.9%
When attending public events (N=534)	Disadvantage	-	-	-	14.6%
	Not a Disadvantage	-	-	-	85.4%

Table 4.2.1: Q-D2a–e. [If "No, Nepali is not my mother tongue" to Q-D1] Do you feel disadvantaged because you cannot use your mother tongue, instead of Nepali, in the following situations? (N=556) ('Don't Know', 'Refused to Answer' and 'Not Applicable' excluded)

People with Awadhi as mother tongue were noticeably more likely than the average and those speaking other languages to feel disadvantaged when interacting with people at work (31.7%), obtaining reporting a problem to the police (35.3%), getting services in a government office (25.5%), and accessing health services (26.1%).

4.3 PERCEIVED DISADVANTAGES DUE TO CASTE/ETHNICITY

Nearly all respondents in Lumnini Province (over 95%) said they did not feel disadvantaged because of their caste/ethnicity in all situations asked about. The proportion of people who felt disadvantaged because of their caste/ethnicity decreased over time (Table 4.3.1).

Some 5% felt disadvantaged when interacting with colleagues or clients at work, over 3% felt disadvantaged when reporting at a police station, obtaining government services, or accessing health services, and 2.3% felt disadvantaged when studying at school or university.

Feeling of disadvantage due to caste/ethnicity, by year

		2017	2018	2020	2022
To interact with other people (N = 116)	Disadvantage	12.1%	6.6%	6.2%	5.0%
	Not a Disadvantage	87.9%	93.4%	93.8%	95.0%

		2017	2018	2020	2022
To report a problem in police station (N = 575)	Disadvantage	12.0%	3.6%	5.8%	3.4%
	Not a Disadvantage	88.0%	96.4%	94.2%	96.6%
To obtain services in a government office (N = 1139)	Disadvantage	9.8%	3.8%	5.4%	3.6%
	Not a Disadvantage	90.2%	96.2%	94.6%	96.4%
To access health services in a hospital/ health post (N = 1211)	Disadvantage	9.2%	4.2%	5.4%	3.2%
	Not a Disadvantage	90.8%	95.8%	94.6%	96.8%
To study at a school or a university (N = 839)	Disadvantage	10.0%	4.6%	2.6%	2.3%
	Not a Disadvantage	90.0%	95.4%	97.4%	97.7%

Table 4.3.1: Q-D3a-e. Do you feel that your caste/ ethnicity is a disadvantage in the following situations? (N=1008)

Some 13.7% of Hill Dalit groups and 11.4% Musalman reported feeling disadvantaged because of their caste or ethnicity when interacting with other people at work. Some 13.0% of Musalman felt disadvantaged when studying at school or university.

4.4 PERCEIVED DISADVANTAGES DUE TO GENDER

A relatively small proportion of women respondents – between 0.9% and 8.1% – felt that their gender puts them at a disadvantage in various situations (Table 4.4.1)[6]. Most felt disadvantaged when travelling in public transport (8.1%), and when roaming/walking around public places (4.1%). Fewer women felt disadvantaged because of their gender while interacting at their workplace (2.4%), or when studying in a school/university (0.9%). The share of women who felt their gender put them at a disadvantage decreased over the years.

Gender as a disadvantage, by year

		2017	2018	2020	2022
To interacting with other people at work (N = 514)	Disadvantage	13.7%	10.0%	6.3%	2.4%
	Not a disadvantage	86.3%	90.0%	93.7%	97.6%
To report a problem in police station (N = 219)	Disadvantage	13.0%	6.7%	6.7%	3.7%
	Not a disadvantage	87.0%	93.3%	93.3%	96.3%
To obtain a government services (N = 554)	Disadvantage	9.1%	4.7%	6.3%	1.9%
	Not a disadvantage	90.9%	95.3%	93.7%	98.1%
To access health services (N = 600)	Disadvantage	7.9%	5.0%	5.8%	2.3%
	Not a disadvantage	92.1%	95.0%	94.2%	97.7%
To study at school or the university (N = 356)	Disadvantage	6.9%	5.4%	3.7%	0.9%
	Not a disadvantage	93.1%	94.6%	96.3%	99.1%

6 This question was asked only to women respondents.

		2017	2018	2020	2022
To travel in public transport (N = 606)	Disadvantage	-	16.3%	13.4%	8.1%
	Not a disadvantage	-	83.7%	86.6%	91.9%
To roam/walk around the public places (N = 601)	Disadvantage	-	-	10.9%	4.1%
	Not a disadvantage	-	-	89.1%	95.9%

Table 4.4.1: Q-D4a–g. Do you feel that your gender is a disadvantage in the following situations? (N=523) ('Don't Know', 'Refused to Answer' and 'Not Applicable' excluded)

Women from lower income households and from Musalman, Madhesi Caste (Level-2) and Hill Dalit communities were more likely to consider their gender to be a disadvantage. For example, higher shares of Musalman women reported that their gender is a disadvantage when travelling in public transport (35.7%), or when roaming/walking around public places (17.3%). Some 3.6 % of Hill Dalit, 8.8% of Madhesi Caste (Level-2) and 11.6% of Musalman women thought their gender was a disadvantage while interacting at their workplace.

4.5 SOCIAL VALUES

Perceptions of Inter-caste Marriage

Respondents of Lumbini Province were asked how they felt about inter-caste marriage. Nearly three-quarters (73.7%) said they would agree to their son or daughter marrying someone from a different caste or ethnic group. Just under one quarter (23.7%) said they would not accept it.

Acceptance of inter-caste marriage decreased 2017 and 2020 but increased again slightly in 2022. Opposition to inter-caste marriages declined over time.

Figure 4.5.1: Q-D9. Would you accept if your son or daughter marry someone from a different caste? (N=1006) ("Don't Know" and "Refused to Answer" not included)

Acceptance of inter-caste marriage was higher among respondents from Hill Dalit (96.0%) and Madhesi Adibasi/Janajati (86.3%) communities followed by Hill Adibasi/Janajati (78.8%). In contrast, 47.9% of Musalman respondents and Madhesi Dalits (34.9%) said they objected to their children marrying someone from another caste/ethnicity.

4.6 POSITION OF NEPALI WOMEN IN SOCIETY

In order to assess views on the position of women, gender equality, gender identity, and gender roles, respondents were presented with thirteen statements to which they could 'strongly agree,' 'somewhat agree,' 'strongly disagree,' or 'somewhat disagree.'

In 2022, 36.5% of respondents agreed (either strongly or somewhat) that women should not have control over their income, movement and other decision-making processes. Some 28.8% agreed that a husband has the right to punish his wife if she does not obey her and 26.2% thought it is a man's responsibility to fulfil the financial needs of the family. Twenty-one percent agreed that men should have more right to a job if job opportunities are limited. Some 15.0% agreed that male members of the family other than the husband have the right to punish a woman if she disobeys them. Further, 14.2% agreed that it is more important for a family to have a son than a daughter, 12.7% agreed that women should not be encouraged to work outside the home, and 11% thought that it is not suitable for women to engage in politics.

Conversely, more than nine out of 10 respondents thought[7] that women can engage in politics (88.9%) and should be encouraged to work outside their homes (87.2%). A significant proportion of respondents disagreed to the following statements: *sons are more important than daughters* (85.8%), *men should have the right to jobs when there are limited jobs* (79.0%), *male members of the family other than husband (father-in-law, brother-in-law) have the right to punish the daughter-in-law if she disobeys them* (85.0%) (Table 4.6.1). Over the years, the proportion of respondents who disagreed that women should not have control over their income, movement, and decisions or that women should not be encouraged to work outside the home increased.

Views on gender roles and gender equality, by year

	Year	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
It is more important for a family to have a son than a daughter	2017	3.2%	12.4%	36.0%	48.5%	0.0%
	2018	4.3%	6.9%	29.6%	59.2%	0.0%
	2020	1.6%	4.4%	9.7%	84.3%	0.0%
	2022	5.8%	8.4%	14.2%	71.6%	0.0%
Women should not be encouraged to work outside the home	2017	8.2%	5.8%	35.9%	50.1%	0.0%
	2018	2.6%	7.0%	42.4%	48.0%	0.1%
	2020	1.0%	4.6%	9.8%	84.5%	0.0%
	2022	5.5%	7.2%	17.0%	70.2%	0.1%

7 Combined figure for strongly disagree and somewhat disagree to the statements that women should not engage in politics and that women should not be encouraged to work outside the home.

	Year	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
It is not suitable for women to engage in politics	2017	11.5%	12.0%	31.4%	44.2%	0.9%
	2018	4.8%	9.9%	41.1%	44.2%	0.1%
	2020	0.9%	3.6%	10.9%	84.5%	0.1%
	2022	5.3%	5.7%	20.1%	68.8%	0.1%
Women should not have control over her income, movement and other decision making process	2018	10.3%	33.3%	40.2%	15.8%	0.3%
	2020	25.3%	15.9%	9.5%	49.3%	0.0%
	2022	26.9%	9.6%	15.6%	47.9%	0.0%
If a wife does not obey her husband, he has the right to punish her.	2018	10.8%	29.1%	35.2%	24.8%	0.1%
	2020	1.3%	7.0%	14.5%	77.1%	0.0%
	2022	11.5%	17.3%	17.0%	54.1%	0.2%
When job opportunities are limited, men should have more right to a job.	2018	7.5%	20.2%	43.8%	27.2%	1.3%
	2020	2.0%	4.4%	12.2%	81.1%	0.3%
	2022	10.1%	10.9%	16.3%	62.7%	0.0%
It is a man's responsibility to fulfil financial needs for his family.	2018	17.7%	35.2%	30.0%	17.0%	0.1%
	2020	3.6%	10.5%	11.1%	74.8%	0.0%
	2022	16.7%	9.5%	14.4%	59.5%	0.0%
Male members of family other than husband have right to punish the daughter in law if she disobeys them	2020	0.8%	3.1%	11.6%	84.6%	0.0%
	2022	8.1%	6.9%	20.8%	64.2%	0.0%

Table 4.6.1: Q-D10a–m. would you please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with these statements? (N=1008)

4.7 VIEWS ON LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Respondents were asked whether they would prefer a man or a woman for various leadership positions in different types of organizations or institutions – or whether they prefer a capable person regardless of their gender.

Most respondents thought that gender is not an important parameter for leadership positions; for all positions listed, around 7 of 10 respondents said the person should be capable regardless of their gender (Table 4.7.1). However, of those who had a preference, higher shares wanted men in leadership positions than women, except for the position of chairperson of Savings and Credit Cooperatives where 16.9% preferred women and 14.6% wanted men.

Between 2020 and 2022, the proportion preferring men in leadership positions increased significantly (often three-fold or more). In the same time period, the shares reporting that they prefer a capable person regardless of their gender for various leadership positions decreased, and the proportion showing a preference for women leaders also decreased.

Acceptable leadership positions in the different organisations/institutions by year

	Year	Women	Men	Capable Person	Don't know
Chief Executive Position of Federal Government	2018	28.0%	20.2%	51.8%	0.0%
	2020	12.4%	4.3%	83.3%	0.0%
	2022	10.2%	16.8%	72.3%	0.7%
Chief Executive Position of Provincial Government	2018	24.6%	21.1%	54.3%	0.0%
	2020	11.1%	4.6%	84.3%	0.0%
	2022	8.1%	17.9%	73.1%	1.0%
Chief Executive Position of Local Government	2018	25.6%	20.4%	54.0%	0.0%
	2020	11.5%	4.6%	83.9%	0.0%
	2022	9.3%	18.6%	71.4%	0.7%
Ward Chairperson	2018	29.3%	20.8%	49.9%	0.0%
	2020	12.6%	4.8%	82.6%	0.0%
	2022	10.4%	20.5%	68.8%	0.4%
Chairperson of Political Party	2018	19.7%	25.0%	55.3%	0.0%
	2020	9.9%	5.5%	84.7%	0.0%
	2022	6.9%	21.0%	71.7%	0.4%
Chairperson of User Groups	2018	31.4%	19.1%	49.5%	0.0%
	2020	11.2%	5.2%	83.6%	0.0%
	2022	12.2%	18.0%	69.4%	0.4%
Chairperson of Saving and Credit Cooperatives	2018	40.4%	13.5%	46.1%	0.0%
	2020	12.9%	4.3%	82.8%	0.0%
	2022	16.9%	14.6%	68.1%	0.4%
Chairperson of School Management Committee	2018	24.8%	23.5%	51.7%	0.0%
	2020	10.9%	5.3%	83.8%	0.0%
	2022	9.2%	17.6%	72.8%	0.4%
CEO of Private Company/Organization	2018	18.6%	28.9%	52.5%	0.0%
	2020	10.0%	4.8%	85.2%	0.0%
	2022	5.1%	20.2%	74.3%	0.5%

Table 4.7.1: Q-D11a-l. Thinking about leadership positions, please tell me, who would be more acceptable as leaders in the following organisation/ institutions? (N=1006) ('Refused to Answer' excluded)

5. GOVERNANCE AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

5.1 LOCAL BODY RESTRUCTURING

The survey assessed the impact of local body restructuring on the capacity and efficiency of local governments to deliver services. Nearly two-thirds (65.7%) of respondents in Lumbini Province reported that local body restructuring improved the capacity of their local governments to deliver services. One-fifth (20.7%) thought restructuring neither improved nor deteriorated the capacity of a local bodies to deliver services. Only a small proportion (6.8%) the capacity of local governments to deliver services deteriorated after restructuring.

Over the survey years, the proportion of respondents who reported that restructuring of local bodies improved local governments' capacity to deliver services steadily increased, from 26.5% in 2017 to 65.7% in 2022. On the other hand, the share of respondents who said that it was too soon to say anything was highest in 2017 at 37.8% and lowest in 3.9% at 2022.

Views on local body restructuring, by year

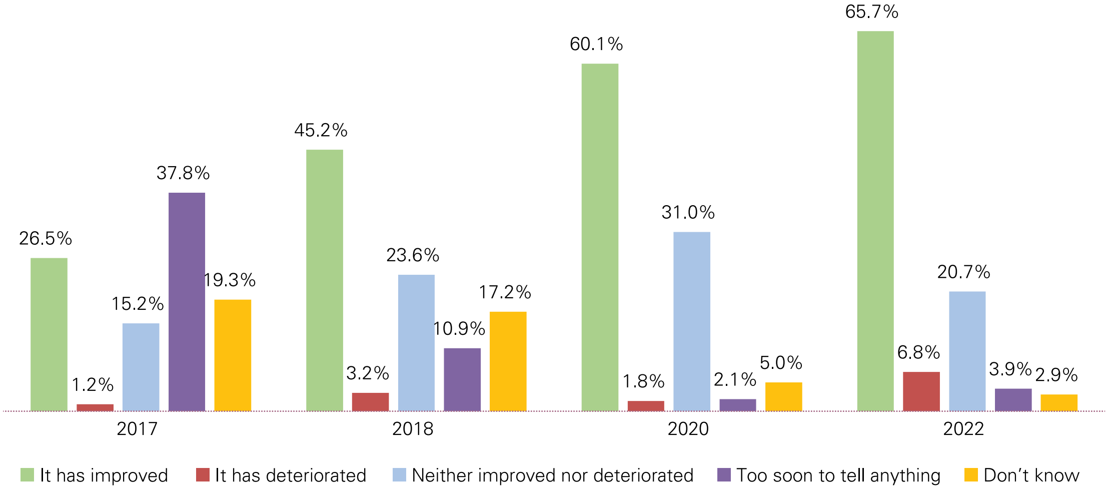

Figure 5.1.1: Q-E4. What kind of change have you felt/noticed in the capacity of local body to deliver services after restructuring of local body? (N=1008)

Respondents from the Terai region (73.5%) were more likely to report that local restructuring improved the capacity of their local governments to deliver services than people in other regions. More young people in the 18-24 age group (72.5%) were positive about the impact of local body restructuring on service delivery than those age 50 and above (59.6%). Musalman (84.0%), Madhesi Dalit and Madhesi Caste (Level-2) (77.3% each), and Madhesi (Adibasi/Janajati) (75.8%) were more likely to express that restructuring improved the capacity of their local government to deliver services than Hill Adibasi/Janajati (53.8%), Hill Dalit (54.0%) and Hill Caste (56.3%) groups.

5.2 SOCIAL SECURITY

Awareness and Receiving Social Security Benefits

The survey assessed respondents' awareness of ten different social security benefits (listed in the Table 5.2.1) initiated by the government of Nepal and asked whether they had received those benefits.

The vast majority of people in Lumbini Province had heard of senior citizen allowance (98.4%), single women allowance (94.7%), disability allowance (85.6%), and health insurance benefits (73.3%). Some 65.4% had heard of the child protection grant and 63.8% of the child nutrition grant – more than in 2020. The shares aware of the other seven types of social security benefits decreased between 2020 and 2022.

People were also asked whether they or their family members had received a social security benefit. Most people had not received the benefits asked about. In 2022, around a quarter of respondents reported that they or their family had received senior citizen allowance (23.0%). Fewer people had received health insurance benefits (15.6%), child nutrition grant (14.1%), single women allowance (14.0%) and child protection grant (11.0%).

The shares of people reporting receiving the following benefits decreased between 2020 and 2022: health senior citizen allowance, single women allowance, disability allowance, unemployment allowance, health insurance benefits, and child nutrition grant.

Awareness and receiving social security benefits, by year

Social Security Provisions	Yes, I have heard		Yes, we have received	
	2020	2022	2020	2022
Senior Citizen Allowance	98.8%	98.4%	37.8%	23.0%
Single Women Allowance	97.1%	94.7%	20.2%	14.0%
Disability Allowance	90.1%	85.6%	8.2%	3.8%
Unemployment Allowance	63.5%	45.4%	1.1%	0.7%
Health Insurance Benefits	66.2%	73.3%	22.2%	15.6%
Child Protection Grant	54.7%	65.4%	5.4%	11.0%
Benefits on Contribution from employment	39.9%	18.2%	1.5%	4.8%
Child Nutrition Grant	59.0%	63.8%	17.8%	14.1%
Grant for Loponmuukh Adivasi	38.3%	18.5%	1.1%	0%

Table 5.2.1: Q-E8a1-10. Have you heard of? (N=1008) Q-E8b1-10. Have you or the members of the family received?

Satisfaction with Current Social Security Benefits

The respondents who said they or their family member had received social security benefits were further asked about their level of satisfaction with the benefits received on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 indicates not satisfied at all and 10 indicates very satisfied.

On average, the level of satisfaction was 7.22 points, which is above the mean level, revealing that the level of satisfaction with government social security benefits was relatively high.

5.3 TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

Respondents were asked how much they trust 19 different entities, including government and independent institutions. In Lumbini Province, trust was highest in the Public Service Commission (93.1%), followed by the Media (Television, Radio, Newspapers) (91.5%), Nepal Army (90.7%) and CBOs (women's groups, savings and credit groups) (90.3%) (Table 5.3.1). Political Parties (59.7%), provincial government (56.3%) and the federal government (55.0%) were among the least-trusted entities.

Trust in institutions, by year

	Trust[8]			
	2017	2018	2020	2022
The Federal Government	73.7%	69.6%	69.4%	55.0%
Provincial Government	NA*	63.3%	69.6%	56.3%
District Coordination Committee	NA*	72.4%	75.7%	66.0%
Municipality/Rural Municipality /Local Government	NA*	NA*	83.5%	78.3%
Municipal Wards	NA*	NA*	NA*	80.9%
Local Community Leaders-Tole Lane Development Organization	NA*	NA*	85.8%	75.1%
Political Parties	60.9%	83.9%	54.6%	59.7%
Courts	88.4%	90.1%	86.3%	84.2%
Judicial Committees	NA*	80.7%	86.3%	80.8%
Police	88.0%	86.8%	87.7%	85.8%
Armed Police Force	87.9%	85.9%	88.2%	89.2%
Nepal Army	89.8%	88.1%	89.9%	90.7%
The Media (Television, Radio, Newspapers)	94.1%	92.2%	90.5%	91.5%
NGOs/Human Rights Defenders	87.1%	80.4%	80.5%	82.7%
Religious/Caste-Based Organizations	85.5%	74.5%	81.8%	82.3%
CBOs (Women's group, savings and credit group)	94.0%	90.0%	88.4%	90.3%
Public Service Commission	NA*	78.5%	86.9%	93.1%
Social Media (Facebook/ Twitter etc.)	NA*	NA*	68.9%	76.4%
Government Employee	NA*	NA*	84.7%	84.3%

Table 5.3.1: Q-E9a-v. Now I am going to ask you about certain people and institutions in Nepal. For each of them, I would like you to tell me if you fully trust them, moderately trust them, don't quite trust them, or don't trust them at all to have the best interest of Nepalis at heart. (N=1006) ('Don't Know' and 'Refused to Answer' excluded)

8 Figure for "Trust" is derived by adding the figure of "Fully Trust" and "Moderately Trust"

5.4 AWARENESS OF PUBLIC SERVICES

Slightly more than two-fifths of the respondents (43.1%) said that they were aware of public services provided by local governments. Some 18.3% were aware of services provided by provincial governments, and 18.2% were aware of services provided by the federal government.

Compared to 2020, the share of people who reported that they were aware of the services provided by provincial and federal governments slightly decreased in 2022. The percentages aware of services offered by the local governments fluctuated over the survey rounds, from 45.7% in 2018 to 55.8% in 2020 and 43.1% in 2022.

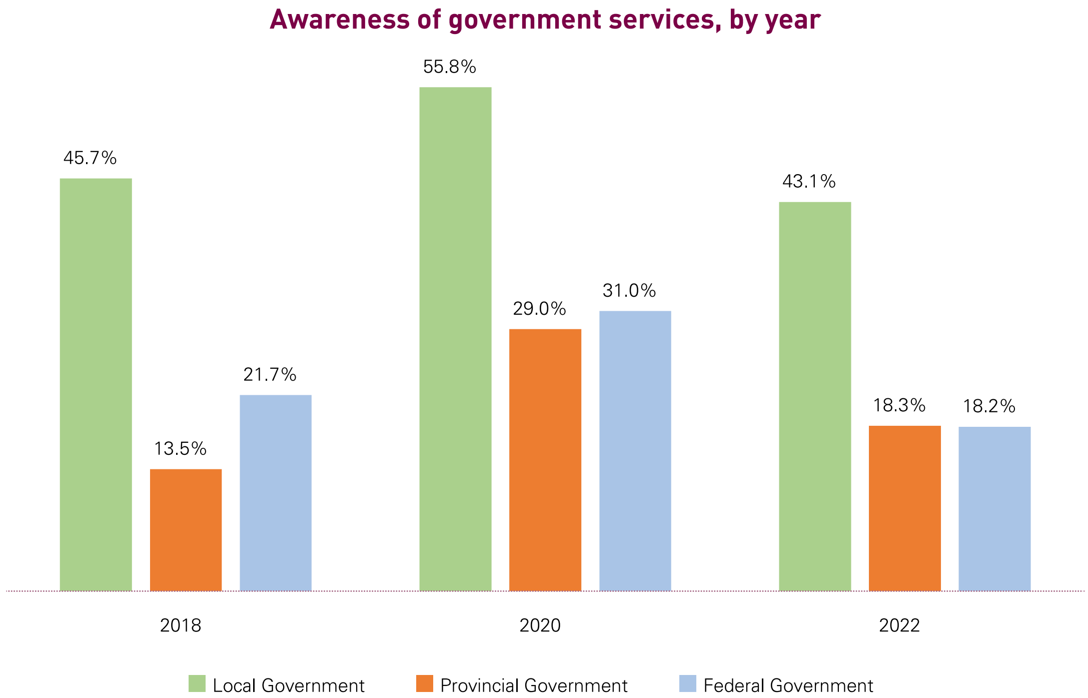

Figure 5.4.1: Q-E10AM-AO1. Are you aware about the Public Services provided by your local government? (N=1008)

Women (37.3%) were considerably less aware than men (49.3%) regarding services provided by local governments. People in the in Hill region (38.1%) were less aware of local government services than people from the Terai (45.1). More than half of Musalman (57.4%) and Madhesi Dalit (54.1%) communities were aware of local government services compared to 33.6% of Hill (Adibasi/Janajati) and 42.7% of Madhesi (Adibasi/Janajati) groups.

Awareness of the Types of Services Provided by the Government

The survey asked respondents who said they were aware of government services to name all services provided by each tier of government. The most widely known service areas of local government was roads/physical infrastructure (69.9% awareness), followed by education (42.8%), and recommendations for certificates (birth certificates, marriage certificates, citizenship etc.) (39.5%). Some 30.2% were aware of health services provided by local government, 28.9% mentioned drinking water services, and 13.0% were aware of electricity-related services of local governments.

Awareness of provincial government services showed a similar pattern, with most respondents mentioning roads/physical infrastructure (71.0% aware), followed by education (67.9%), health (38.0%), drinking water (27.2%), employment-related services (12.0%), and electricity-related services (12.9%).

For services provided by federal government, most respondents (79.9%) mentioned higher education, followed by national highways/physical infrastructure (43.7%), social security (36.3%), health-related policy (33.8%), large scale electricity (23.9%), employment-related services (18.2%) and citizenship and passport services (10.3%).

To those who did not know about local government services, were asked to suggest effective channels of information about local government services (Figure 5.4.2). Most (41.4%) suggested informal sources, like friends, family, and neighbors, followed by local community leaders (34.3%). About one fifth suggested radio and television (21.2%). Some 17.5% mentioned the webpage of local government and 17.3% suggested social media (Facebook, Twitter).

Effective channels of information dissemination about local government services

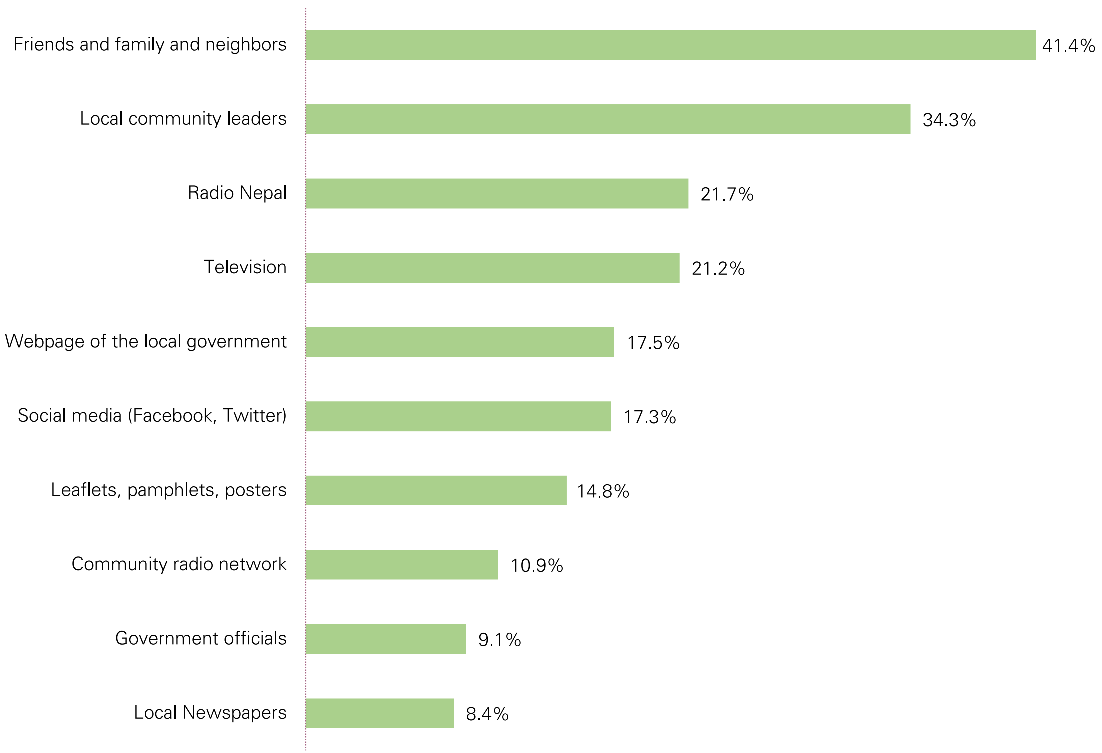

Figure 5.4.2: E10AM.3_1. [If "No" in Q-E10AM.1] How can your Local Government more easily inform you about the services they provide? (N=573)

5.5 EXPERIENCE ACCESSING PUBLIC SERVICES

Lumbini Province residents were asked to whether they had received 15 types of public services provided by their municipality in the past one year. They were also asked how easy it was to obtain the service(s).

Shares who had received services from their local government in the year prior to 2022 varied for the different types of services (Table 5.5.1). The share receiving health services was highest (80.3%), followed by admission in a government school (50.6%), services related to land tax/revenue (42.9%) and tax-related services (41.4%). Around one-fourth had received a recommendation for a citizenship card (23.2%).

Generally, those who had accessed a service thought it was easy (combination of 'very easy' and 'easy') to receive it (ranging from 76.9% for employment-related services to 99.4% for admission in government school) (Table 5.5.1). Ease of access somewhat increased between 2020 and 2022 for most types of services but it decreased for judicial committee services (from 96.8% to 86.0%).

Services received through local government and ease of receiving the services, by year

Types of services	Services received through local government in the past one year		If yes, ease of receiving the services in the urban municipality/ rural municipality	
	2020	2022	2020	2022
			Easy[9]	
Recommendation for citizenship	15.0%	23.2%	83.8%	89.6%
Social security allowance (Single woman, senior citizen, disable)	26.4%	18.1%	91.5%	91.4%
Birth certificate, death certificate, marriage certificate, migration certificate	14.9%	16.8%	93.6%	94.9%
Migration certificate	NA	0.6%	NA	89.9%
Services related to employment	4.1%	4.8%	67.7%	76.9%
Services given by judicial committee	2.4%	1.6%	96.8%	86.0%
Services related to land tax/revenue	64.9%	42.9%	96.4%	97.5%
For admission in government school	41.2%	50.6%	98.2%	99.4%
For health checkup in government health post/hospital	75.2%	80.3%	94.7%	94.7%
Receiving service from police	4.9%	6.5%	77.0%	94.5%
Business license	5.6%	5.4%	88.0%	92.0%
Tax related work	55.8%	41.4%	94.1%	98.2%
Recommendation for other government work	7.5%	11.9%	90.6%	96.1%
For disability specific services	NA	4.2%	NA	91.2%

Table 5.5.1: Q-E10a-n. Did you receive the services through the municipality office, including ward office in the past one year? Q-E10a-p. Based on your experience of past one year, how easy or difficult is it to obtain the following public services at the local level?

9 Combined responses of two "Very easy" and "Easy"

5.6 VIEWS ON EDUCATION

School type and quality of education

More respondents had a child enrolled in a public school (67.3%) than in a private school (25.5%). People in rural municipalities were more likely to have children enrolled in government school (72.7%) than people from urban municipalities (62.7%). More people in the Hill region had children enrolled in government school (78.8%) than in the Terai (62.6%). Slightly less than three-fifths of Hill Caste respondents (59.9%) enrolled their children in public school compared to 84.2% of Musalman respondents.

Child enrolled in a public or private school, by year

	Public School			Private School			Both School		
	2018	2020	2022	2018	2020	2022	2018	2020	2022
Overall	56.6%	55.3%	57.2%	35.7%	36.8%	35.6%	7.7%	7.9%	7.2%
Lumbini Province	55.1%	56.1%	67.3%	38.0%	35.8%	25.5%	6.9%	8.1%	7.2%

Table 5.6.1: Q-E11. Do you have children in your family who are studying in the government school? (Q-E11A. Do you have children in your family who are studying in private school? (Response as 'Not Applicable' is not included). (N=662)

Most children, enrolled in either public (94.4%) or private (98.5%) schools, lived within one hour's distance to the school. Only a small proportion of respondents reported that it takes more than one hour for their children to reach school from home.

Generally, parents rated the quality of education in both public and private schools as either "very good" or "good" (Figure 5.6.1). However, the proportion of parents to rate the quality of education as "very good" decreased for both public schools (9.6% in 2018 to 3.6% in 2022) and private schools (32.2% in 2018 to 8.7% in 2022). Further, a marginal fall in the quality rating of public school education was observed in 2022.

Views on the quality of education, by year[10]

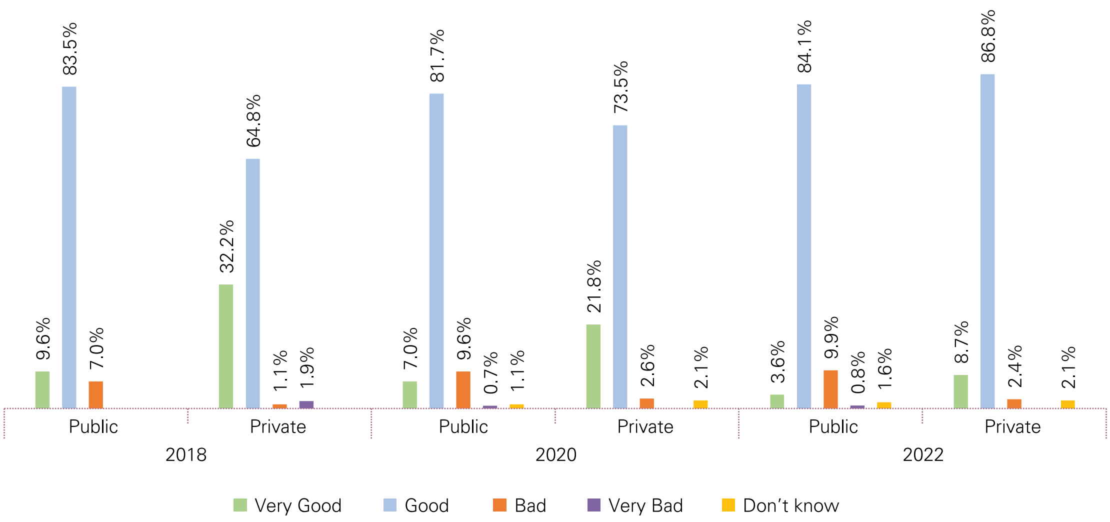

Figure 5.6.1: Q-E11b and Q-E11Aii. How would you rate the quality of the education at that school?

10 Respondents were not asked to assess the quality of private school education in SNP 2017.

Entities Responsible for the Quality of Education

Most parents considered the local government to be the government entity responsible for maintaining the quality of education in both public and private schools (82.6% and 77.1%, respectively) (Table 5.6.2). Yet, between 2020 and 2022, the share of respondents who consider local government to be primarily responsible for the quality of education decreased for both public schools (86.5% in 2020 to 82.6% in 2022) and private schools (89.0% in 2020 to 77.1% in 2022).

Only very small shares of respondents thought that the school management committee, teachers, or parents are responsible for maintaining the quality of education in public schools.

Responsible entity for maintaining the quality of education, by year

	Public School				Private School[11]		
	2017	2018	2020	2022	2018	2020	2022
Local government	80.6%	81.1%	86.5%	82.6%	79.6%	89.0%	77.1%
Provincial government	0.3%	1.2%	3.0%	3.8%	0.3%	1.2%	0.6%
Federal government	10.7%	4.6%	5.8%	6.9%	6.0%	2.0%	2.4%
Others (School management committee, teachers, parents)	0.2%	5.4%	0.9%		4.2%	3.2%	12.3%
Don't know	8.2%	7.7%	3.9%	6.7%	9.9%	2.7%	7.6%

Table 5.6.2: Q-E11c and Q-E11Aiii. Who in the government do you think is primarily responsible for the quality of education that is being provided (to your children) by the schools in your areas? (N=494 respondents with child/children going to public school, N=217 respondents with child/children going to private school)

Suggestions for the Improvement of Quality of Schools

The survey asked all respondents for their opinions on what would help improve the quality of education in schools. Around half of respondents mentioned good teaching methods (51.6%), proper management of staff (51.1%) and ensuring the quality of school management (46.5%) (Table 5.6.3).

Suggestions for the improvement of the quality of schools, by year

	2020	2022
Improved/ good teaching methods	50.5%	51.6%
Management of the staffs should be good in the school	57.9%	51.1%
The quality of school management should be good	56.5%	46.5%
The quality of curriculum/syllabus should be improved	40.9%	25.3%
The quality of school building should be good	35.5%	23.1%
The price of books, copies and uniforms should be less	35.2%	21.1%
The schools where my children go should be near	29.6%	21.0%
Needy students should get scholarship	35.2%	18.1%
The language of instruction should change. My children should be able to learn in English	23.5%	11.9%
Teachers should be trained in inclusive education and be able to teach children with diverse impairments.	-	8.3%

11 Respondents were not asked to mention who they thought was the responsible entity for maintaining the quality of private school education in SNP 2017.

	2020	2022
Should be flexible enough to address the diverse need of children including children with different impairments.	-	1.9%
The teaching learning methods should be accessible and flexible enough to address the need of children with diverse nee	-	1.6%
Should be accessible for all children including children with disabilities.	-	0.9%

Table 5.6.3: Q-E11g. What needs to be done to improve the quality of the government/private schools in your area? (N=1008)

5.7 PERFORMANCE OF SCHOOLS DURING COVID-19

In 2022, the survey included questions for respondents from households with school-going children about schools' performance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Private schools (36.2%) were twice as likely to have provided alternative classes as public schools (18.8%). Both public and private schools in Lumbini Province were much less likely to have provided alternative classes than the national average (private schools 53.8%, public schools 23%).

Respondents in urban municipalities were more likely to report that schools provided alternative classes during the pandemic than those in rural municipalities. People in the Terai region of the province were more likely to report that schools provided alternative classes during the pandemic than people in the Hill region.

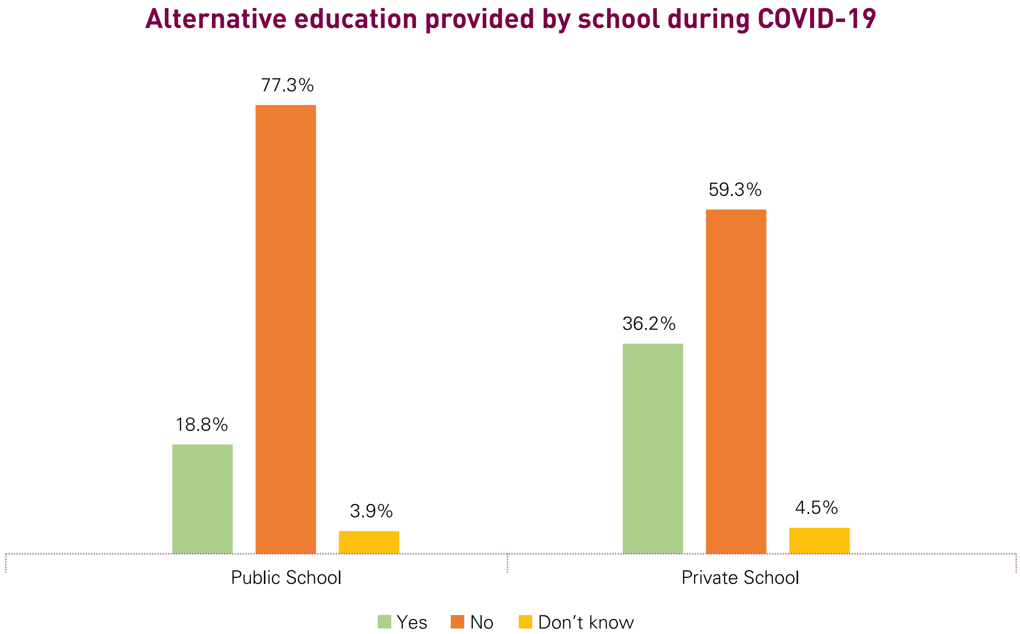

Figure 5.7.1: Q-E11f_1_A and Q-E11g.1 Did the school in which your child/children are admitted to provide any alternative education options during COVID-19 period? (Online, home visits, community classes, or other) (N=494 children going to public school, N=217 children going to private school)

Those respondents who reported that their child/children had received alternative education said that teaching through online classes was the most common method in both public and private schools. Public schools also opted for community-based learning through teacher visits and community-based education.

Most of those who reported that their local public/private school provided alternative education, said that their child/children attended alternative classes. The biggest barriers to attending alternative/ online classes were the timing of online classes and not having hardware/access.

Parents were generally satisfied with the alternative classes provided during the pandemic period. Respondents with public school-going children were slightly more likely to provide a positive assessment (86.1%) of alternative classes provided by the school than those with private school-going children (81.5%).

5.8 VIEWS ON PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Distance to the Nearest Public Health Post/Hospital

Over the years, more respondents from Lumbini Province reported living closer to public health post/ hospital (74.2% in 2017, 92.2% in 2022). There was a considerable decline in the time taken to reach the nearest health facility (Figure 5.8.1).

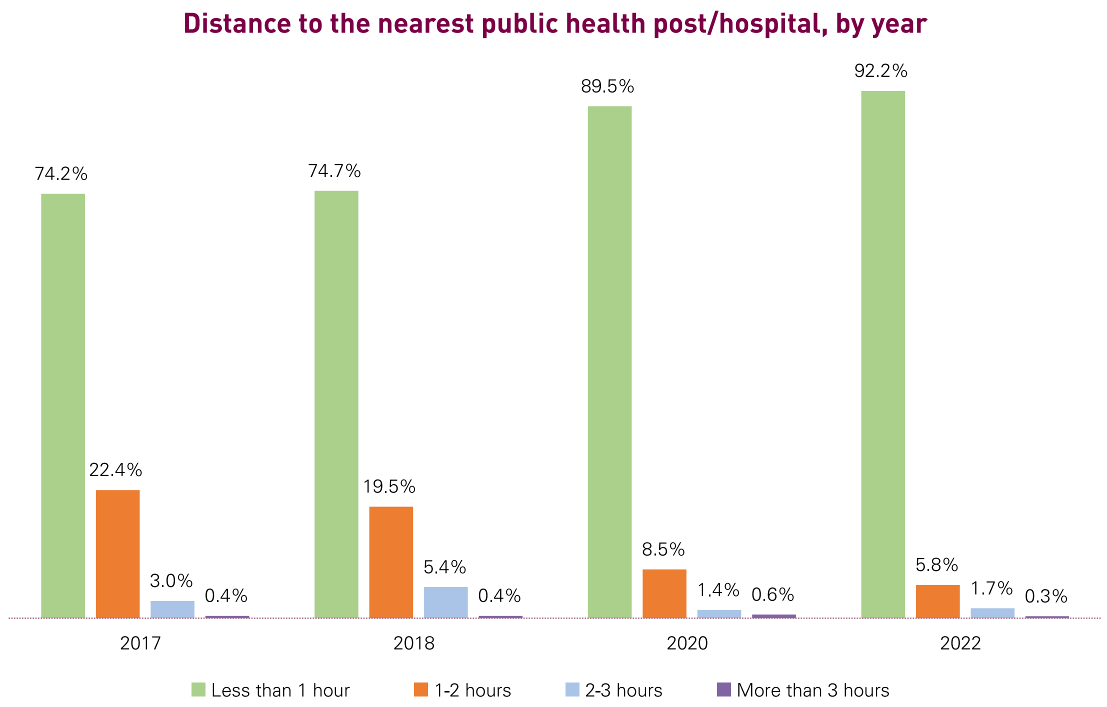

Figure 5.8.1: Q-E12a. How much time would it take you to go from home to the nearest public health post / hospital? (N=1008)

Views on Quality of Health Services

In Lumbini Province, three-quarters of respondents (75.0%) rated the quality of healthcare in their vicinity as "good," while 4.7% considered it to be "very good". In contrast 16.3% rated it as "bad" and 2.0% as "very bad".

The share of respondents rating the quality of health services as good (either 'good' or 'very good') fluctuated over the years, from 78.4% in 2017 to 88.6% in 2018 and 79.7% in 2022 (Figure 5.8.2).

The share rating the quality of health services as "very good" declined after 2017. The proportion of respondents who believed that the quality of health services was "bad" doubled between 2020 and 2022 (from 8.5% to 16.3%).

Views on the quality ofpublic health care, by year

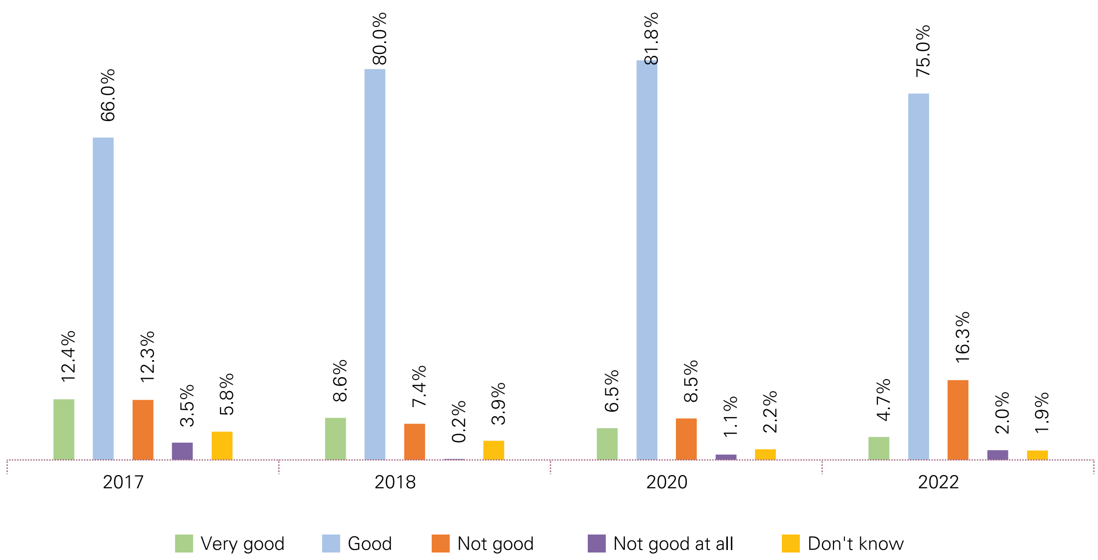

Figure 5.8.2: Q-E12b. How would you rate the quality of public health care in your urban municipality / rural municipality? (N=1008)

Responsible Entity for Maintaining the Quality of Healthcare

Most people (88.0%) believed that the local governments are responsible for maintaining the quality of health services. Over the survey rounds, the share of respondents who believe this increased (Figure 5.8.3).

Responsible entity for maintaining the quality of healthcare, by year

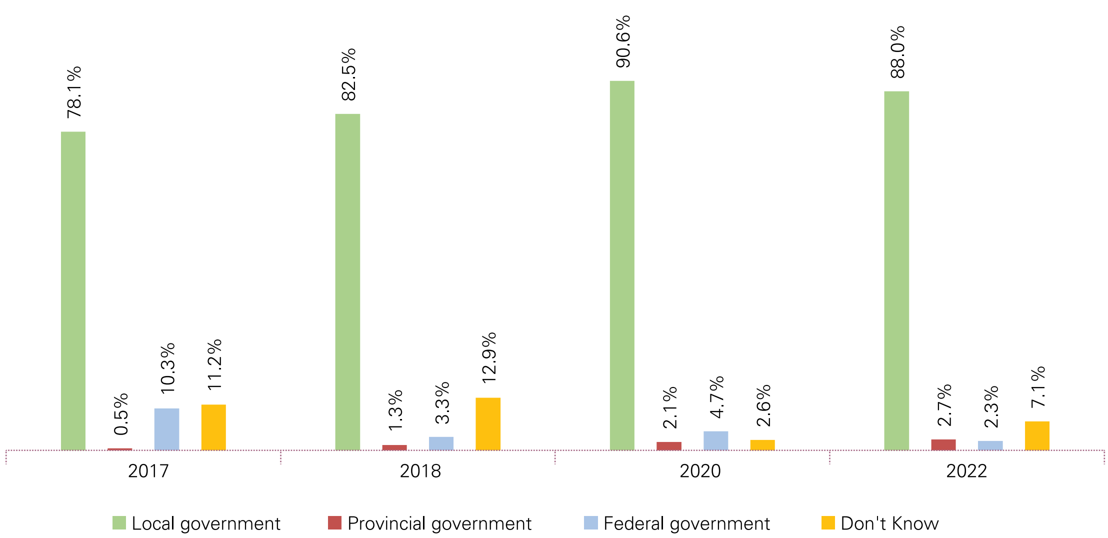

Figure 5.8.3: Q-E12c. Who in government do you think is primarily responsible for the quality of health services being provided to you? (N=1008)

Respondents were asked whether healthcare in their area changed positively, negatively or stayed the same over the past year. In 2022, a little more than two-fifths of respondents (41.3%) mentioned positive changes – less than in the two previous survey rounds and the same as in 2017. The share saying that healthcare has worsened decreased over time while the share reporting no changes increased.

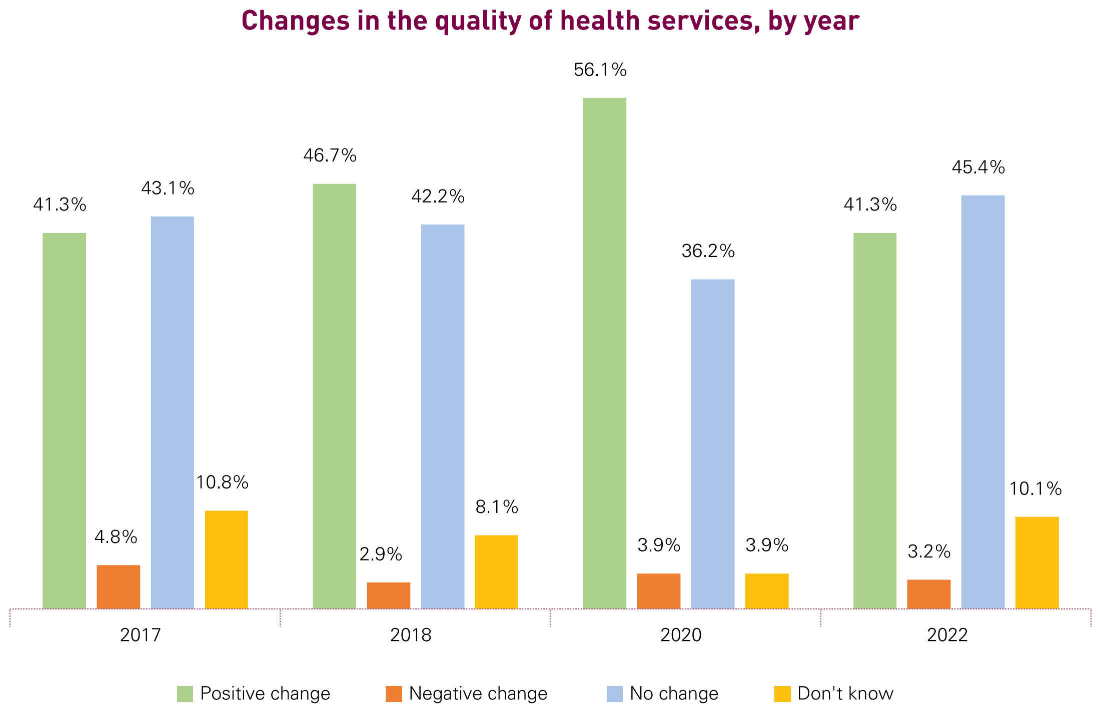

Figure 5.8.4: Q-E12d. Have there been any positive or negative changes in the quality of health services in your municipality/rural municipality during the past year? (N=1008)

The reasons why people thought the quality of public healthcare in Lumbini Province had improved were: Medicines are readily available (43.5%), the health service center has been managed properly (36.1%), establishment of new health service centres (35.5%), the closeness of health service centre (34.4%), quality service provided by health centre (33.8%), improvement in staff management (26.4%) and the costs of service have decreased (14.7%).

The survey asked all respondents what they thought should be done to improve the quality of health services provided by the health centre in their local area (municipality/rural municipality). Slightly less than three-fourths of respondents (72.6%) said that the medical facilities should be good. People also mentioned that there should be provision of good laboratories (46.6%), and qualified and trained health worker should be in place (45.4%). Other suggestion were proper practice of diagnostic methods (42.8%), proper management of health staff (35.6%), short distance to the health service centre (28.6%), and free health services (28.6%).

5.9 VIEWS ON ROADS

Quality of Roads

In Lumbini Province, two-thirds of respondents (66.7%) thought the quality of roads was "good," but slightly more than one-quarter (28.3%) said that the road quality was "not good"' and a few (2.4%) thought it was "not good at all." The share reporting that roads were "good" increased between 2017 and 2020 but decreased again in 2022 while the share who said the quality of roads was "not good" increased.

Views on the quality of roads in urban municipality/ rural municipality, by year

	Very good	Good	Not good	Not good at all	Don't know
2017	13.4%	49.3%	23.5%	12.8%	1.1%
2018	13.0%	65.3%	17.9%	3.7%	0.1%
2020	10.8%	76.3%	10.6%	2.4%	
2022	2.6%	66.7%	28.3%	2.4%	

Table 5.9.1: Q-E13a. How would you rate the quality of roads in your urban municipality / rural municipality? (N=1008)

A large majority (92.2%) believed that the local government is the primary entity responsible for maintaining roads—consistent with responses of 2018 (90.3%) and 2020 (91.8%).

Entity responsible for maintenance of roads, by year

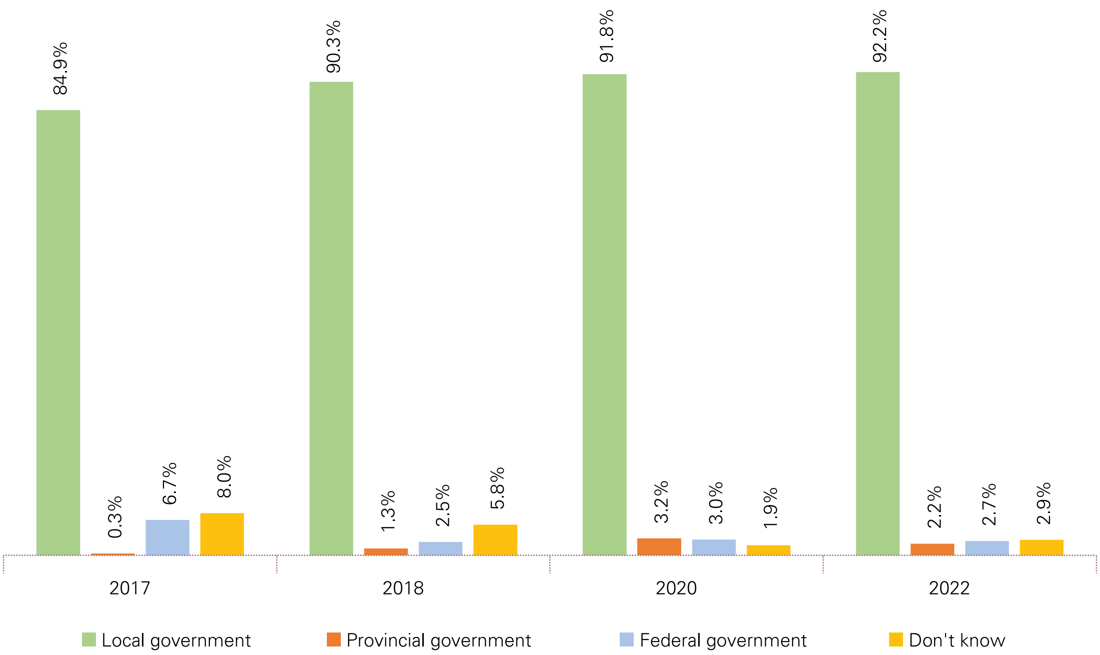

Figure 5.9.1: Q- E13b. Who in government do you think is primarily responsible for building and maintaining roads? (N=1008)

Changes in the Quality of Roads

Respondents were asked whether the quality of roads in their area improved or worsened over the past year. In 2022, the share reporting positive changes (50.4%) decreased compared to 2020 while the share reporting no changes increased (43.0%) (Figure 5.9.2). The share of respondents reporting negative changes decreased over the years.

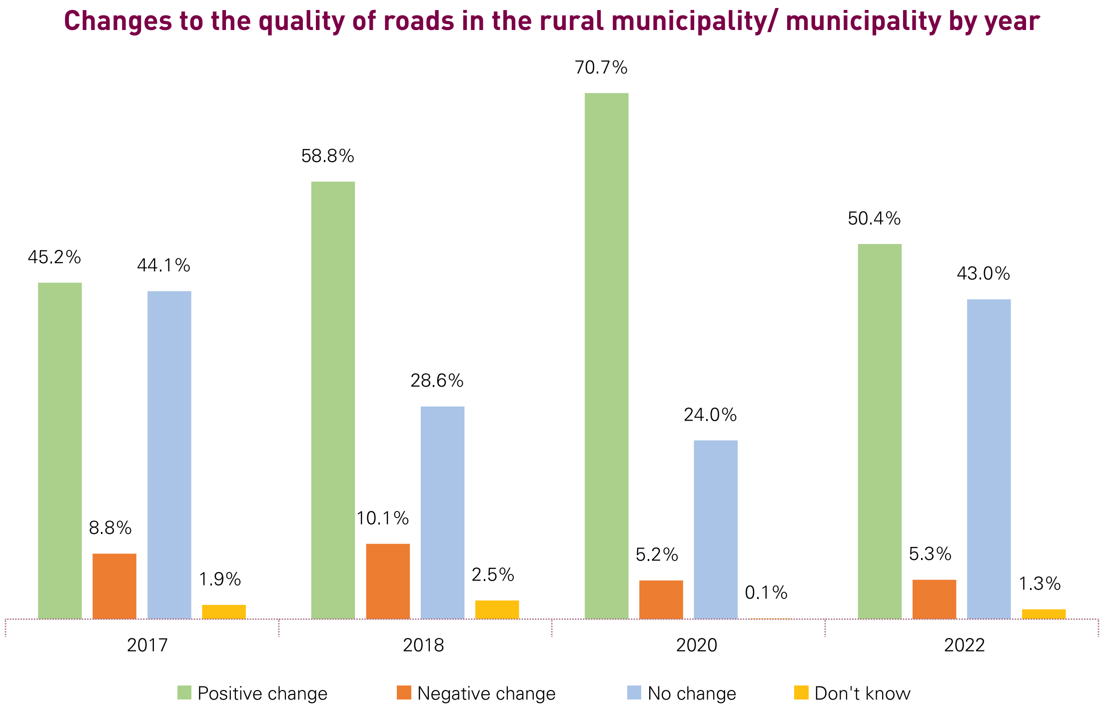

Figure 5.9.2: Q-E13c. Have there been any positive or negative changes in the quality of roads in your urban municipality / rural municipality during the past year? (N=1008)

Reasons for Positive Changes in the Quality of Roads

The survey further asked the 50.4% of respondents reporting that the quality of roads had improved over the past year for the reasons. Responses were left open-ended, allowing for multiple responses. Around half mentioned "construction of roads" (52.1%), followed by more roads being black-topped (30.3%), roads being upgraded broader and wider (27.3%), prompt action taken by the government for maintenance of damaged roads (24.9%) and properly upgraded the conditions of existing roads (21.5%). Other reasons included and involvement of the public during the planning and discussion of the road projects (15.5%) and impartial selection of which roads to upgrade by the government (14.5%).

Reasons for Negative Changes in the Quality of Roads

The 5.3% of respondents reporting that the quality of roads has worsened were also asked for the reasons why they thought there had been negative changes. Most cited delays in the maintenance of damaged roads by the government (63.7%), followed by deteriorating conditions of existing roads (63.5%), roads that need to be constructed have not been made (49.7%) and floods/landslides (16.1%). Other reasons were government bias when selection while upgrading which existing roads to upgrade (39.1%) and exclusion of the public during the planning and discussion of the road projects (21.8%).

Suggestions to Improve the Quality of Road Service

All respondents were asked what needed to be done to improve the quality of road services in their area. Most suggested black-topping of roads (50.1%), the prompt maintenance of damaged roads (53.1%), and proper upgrading of existing roads (44.6%). Other suggestions were the proper design of the existing roads (29.9%) and the inclusion of the local public in planning and discussions about road projects (29.0%).

Suggestions for the improvement of the quality of road services

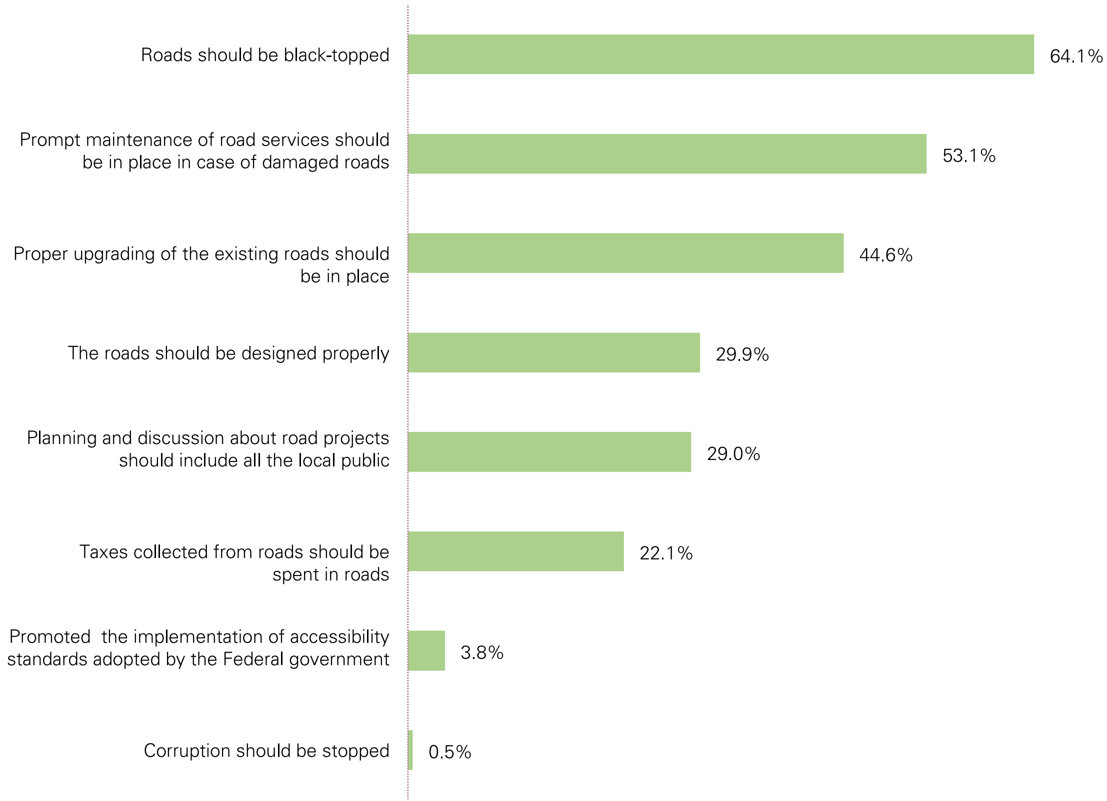

Figure 5.9.3: Q-E13f. What needs to be done to improve the quality of road services provided by the rural municipality/ municipality in your areas? (N=1008)

5.10 TAXATION

To understand Nepali people's perception of taxation in the country, the survey asked respondents about the different types of taxes, including whether or not they had paid any of these taxes in the past year, their view on the amount of tax currently prevailing, and their opinions on a few tax-related statements.

More than three-fifths of Nepalis residing in Lumbini Province had paid one or more type of tax in the previous year. Land tax (69.5%), property tax (68.2%), vehicle tax (67.2%), and entertainment tax (43.7%) were the most commonly paid taxes, followed by house rent tax (46.4%), entertainment tax (43.7%), business tax (41.2%), land registration tax (33.1%), remuneration tax (11.1%) and individual income tax (10.6%).

The share of respondents who said they had paid some kinds of taxes in the past year increased since 2018. For example, while 12.0% reported paying property tax in 2018, 73.7% say so in 2020, and 68.2% said paying it in 2022. Larger shares of respondents also reported paying vehicle tax, land tax, house rent tax, and individual income tax in 2022 than in 2018 (Table 5.10.1). However, the shares paying taxes decreased somewhat between 2020 and 2022 for myst types of taxes.

Most respondents were unaware of changes to the current level of taxation for most types of taxes. Large shares reporting having paid institutional income tax, property, vehicle, house rent tax, business tax, land registration tax and land taxes said that the current level of taxation was more than in the previous year.

Views on the current level of taxation[12], by year

Have you or your family paid the following types of tax within the last one year?				If yes, do you think current level of taxation is appropriate?				
Type of tax	2018	2020	2022	N	More than last year	Less than last year	Same as last year	Don't know
Property tax	12.0%	73.7%	68.2%	687	71.2%	0.8%	15.6%	12.3%
House rent tax	11.0%	35.2%	46.4%	118	76.4%	-	18.5%	5.2%
Individual Income tax	10.0%	26.9%	10.6%	34	67.0%	-	23.9%	9.1%
Business tax	61.8%	51.6%	41.2%	108	77.3%	2.0%	12.9%	7.8%
Vehicle tax	7.7%	70.9%	67.2%	260	74.8%	0.4%	13.0%	11.8%
Land registration tax	4.8%	36.7%	33.1%	92	75.2%	-	12.9%	11.9%
Entertainment tax	0.2%	75.0%	43.7%	228	55.8%	0.6%	31.3%	12.3%
Land tax	0.8%	80.2%	69.5%	592	67.8%	0.5%	18.6%	13.1%
Advertisement tax	2.4%	80.2%	4.1%	7	74.3%	-	25.7%	-
Agriculture Income tax	9.3%	33.6%	7.7%	31	75.7%	5.7%	12.3%	6.3%
Institutional Income tax	18.7%	11.3%	3.7%	6	87.6%	0.0%	0.0%	12.4%
Remuneration tax	1.0%	21.2%	11.1%	43	38.3%	1.4%	47.2%	13.2%

Table 5.10.1: Q-E15Ai-Mi. Have you or your family paid the following types of tax within the last one year? E15A-M. [If yes in Q-E15 Ai-Mi] Do you think current level of taxation is appropriate? ('Not Paid Local Tax', 'Not Applicable' and 'Refused to Answer' excluded)

Most respondents who reported having paid taxes in the past year (86.5%) said that the process of paying the tax/service charge/fee was easy. A small minority (2.2%) reported feeling inconvenienced while paying the taxes. Fewer people in 2022 than in 2020 (88.6%) reported that paying taxes or service charge or fees was easy.

The 2.2% of respondents who said that paying taxes/service charges was difficult were further asked what could be done to ease the process. The three most-cited factors were facilitation of paying all taxes from the ward office (63.8%), door-to-door collection of taxes/fees (47.0%) and the provision of online payments for all kinds of taxes or fees (20.7%).

12 During the survey questions E15a were asked to all the respondents regardless of whether or not they had paid the taxes in the last one year. The possible choices of the question E15a were: more than last year, less than last year, not paid local tax, Not applicable, refused, and don't know. While analyzing the question- E15a, only the response of those who said Yes in E15 in 2022 were included in the analysis.

Views on Taxation

A large majority of Nepalis in Lumbini Province said they did not have a clear understanding of taxes and could use clearer information by different levels of government on tax collection and on how the government spends it. To analyze respondents' understanding of taxation, they were presented with four statements that they could agree, strongly agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with (Table 5.10.2).

Most respondents agreed (combination of 'agree' and 'strongly agree') that they could use additional information on the following: How the different levels of government collect taxes from the people (97.1%), how the government spends its collected taxes (97.3%), and what benefits citizens get in return for paying taxes (97.4%). Slightly less than half of respondents (47.7%) believed that the tax they pay is being properly utilized – similar to past survey responses.

Views on taxation, by year

	Year	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
I wish I had clearer information or understanding of taxes that I am supposed to pay for federal, provincial and local government.	2018	28.1%	66.2%	1.3%	1.0%	3.4%
	2020	91.8%	8.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
	2022	58.1%	39.0%	1.2%	0.9%	0.7%
I wish I had more information on how the government spends taxes.	2018	33.3%	61.5%	1.5%	0.3%	3.4%
	2020	92.0%	7.7%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
	2022	59.0%	38.3%	1.0%	0.9%	0.7%
As a citizen I wanted to know clear information on what benefits we get in return for paying the taxes.	2018	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	2020	92.3%	7.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
	2022	60.2%	37.2%	1.1%	0.9%	0.6%
I believe that the tax I paid is being properly utilized.	2018	16.1%	12.0%	29.8%	28.8%	13.3%
	2020	30.4%	24.1%	22.0%	15.7%	7.8%
	2022	15.9%	31.8%	16.8%	10.0%	25.5%

Table 5.10.2: Q-E16ai-iv. To what extent do you agree/strongly agree/disagree/strongly disagree with these statements? (N=1008)

Just 1% of respondents reported that they had to pay some extra cash or some type of gift (other than that fixed by the government) to someone while paying taxes.

Willingness to Pay More Local Taxes for Better Services

In 2022, 64.2% were willing to pay more local taxes if the quality of services were to improve, up from 51.5% in 2020. The share unwilling to pay more taxes had increased between 2017 and 2020 but decreased again in 2022 (Figure 5.10.2).

Willingness to pay more local taxes for better services, by year

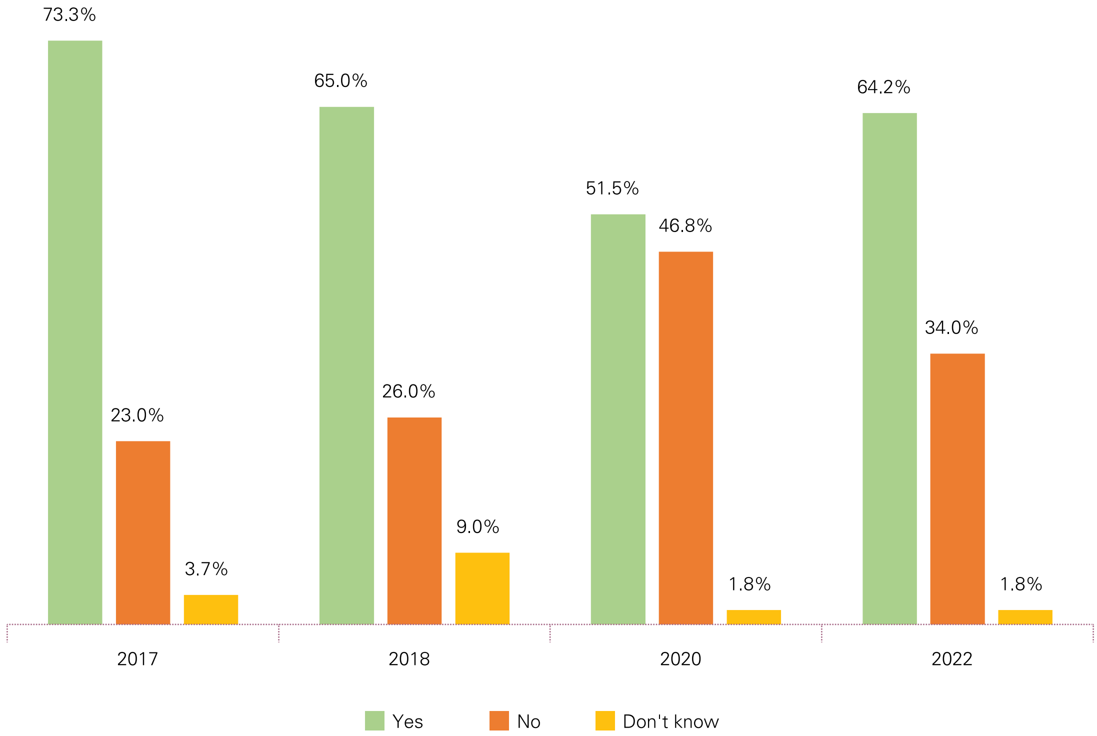

Figure 5.10.2: Q-E16. Would you be willing to pay more local taxes or fees if the quality of services like road maintenance, education or healthcare were improved? (N=1008)

5.11 CORRUPTION

Respondents were asked if they have had to give money, gifts or perform a favour to receive nine different services listed in Table 5.11.1. This question was asked to all respondents.

For three out of nine services listed, the majority of respondents said that they did not need services such as service from the court (88.0%), service from police (86.2%), and searching for employment (85.8%). Of those who accessed the different types of services, only marginal shares (between 0.2% to 0.8%) said they had to pay bribes to receive the service in 2022. The shares paying bribes were lowest in 2022 compared to previous survey rounds.

Bribe in exchange for services, by year (%)

	To get land related services	To get various documents	To take service from police	To take service from court	In search for employment	To Receive health service	To get admission in school or university	To get vehicle related services	To take Banking related services
2017	16.4%	10.6%	13.7%	15.6%	15.7%	3.6%	4.2%		
2018	8.9%	4.4%	4.5%	4.7%	3.4%	1.3%	1.2%		
2020	5.9%	2.7%	6.3%	5.7%	3.5%	0.8%	1.5%	9.2%	2.9%
2022	0.6%	0.5%	0.3%	0.6%	0.2%	0.6%	0.7%	0.8%	0.6%

Table 5.11.1: Q-E17 (A-I). During the past year, please tell me if you ever had to give money or a gift or perform a favor to obtain services from officials in these situations? (N=1008)

5.12 PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE PROCESSES

More than four-fifths (83.2%) of people in Lumbini Province said they were unaware of any development projects or budgets planned by their local governments for the current fiscal year. Some 16.8% said they were aware. The share of people who were aware of local development projects planned by their local government decreased between 2020 and 2022 (from 34.1% to 16.8%) while the share of people who were unaware increased (from 70.7% in 2020 to 83.2% in 2022).

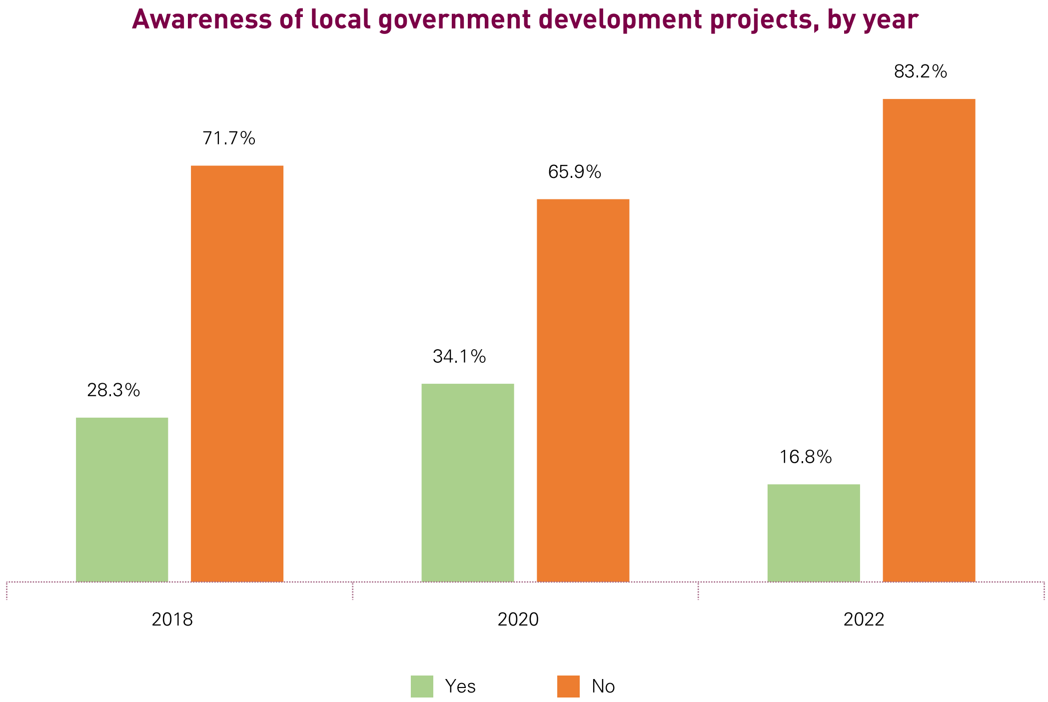

Figure 5.12.1: Q-E18. Are you aware of any development projects/budget planned for execution by your local government in the current fiscal year? (N=1008)

Priorities for Local Government Services

The survey enumerators read out a list of 16 different services that local governments are supposed to provide, including health, education, agriculture, infrastructure, etc., and asked the respondents what the main priority of their respective local government should be.

Most people thought road/physical infrastructure related services should be the priority of local governments (27.2%), followed by education (24.7%) and employment (12.4%). Less than one in ten respondents mentioned drinking water (8.3%), health (8.3%) and irrigation (4.7%).

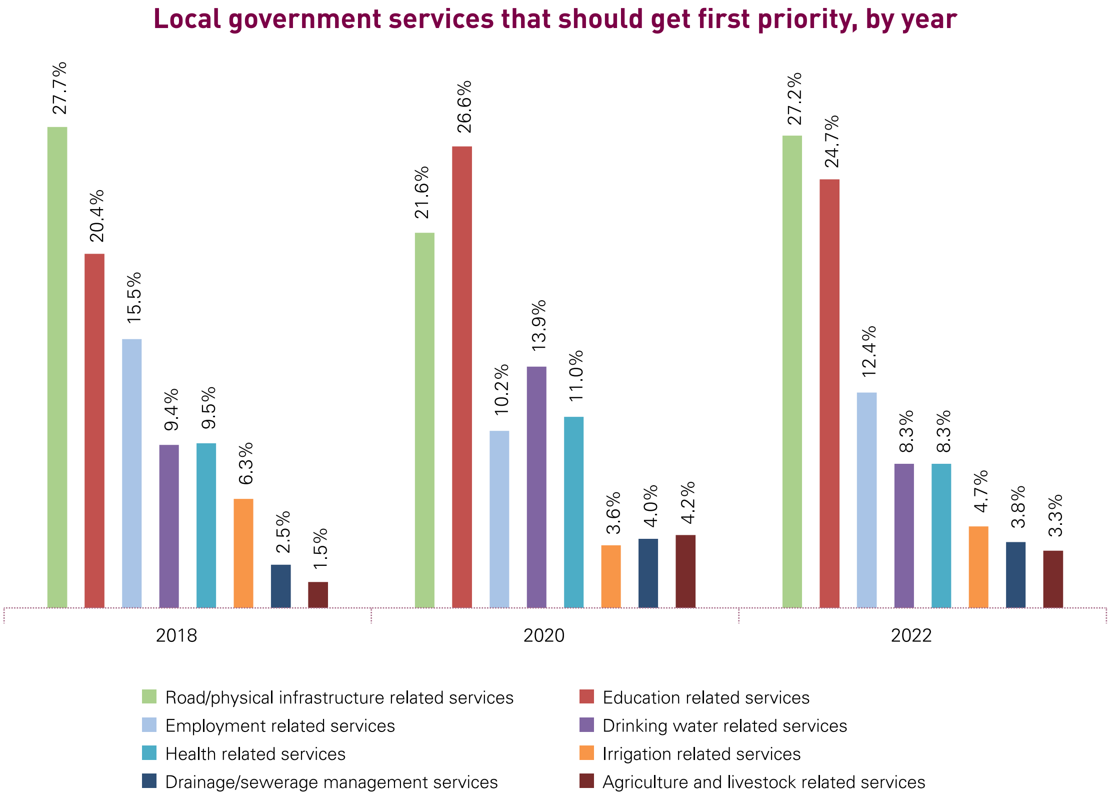

Figure 5.12.2: Q-E19. In your opinion, which service should get first priority from your local government? (N=1008)

Awareness of and Participation in Public Hearings

Less than one-third of respondents (30.1%) from Lumbini Province said there was at least one public hearing in their ward or municipality in the past year – down from 36.1% in 2020. The share who said there was no public hearing increased from 14.5% in 20202 to 22.2% in 2022 (Figure 5.12.3).

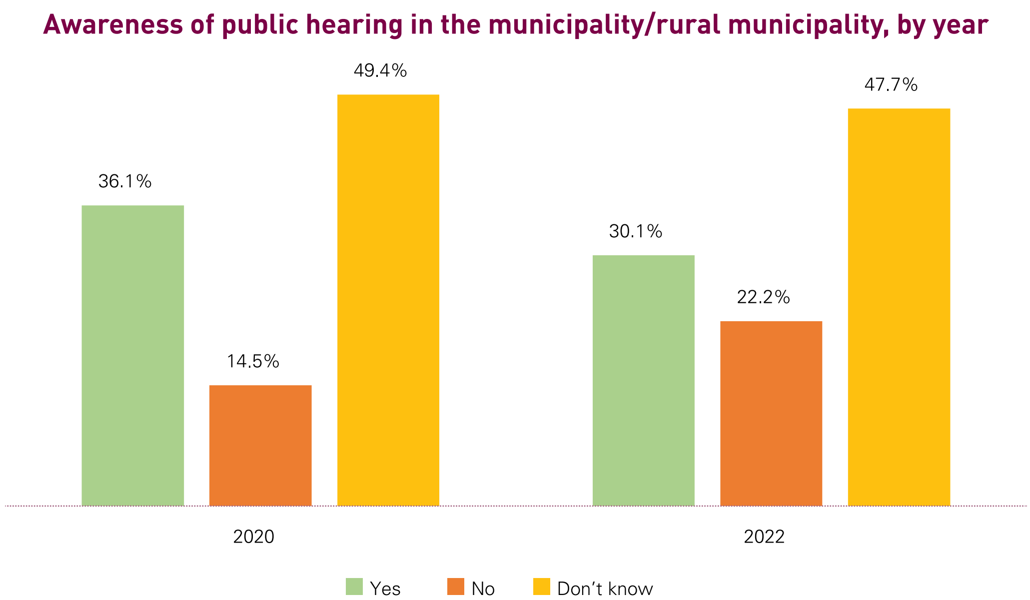

Figure 5.12.3: Q-E20. In last one year have there been any public hearing in your rural municipality/ municipality, including in your ward? (N=1008)

Respondents who were aware public hearings in their rural/urban municipality in the past year were asked about their participation in these hearings. Less than one-fifth (18.7%) said they participated in some of the public hearings while slightly more than three-fourths (78.3%) said they never participated. Some 3.0% participated in most of these hearings.

Participation in public hearings had increased from 13.2% in 2018 to 41.0% in 2020 but decreased again to 21.7% in 2022. On the other hand, the number of respondents who never participated in public hearings declined from 86.8% in 2018 to 59.0% in 2020 and again increased to 78.3% in 2022.

Awareness of and Participation in Public Audits

All respondents were asked whether there had been public audits of community development programs in their rural/urban municipality in the past year. One quarter (25.1%) knew of at least one such public audit taking place and around one-fifth said no audits had taken place (21.8%). Around half of respondents (53.0%) were unsure whether about public audits in their area. The share of respondents aware of public audits conducted in their ward or municipality in the past year increased from 6.7% in 2018 to 25.1% in 2022 (Figure 5.12.5).

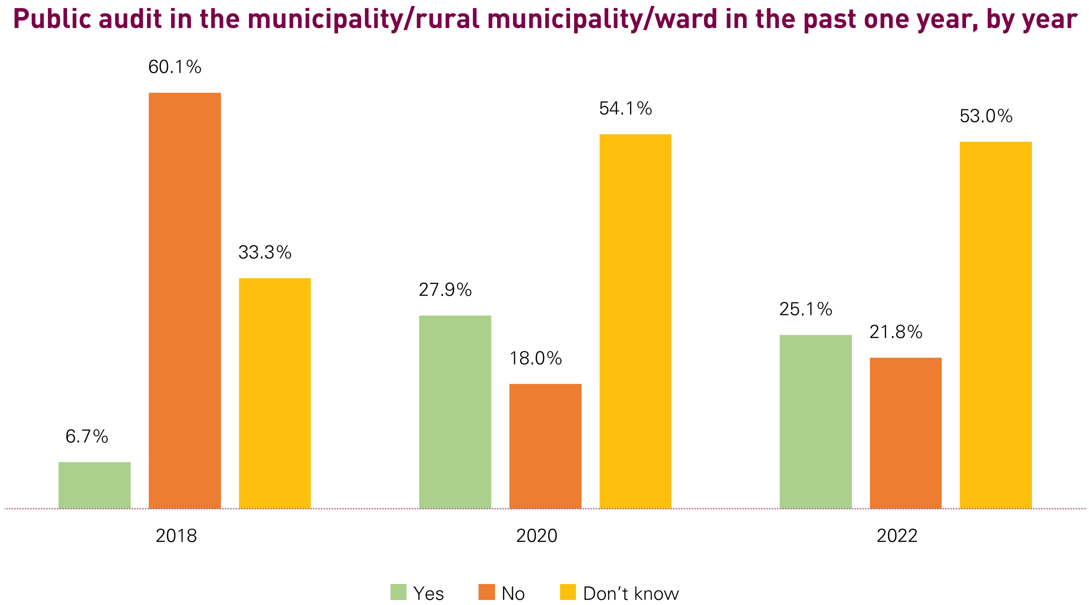

Figure 5.12.5: Q-E21. In last one year have there been any public audit in your rural municipality/ municipality/ward? (N=1008)

The 25.1% of respondents who said there had been public audits of community development programs in their rural/urban municipality in the last year were asked about their participation. Three-quarters (75.5%) said they did not participate in any public audits of community development programs. Over one-fifth (22.6%) participated in some of the public audits and 1.9% took part in most of the audits. Since 2018, the share of respondents participating in some of the public audits increased significantly.

Participation in Local Development Plans

When asked if they had participated in preparing local development plans in their ward/municipality in the past year, or while implementing those plans, a large majority (90.2%) said they never participated in such activities. Some 8.9% reported that they participated in some of the events, while a very negligible proportion (0.9%) of the respondents reported that they participated in most of the plans. The proportion of respondents who said they never participated in the preparation and implementation of local development plans increased by 10.2 percentage points between 2020 and 2022 (Figure 5.12.7).

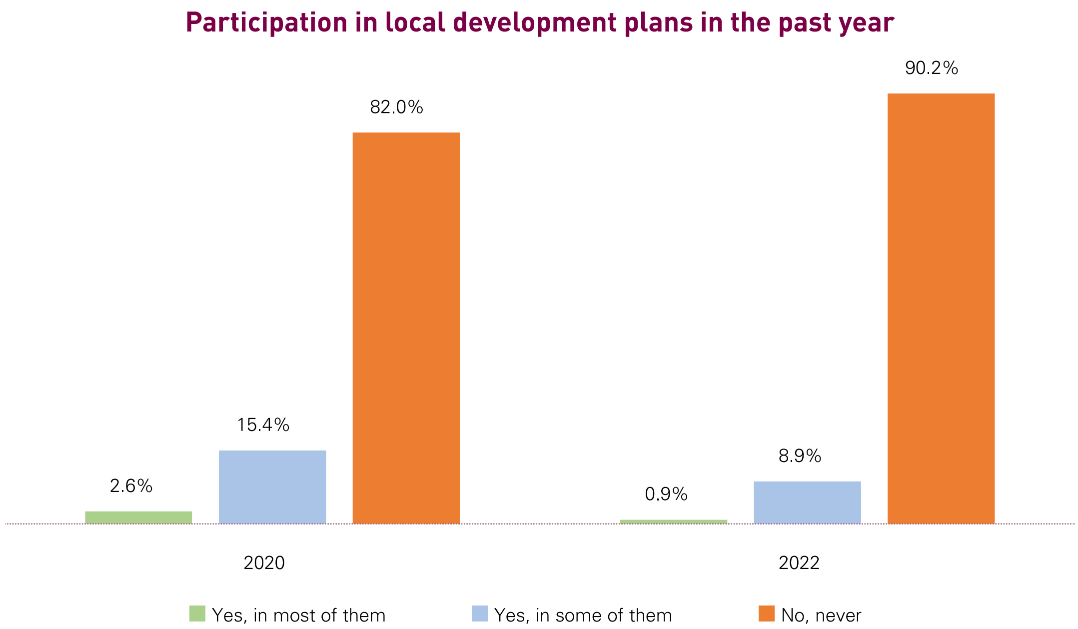

Figure 5.12.7: Q-E23. In the past one year, did you participate in preparing the local development plans of your rural municipality/municipality/ward or while implementing those plans/programs? (N=1008)

The plans and programs that elicited the highest levels of public participation were related to roads and other physical infrastructure (79.0%), drinking water (32.8%), education (30.1%), management of community buildings/space (13.6%), health (11.1%) and electricity (10.2%).

5.13 LOCAL ELECTIONS AND VIEWS ON ELECTED OFFICIALS

Confidence that Elected Officials Care

Respondents were asked whether they thought that the people elected as mayor, deputy mayor, ward chairperson and ward members cared about them.

Majorities thought that the various elected officials 'somewhat care' but only a relatively small percentage thought that elected officials 'strongly care' about the public. People were most likely to think that ward chairpersons (63.9%) and ward members (62.7%) care (either 'somewhat care' or 'strongly care') while levels of trust were lower for mayors (42.4%) and deputy mayors (44.9%). More than one-third of respondents thought mayors (37.2%) and deputy mayors (34.7%) do not care much about the public (Table 5.13.1).

Confidence that elected officials care

	Yes, strongly think they care	Yes, they care somewhat	No, they do not care much	No, they do not care at all	Don't know/ Can't say
Mayor	2.9%	39.5%	37.2%	10.9%	9.5%
Deputy Mayor	3.3%	41.6%	34.7%	10.8%	9.7%
Ward chairperson	8.5%	55.4%	22.9%	9.2%	4.1%
Ward Members	7.3%	55.4%	23.6%	9.0%	4.6%

Table 5.13.1: Q-F1i–iv. If you think about the people elected to the rural/urban municipality, do you think they care about people like you? (N=1008)

Contact with Elected Local Representatives

In 2022, 9 out of ten respondents (90.5%) said they never contacted their elected representatives. Over the years, the proportion of people who tried to contact their elected representatives declined from 13.9% in 2017 to 9.5% in 2022 (Figure 5.13.1).

Out of the 9.5% who approached their elected local representatives for help in the previous year, about two-fifths of the respondents (41.5%) were somewhat satisfied and 7.2% were very satisfied with the results of the contact. Some 26.0% were 'dissatisfied' and 11.3% were 'very dissatisfied'.

5.14 VIEWS ON THE RESPONSIVENESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

In 2022, more than two-thirds (69.6%) of respondents in Lumbini Province thought that the local government's responsiveness to the needs of people had remained the same as in the previous year. One-fifth (19.5%) believed that the responsiveness of local government had improved—a sharp decline from 58.9% who said so in 2020 and 51.6% in 2018.

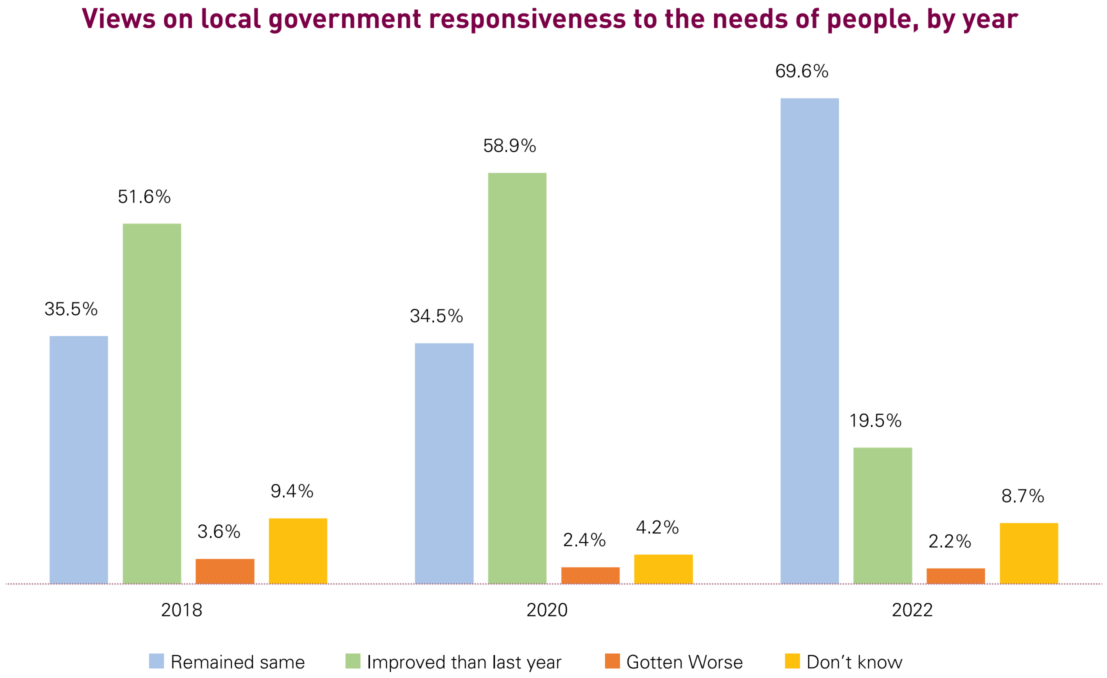

Figure 5.14.1: Q-F1A. To what extent do you think the Local Government has become responsive to the needs of people compared to last year? (N=1008)

In Lumbini Province people residing in rural municipalities (23.9%) were more likely to report that there had been an improvement in local governments' responsiveness to the needs of people than people in urban municipalities (15.9%). In the Terai, 74.7% believed there has been no change in the local governments' responsiveness to people. Some 28.4% of people in the Hills thought that the local governments' responsiveness had improved compared to 15.8% in the Terai.

Overall Satisfaction with Services Delivered by the Local Government

In Lumbini Province, 71.1% of respondents were satisfied with services delivered by their local government – more than the national average of 57.2%. Some 28.9% were dissatisfied.

People from the Hills (62.2%) were less satisfied with the services delivered by their local governments than people from the Terai (74.8%). People from Madhesi Castes were more satisfied with services delivered by the local governments than Hill Castes.

Overall satisfaction with regards to services delivered by the local government, by year

Figure 5.14.2: Q-E13g. Overall, are you satisfied from the services delivered by the local government (rural municipality / urban municipality) of your area? (N=1008)

Satisfaction with Education, Health, and Road Services Delivered by Local Government

The survey also asked respondents to rate their satisfaction with the services provided by their local government for education, health, and road sectors. They ranked it on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 representing "highly dissatisfied," and 10 representing "highly satisfied." The average satisfaction level for these services ranged from 5.7 to 6.2 (Figure 5.14.3). Average levels of satisfaction decreased for education, health and road services compared to 2020.

Average levels of satisfaction with education, health, and road services, by year

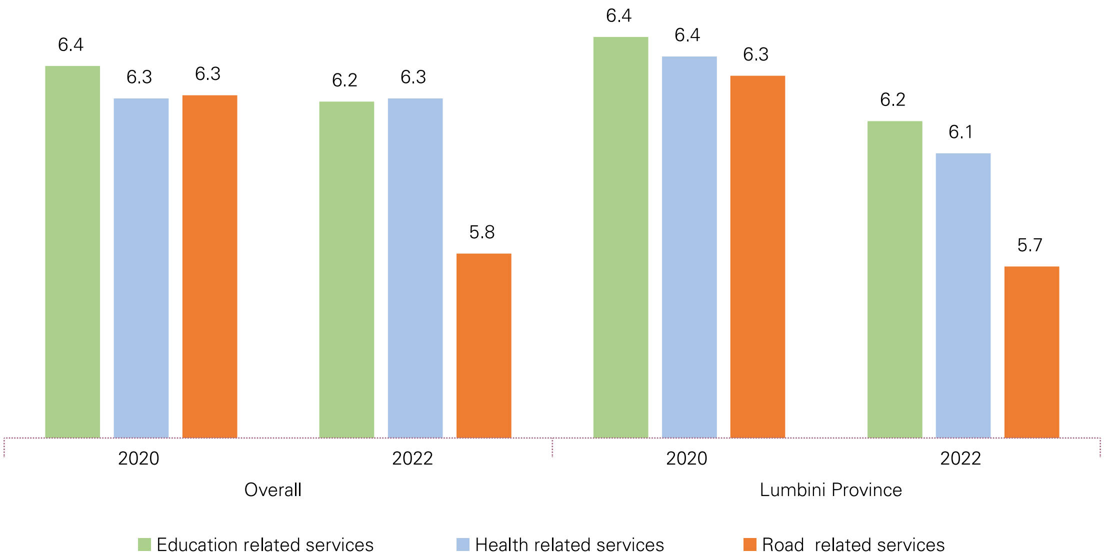

Figure 5.14.3: Q-E10Ha,b,c. How satisfied are you with the education, health and road related services provided by the rural municipality/ municipality in your areas? [Rate the level of your satisfaction in a scale of 0 to 10; while 0 represent highly dissatisfied, 5 represent neither dissatisfied nor satisficed and 10 represents extremely satisfied] (N=1008)

5.15 LOCAL ELECTIONS

The survey asked people about their participation in the local elections held on May 13, 2022. It also asked about satisfaction with the results of the election, expectations, whether the elections were free and fair, reasons for voting, and access to polling booths.

Nearly four-fifths (79.1%) of eligible voters in the Lumbini Province had voted in the elections while one-fifth (20.9%) said they had not voted[13]. No remarkable difference was observed in the share of respondents who had voted in the local election of 2017 (77.1%) and 2022 (79.1%).

The large majority of people (94.7%) considered the elections of 2022 to have been free and fair, as in 2017 (96.7%). Only 1.1% said they thought the elections were not free and fair. Some 85.0% of respondents were happy or very happy with the results of the local election in 2022. About half (50.5%) believed local elections would improve their quality of life and one third (33.3%) did not think that elections would have any impact, while 1% thought it would decrease their quality of life.

The respondents who thought that local elections would improve their quality of life gave the following reasons: people can better hold their leaders accountable (52.4%), local leaders' addressing the needs of the community (49.9%), and improved public service (44.5%), among other reasons (Figure 5.15.1).

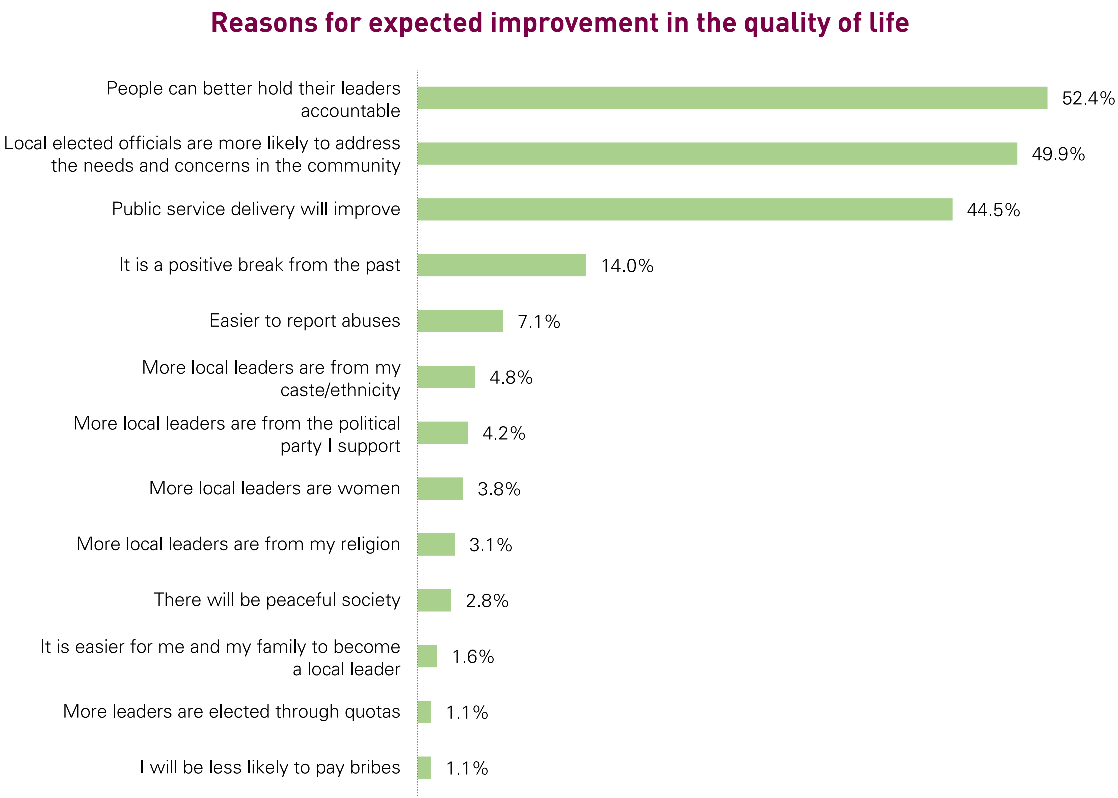

Figure 5.15.1: Q-F6. Why do you think that quality of life will improve? (N=797)

13 According to the Election Commission of Nepal, 64% of registered voters had cast their vote in the local election of 2079. In SNP 2022 more a higher share of people reported voting during the local elections that year.

Basis of Voting

The 79.1% of respondents who had voted in the 2022 local elections were asked on what basis they chose their candidate. Two-fifths of respondents (40.4%) said they liked the candidate who stood from the political party. About one-fifth (19.4%) said they believed that the political party/candidates would bring development and provide services in their area. Other reasons were: they liked the independent candidate and the principles he/she stood for (26.1%), they knew the candidate (20.5%), they thought this party/candidate is working for people's rights (20.4%) (Figure 5.15.2).

Ease of Voting

The survey further asked the 79.1% who voted in the local elections were asked how easy the process was for them in their respective polling booths. The majority (78.6%) reported that it was 'easy' to cast their vote at their respective polling booth, and nearly one in ten (13.0%) thought it was 'very easy'. However, 7.7% said it was 'difficult' and 0.7% mentioned it to have been 'very difficult'.

Those who felt it was easy to vote gave the following reasons: proximity to polling booths (59.1%), easy access to polling booths (39.9%), easy-to-use ballot paper (34.9%), helpful security personnel (16.6%), and helpful election commission representatives (15.1%).

6. ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

6.1 PERCEPTION OF LOCAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Slightly more than three-fifths of respondents in Lumbini Province (62.4%) believed that economic conditions has remained the same in their municipality/rural municipality, while nearly one-fifth (18.9%) were optimistic that economic conditions were improving. Only a very small share of respondents (0.5%) thought that the local economic conditions were getting worse.

Between 2017 and 2020, the share of respondents who thought local economic conditions were improving increased from 26.0% to 42.1% but in 2022 it decreased again to 18.9%. However, the share of people who thought economic conditions were stable increased over time and was highest in 2022 (62.4%). Negligible shares thought economic conditions in their area were getting worse (Figure 6.1.1).

Views on local economic conditions, by year

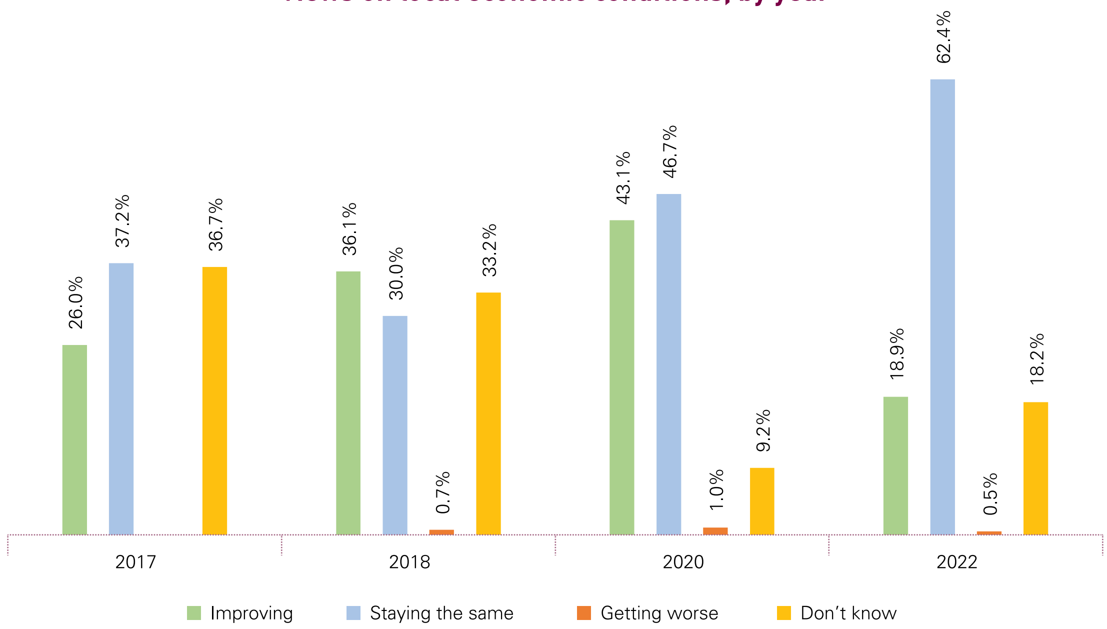

Figure 6.1.1: Q-G1. Do you think economic conditions in your urban municipality/rural municipality are improving? (N=1008)

The 18.9% of respondents who reported that economic conditions in their municipality were getting better were further asked to provide reasons. Frequently cited reasons for a positive economic outlook were better infrastructure (65.9%), improving water supply (23.3%), allocation of more budget to local municipalities (16.1%) and more investment opportunities (8.5%) (Figure 6.1.2).

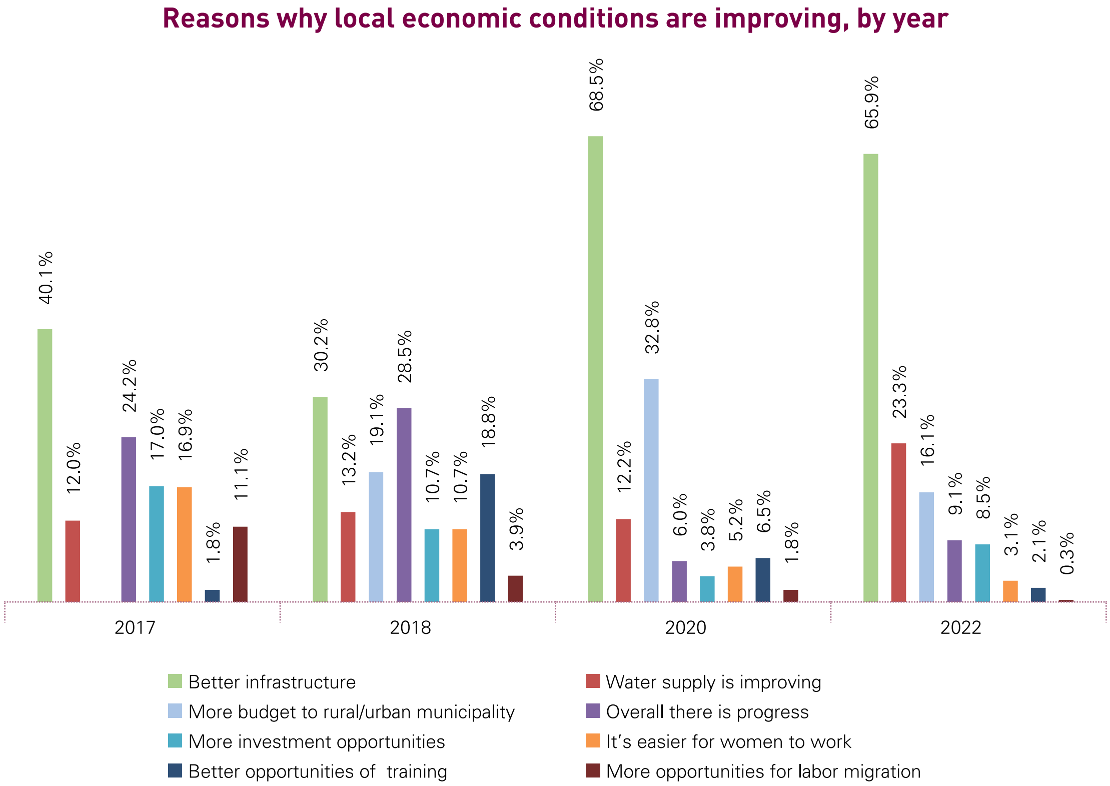

Figure 6.1.2: Q-G2. [If 'Yes, economic conditions are improving" in Q-G1] Why do you think that economic conditions are improving in your municipality /rural municipality? (N=238)[14]

6.2 PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD INCOME

The survey measured the level of personal and household incomes of respondents by asking them to disclose their monthly personal and household income brackets in intervals.

Overall, one third of respondents (32.3%) in Lumbini Province reported that their average household earning was more than NPR 20,000 a month and slightly less than half of respondents (47.1%) reported that it was between NPR 10,000-19,999 a month. One-fifth (20.3%) reported earning less than NPR 10,000 a month (Figure 6.2.1).

The proportion of people with a monthly income under NPR 10,000 had decreased between 2017 and 2020 down to 13/2% but increased again in 2022 up to 20.3%. The proportion of respondents with a monthly household income over NPR 40,000 was highest in 2020 (16.8%) and decreased to 10.1% in 2022.

14 In SNP 2017 and 2018 respondent were limited to give the two major reason for improvement in economic condition of their respective urban municipality/rural municipality, however in 2020 and 2022 respondent were allowed to give multiple responses. To compare responses over the four survey rounds, only the first two responses of respondents in 2020 and 2022 were considered and analyzed.

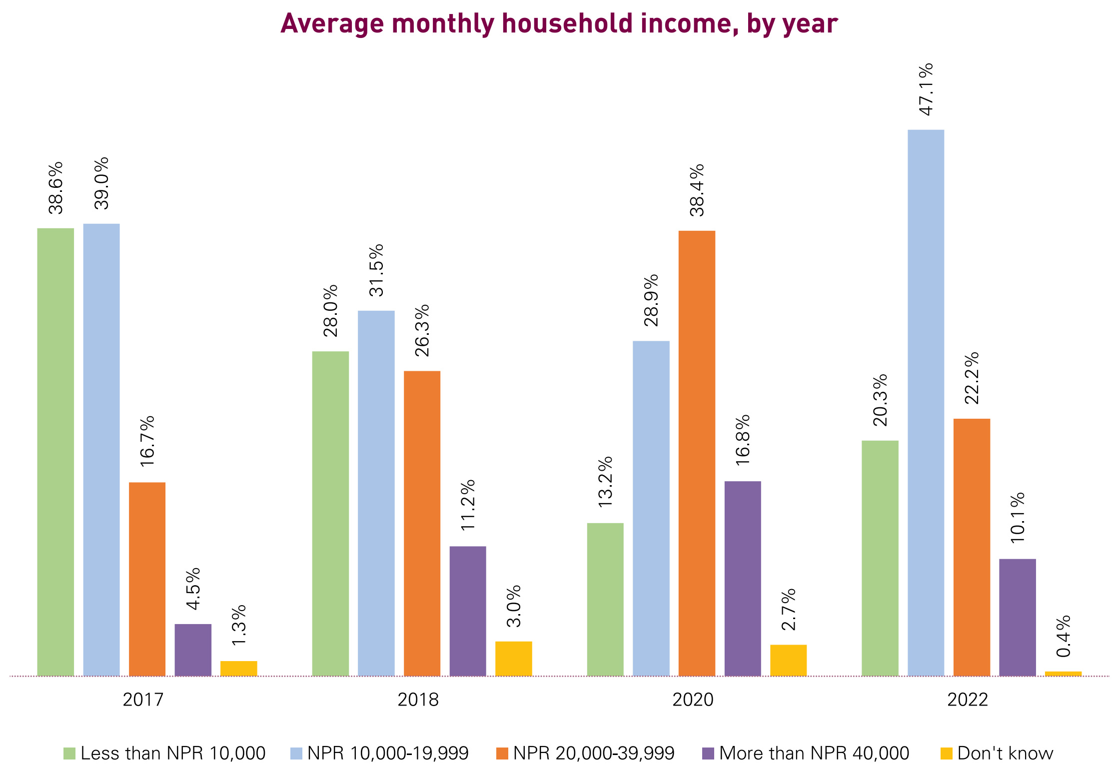

Figure 6.2.1: Q-G4. Approximately how much was your household income per month in the last year? (N=998) ('Refused to Answer' excluded)

People in rural municipalities (24.0%) were more likely to have a household income under NPR 10,000 than those in urban municipality (17.1%). Those in in urban municipalities (25.2%) were more likely to have monthly household incomes of NPR 20,000-39,999 than people in rural municipalities (18.8%).

Change in Household Income

For most respondents in Lumbini Province household incomes remained the same over the previous year (69.4%). Around one-fifth (20.2%) said their household income had increased and one in ten (10%) said it had decreased. Like in earlier survey rounds, more people reported increased incomes than decreased incomes.

Over the survey years, there was a steady incline in the share of respondents who reported that their household income had remained the same (45.6% in 2017 to 52.8% in 2018 to 55.6% in 2020 and 69.4% in 2022). Conversely, in 2022, there was a decline of 14.3 percentage points in the proportion of respondents who said that their household income had increased compared to 34.5% in 2020. On the other hand, in 2022, the percentage of respondents (10.0%) who mentioned a decline in their household income was more or less same as in 2020 (9.0%).

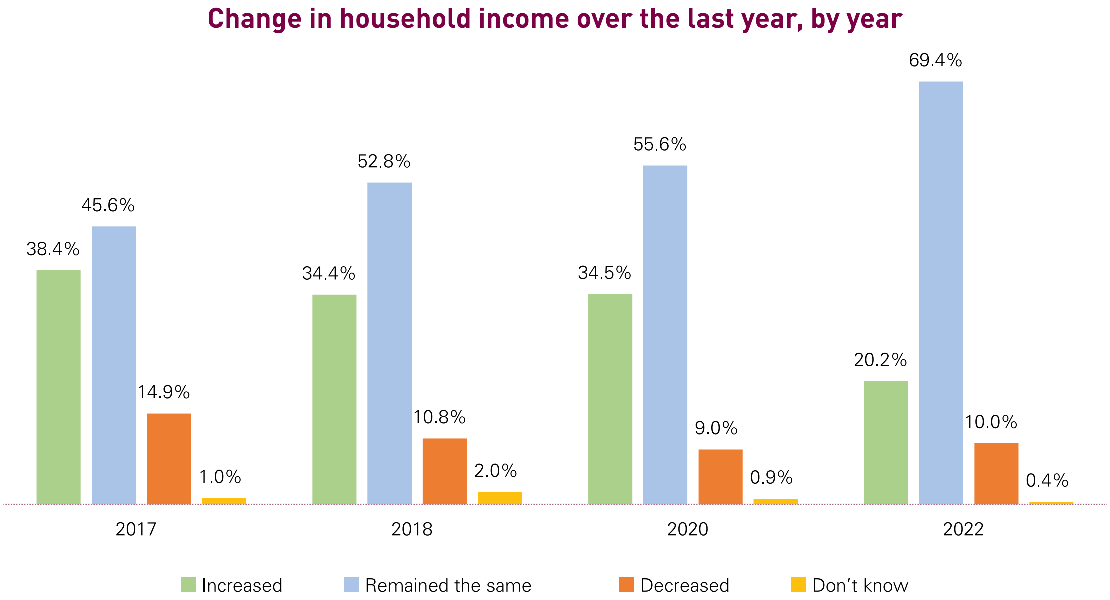

Figure 6.2.2: Q-G5. How has your household income changed in the last year? (N=1008)

Personal Income

In addition to household incomes, the survey also asked about respondents' personal monthly incomes. Over one-third (34.4%) either refused to answer or mentioned no source of monthly income. Many of these respondents were students and people engaged in agriculture or household work.

Of those respondent who reported their personal income, more than one in ten (13.2%) had a monthly income above NPR 20,000 – far less than the national average (33.5%). In Lumbini Province, the proportion of respondents earning less than NPR 10,000 was larger than national average (37.0%). The share of respondent earning in between NPR 10,000-19,999 (30.8%) in Lumbini Province was in line with the national figure 29.5% (Figure 6.2.3).

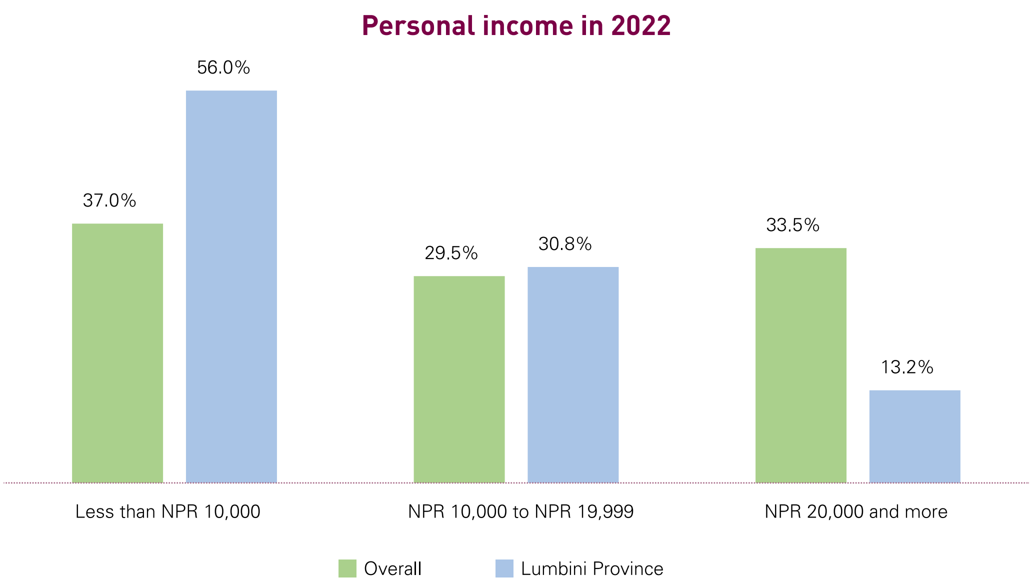

Figure 6.2.3: Q-G6C. What is your present level of personal income that you earn in a year? (N=661) ('Refused to Answer' excluded)

The share of respondents earning more than NPR 20,000 was similar in rural (13.0%) and urban municipalities (13.3%). However, people in urban municipalities (34.3%) were more likely report personal incomes of NPR 10,000-19,999 than in rural municipalities (26.8%). Three-fifths (60.3%) of people in rural municipalities reported monthly incomes under NPR 10,000.

More than three-fifths (63.2%) of people in the Hill region had average monthly incomes under NPR 10,000 compared to around half (52.9%) of respondents in Terai. Some 70.2% of Hill Dalits earned less than NPR 10,000, compared to 47.2% of Hill Adibasi/Janajati.

Higher incomes were associated with higher levels of education. For instance, about 35.7% of respondents with a Bachelor's degree and above reported personal incomes of more than NPR 20,000 a month, while only 7.7% of respondents with a primary education reported the same.

6.3 MIGRATION AND REMITTANCES

Around one in every five households (27.0%) reported that someone in their family member was currently working in a foreign country. The proportion of respondents with one or more family members working abroad slightly declined in 2022 compared to the previous two survey rounds (Figure 6.3.1).

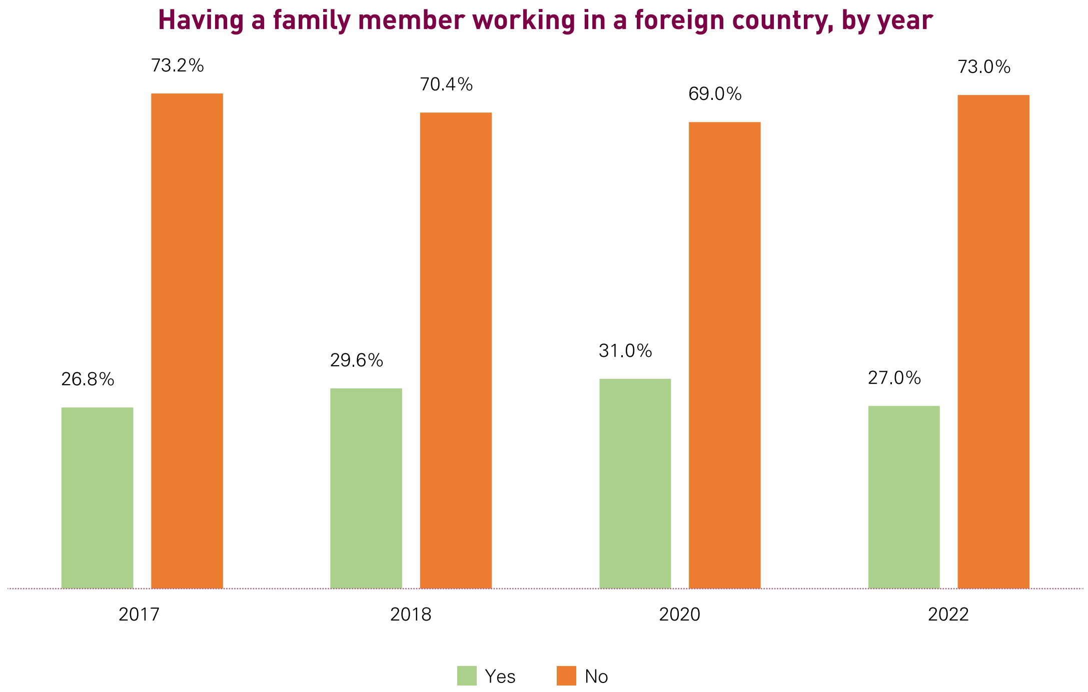

Figure 6.3.1: Q-G12. Is anyone in your family currently in a foreign country for work? (N=1008)

The 27.0% of respondents with a family member working abroad were further asked if their family members faced any problems. The vast majority (94.9%) said they did not face any problems. A small proportion cited differences in the payment than what was agreed upon (2.4%), physical injuries or illness (1.7%), different work than what was promised (0.9%), and extreme working conditions (0.7%).

The survey attempted to understand whether respondents had encouraged their family members, friends, relatives, and other people they know to seek foreign employment. In 2022, 27.0% said they had encouraged someone to go work abroad, which is less than the national average (Figure 6.3.2).

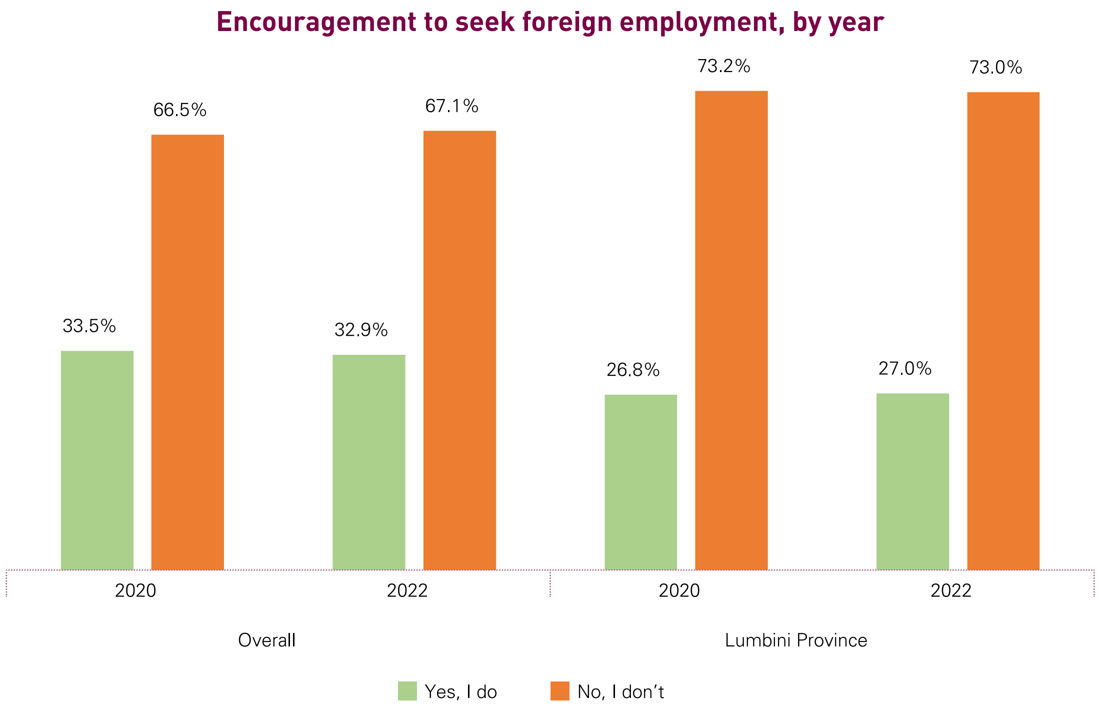

Figure 6.3.2: Q-G12.4. Do you encourage your family members, friends, relatives, and other people you know to go to the foreign employment? (N=1008)

Remittances

The proportion of respondents receiving remittances from outside Nepal decreased slightly from 23.5% in 2020 to 20.0% in 2022. The share receiving remittances from inside the country, on the other hand, increased noticeably in the same time period from 11.8% to 20.5% (Table 6.3.1).

Receipt of remittances, by year[15]

Year	From inside	From outside	From both inside and outside	Remittance, not yet received	Not applicable	Don't know
2020	11.8%	23.5%	3.2%	9.9%	51.4%	0.2%
2022	20.5%	20.0%	3.8%	4.4%	50.7%	0.6%

Table 6.3.1: Q-G13. Have you or your family members ever received remittance from inside or outside the country? (N=1008)

Two-fifths (40.0%) of Hill Dalits from Lumbini Province received remittances from outside the country and 6.0% receive remittances from inside the country. In comparison, about one-fourth of Hill Caste groups received remittances from inside the country (23.3%) or from abroad (24.8%). People from rural municipalities were more like to receive remittances from inside and outside from the country than those in urban municipalities. More people from the Hill region received remittance from both inside and outside the country compared to people residing in the Terai.

15 In SNP 2017 and 2018 respondent were asked "Have you or your family ever received remittance from inside or outside the country?", however in 2020 and 2022 they were asked "In the past one year, have you or the members of your family received remittance from outside or inside of the country?"

Changes in Remittances

The survey asked the 44.3% of respondents who said they received remittances from within the country, from outside the country, or both to assess whether and how the amount of remittances they had been receiving had changed compared to the previous year.

In 2022, slightly less than one-fifth (17.9%) said the amount of remittances received had increased – a lower share than in all three previous survey rounds. The shares reporting receiving lower remittance amounts was 9.3%, slightly more than in 2018 and 2020. On the other hand, the share reporting stable remittance amounts increased noticeably in 2022 (71.5%) compared to previous rounds.

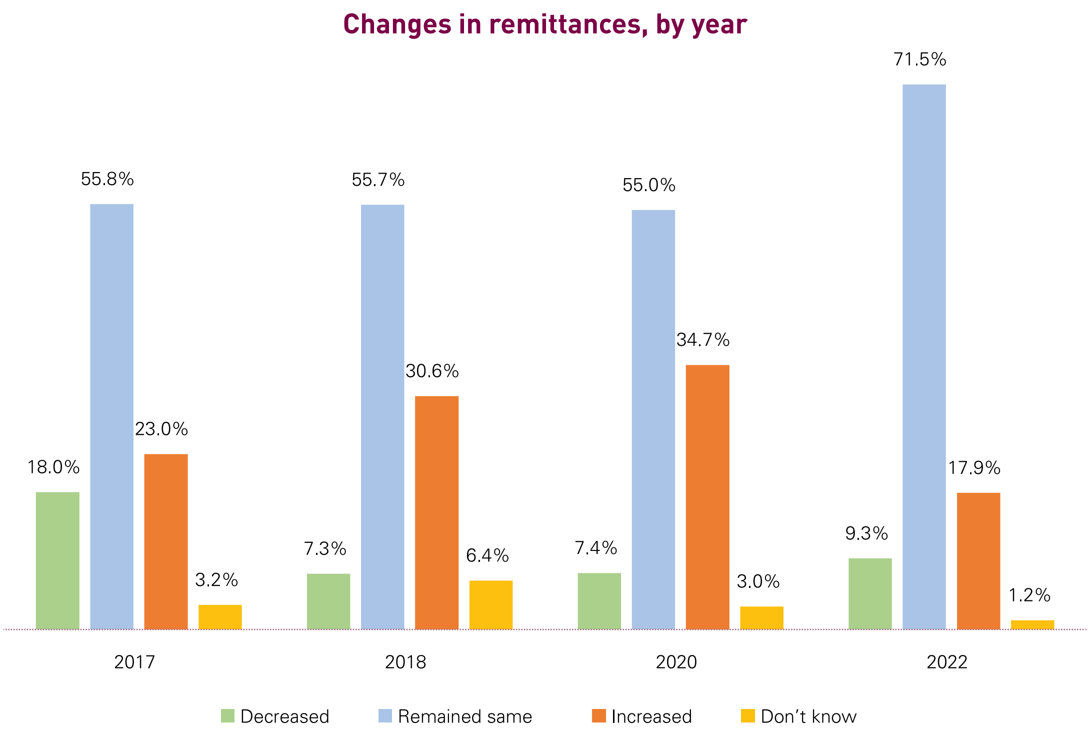

Figure 6.3.3: Q-G14. Compared to the previous year, has the amount of remittance that your household have been receiving increased, remained same or decreased? (N=447)

Purpose of Remittances

The 44.3% of respondents who reported receiving remittances were asked for the main purpose of the remittances. People from Lumbini Province mentioned using the remittances for their daily life expenses (88.3%), healthcare and medical expenses (66.7%), for children's education (64.3%), to pay off loans (30.9%), to build a home (7.2%) and for savings in the bank (6.2%). Between 2020 and 2022, share of respondents who use it for household expenses, healthcare and educating children increased (Figure 6.3.4).

Main purpose of remittances, by year

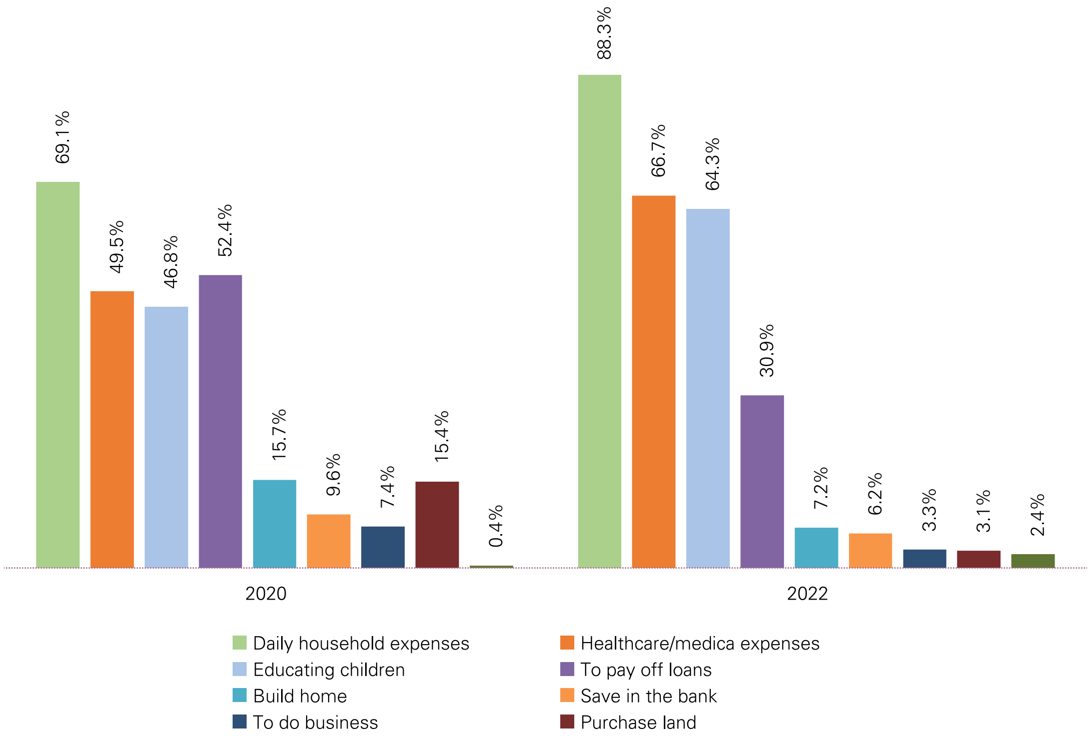

Figure 6.3.4: Q-G14A. Generally for what purpose do you spend the remittance money that you or your family members receive? (N=447)

6.4 AWARENESS AND ACCESS TO INSURANCE

Some 92.7% of all respondents in Lumbini Province said they were aware of insurances in 2022. The survey asked these respondents whether they had heard of different types of insurance read out to them by the enumerators (Table 6.4.1).

The survey found that life insurance (91.1%), health insurance (89.8%), and motor vehicle insurance (79.0%%), were the most well-known insurance types, while travel insurance (26.6%), property insurance (36.9%) were least known.

Awareness and Ownership of various types of insurance, by year

	2018		2020		2022	
	Aware	Own	Aware	Own	Aware	Own
Life Insurance	97.8%	16.1%	97.6%	21.8%	91.1%	21.2%
Personal/Accident Insurance	74.4%	7.9%	84.4%	10.7%	74.2%	4.7%
Auto Insurance	75.4%	23.6%	86.1%	26.3%	79.0%	27.5%
Health Insurance	79.1%	9.1%	88.9%	16.6%	89.8%	18.1%
Agricultural Insurance	67.3%	0.7%	80.0%	3.1%	58.1%	1.3%
Livestock Insurance	70.8%	3.7%	83.6%	8.1%	77.8%	6.9%

	2018		2020		2022	
	Aware	Own	Aware	Own	Aware	Own
Property Insurance	53.4%	2.2%	61.7%	2.0%	36.9%	1.3%
Travel Insurance	59.9%	3.0%	65.6%	6.9%	26.6%	4.4%

Table 6.4.1. Q-G21B.A1-H1. Have you heard of the following insurance? (N=1,333) and Q-G21.B. B1-H1 [If "Yes" in Q-G21.B. A1-H1] Do you have the following insurance? ('Don't Know', 'Refused to Answer' and 'No Applicable' excluded)

While awareness of insurance types was relatively high, far fewer people actually owned the types of insurance asked about. People were most likely to have a motor vehicle insurance (27.5%), life insurance (21.2%) and health insurance (18.1%).

Results showed an increase in ownership of all eight types of insurance over time; a considerable increase could be seen in the purchase of motor vehicle insurance (23.6% in 2018 to 27.5% in 2022), followed by health insurance (9.1% in 2018 to 18.1% in 2022), and life insurance (16.1% in 2018 to 21.2% in 2022).

Awareness and ownership of different types of insurance increased with people's education level. For instance, a higher proportion of respondents with a bachelor's degree and above (42.5%) were likely to have life insurance compared to respondents who are illiterate (12.9%).

6.5 EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME GENERATION OPPORTUNITIES

Over three-quarters of respondents (76.4%) were of the opinion that the employment opportunities and income generation opportunities (78.6%) at the local level had remained unchanged compared to the previous year. Some 12.8% of people believed employment opportunities had decreased and 11.6% thought income generation opportunities had decreased in their area. On the other hand, in 2022, 7.8% of people in Lumbini Province thought more employment opportunities had become available compared to the previous year, down from 17.2% in 2018 and 23.2% in 2020 who said so. Yet, the share of respondents who thought there were less employment opportunities also decreased from 23.4% in 2020 to 12.8% in 2022. In contrast, the share of people who believed there were similar numbers of job prospects as the year before increased significantly from 52.0% in 2020 to 76.4% in 2022.

Similarly, the share to report more income generation opportunities was also lowest in 2022 compared to prior years (6.2% compared to 25/6% in 2020). Yet, the share reporting fewer income opportunities also decreased between 2020 and 2022, from 25.8% to 11.6% while the share reporting unchanged opportunities grew.

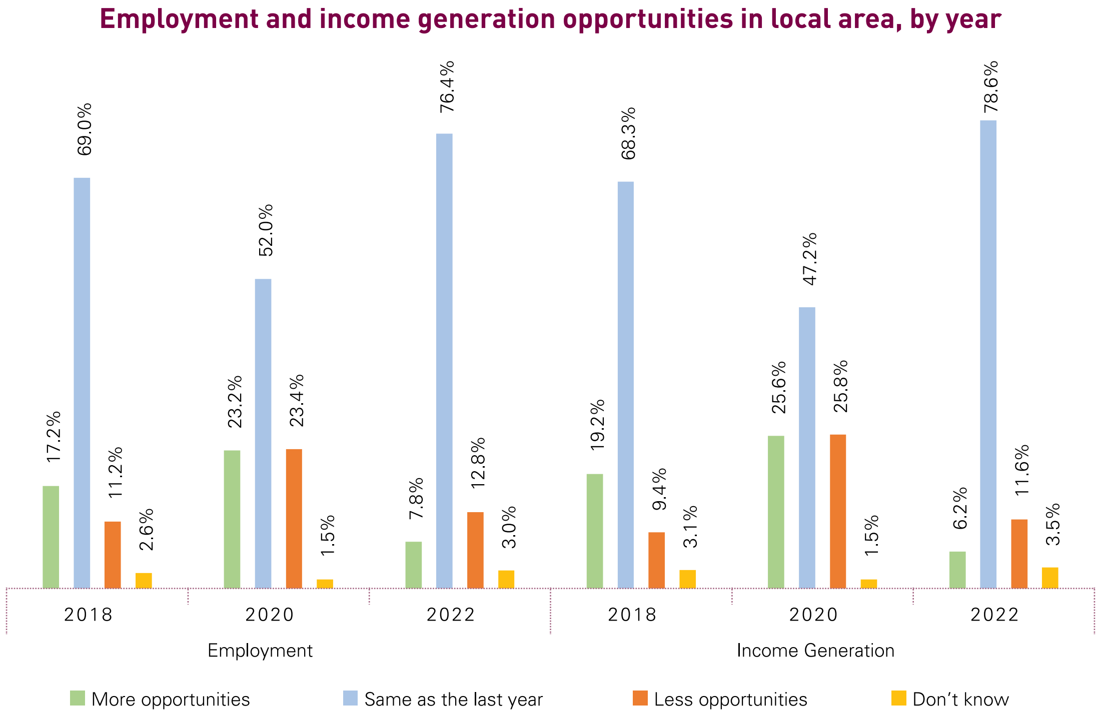

Figure 6.5.1: Q-G23a and Q-G23b. How do you consider the situation of employment opportunity and income generation opportunity in your local areas? (N=1008)

Similar shares of people in the Terai (8.2%) and the Hills (6.8%) thought employment opportunities in their locality had improved. People from the Hills (17.3%) were more likely to report decreased employment opportunities (18.1%) than people residing in the Terai (9.0%).

6.6 SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Around half of respondents (49.9%) got information from friends, family, and neighbors, followed by local community leaders (33.3%), Radio Nepal (13.8%), television (13.2%) and social media (Facebook, Twitter) (11.8%). Some 16.1% of respondents said that they generally do not receive information on local government activities.

Compared to 2020, the proportion of respondents who mentioned that they received information about local government activities from friends, family, and neighbors, Radio Nepal, television, and social media (Facebook, twitter) decreased in 2022, while the share getting information from local community leaders increased very sightly. The proportion of respondents who said they usually do not acquire information about local government goals, programs, and budgets doubled in 2022 (16.1%) compared to 2020 (8.0%).

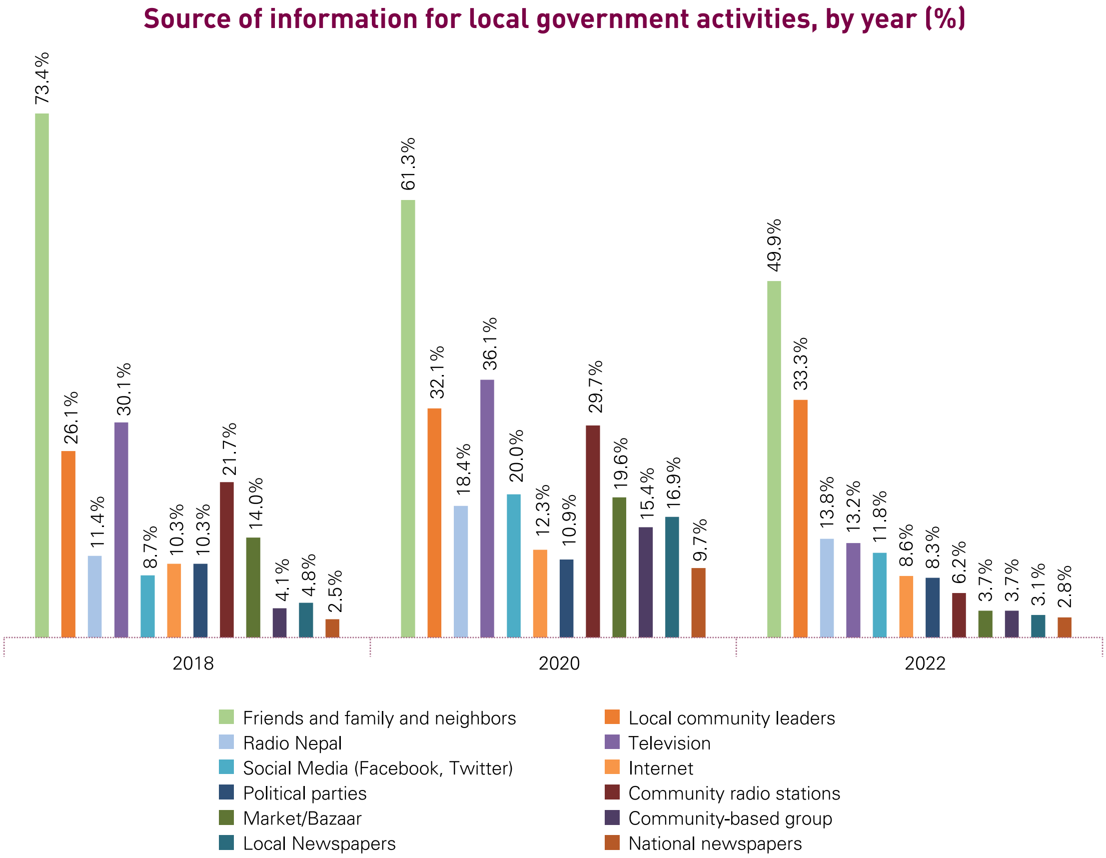

Figure 6.6.1: Q-H5. How do you normally get information about the plans, programs, and budget of local government? (N=1008)

Respondents with higher levels of education considered social media to be the main source of information, followed by friends, family, and neighbors and television. In contrast, respondents with no education at all, or no formal education were more likely to say their friends, family, and neighbors were their main source of information, followed by local community leaders and local radios.

Respondents from higher income brackets were more likely to say television was their main source of information, whereas those from lower income groups got information from friends, family, and neighbors. Younger people were more likely to get information from friends, family, and neighbors, social media and the internet than older people.

Expected Information from the Local Government

Lumbini province residents were asked what sort of information, they expected their municipality or their rural municipality to provide on a regular basis. Nearly one-third (31.9%) of respondents said that employment related information should be regularly provided to the public, followed by information related to budget and programs (27.0%) and agriculture and trade (25.3%). One-fourth of respondents believed that local governments should provide information related to health (24.5%), public notices (23.1%), plans and projects (19.5%) and education (19.1%).

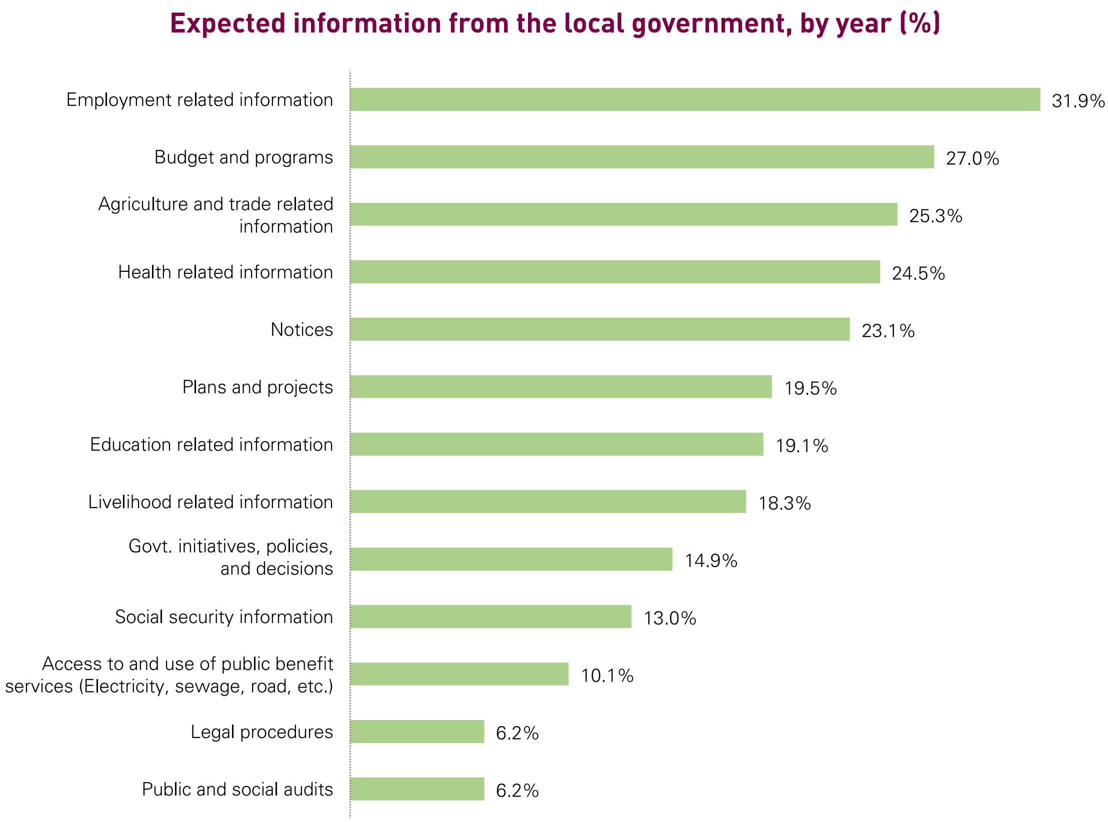

Figure 6.6.2: Q-H6. What kind of data, and information do you expect your municipality, the rural municipality should provide people and make that public, regularly? (N=1008)

Satisfaction with Access to Information

Over half of respondents from Lumbini Province (55.6%) were satisfied with the data and information made available by their local government. One-third (33.5%) were dissatisfied and one in ten (10.9%) did not know about it.

Only small minority said they had made attempts to access information from the local government (2.5%). Those who did said they tried to acquire information about budget and programs (32.9%), agriculture and trade (30.5%), education (27.0%), plans and projects (25.7%), health (17.5%), social security (16.6%), access to and use of public benefit services (electricity, sewage, road, etc.) (13.9%) and notices (11.4%). Most of them said they tried to access information through the help of local political leaders (42.5%), by talking to relevant government agency (41.7%), followed by taking the help of family and friends (16.2%), and few of them used government's website (15.7%).

7. EXPERIENCE AND IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

7.1 GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO MANAGE COVID-19

During the COVID-19 pandemic, all three levels of government implemented measures to prevent and control COVID-19 and to minimize its socio-economic impacts. The survey asked all respondents whether they thought the government response was sufficient and what the government could do to support socio-economic recovery.

Although most respondents believed that the response from all three levels of government was appropriate (43.5%), a considerably larger proportion (40.7%) felt that the local level's response was either "sufficient" or "very sufficient." Only small shares of respondents thought it was "insufficient" (9.7%) or "very insufficient" (2.7%) (Figure 7.1.1).

Government response to manage COVID-19

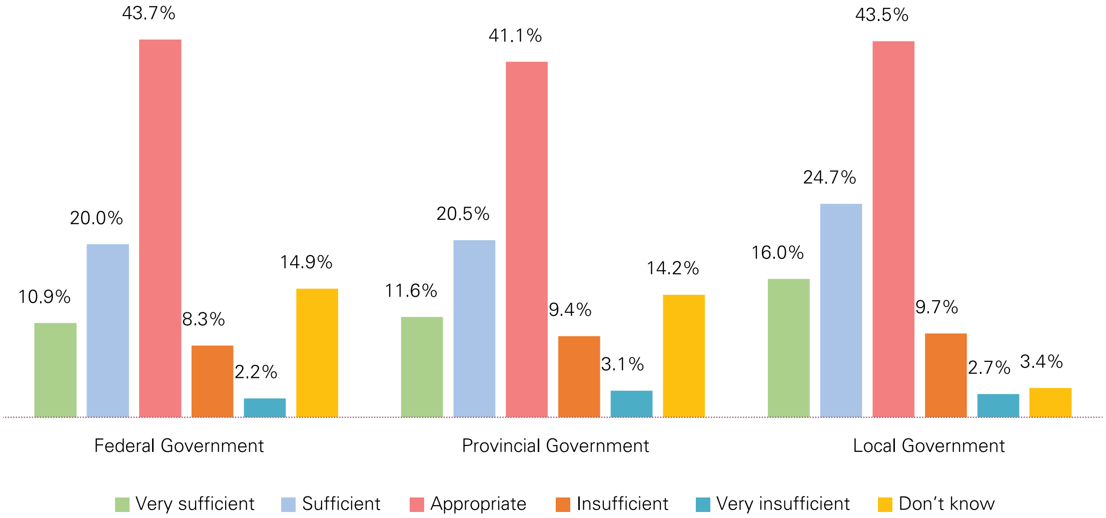

Figure 7.1.1: Q-I3. How sufficient was the government's response to manage COVID-19 crisis- very sufficient or sufficient or appropriate or insufficient or very insufficient? (N=1008)

Rating of Government Response

On a scale of 0 to 10, respondents were asked to rate the measures taken by the government to prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19; where 0 represents "not effective at all" and 10 represents "very effective". Most Lumbini Province residents considered the government's response and measures "effective". The government's enforcement of the use of masks and social distancing (mean 8.35 points), and their restriction in mobility and travel (mean 8.07 points) ranked highest (Table 7.1.1).

Mean ratings for government response during COVID-19

	Mobility and travel restrictions to reduce spread of virus	Enforcing use of masks and social distancing to reduce the spread	Enforcing business closures / openings	COVID -19 testing	Quar-antine facilities	COVID -19 treatment (hospitals, ICU beds, etc)	Response to support vulnerable population suffering loss of livelihoods	Migrant workers returning to Nepal
N	1008	1008	1008	1008	1008	1008	1008	949
Mean	8.07	8.35	6.82	7.33	6.99	6.43	6.22	6.57

Table 7.1.1: Q-I4.A-H. How do you rate the government's following response to prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19? ('Refused to Answer' excluded)

Expected Action of Government for Socio-Economic Recovery from COVID-19

The survey asked all respondents which areas the government could further support for socio-economic recovery and to mitigate the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly half (48.2%) suggested that the government should improve improvement health services. Around one-third mentioned expediting the vaccination process (34.7%) and providing cash schemes to households (33.3%). People also mentioned that the government should initiate support programs (28.3%), followed by creating more employment opportunities (21.8%) and distributing information access to government plans and programs (19.5%).

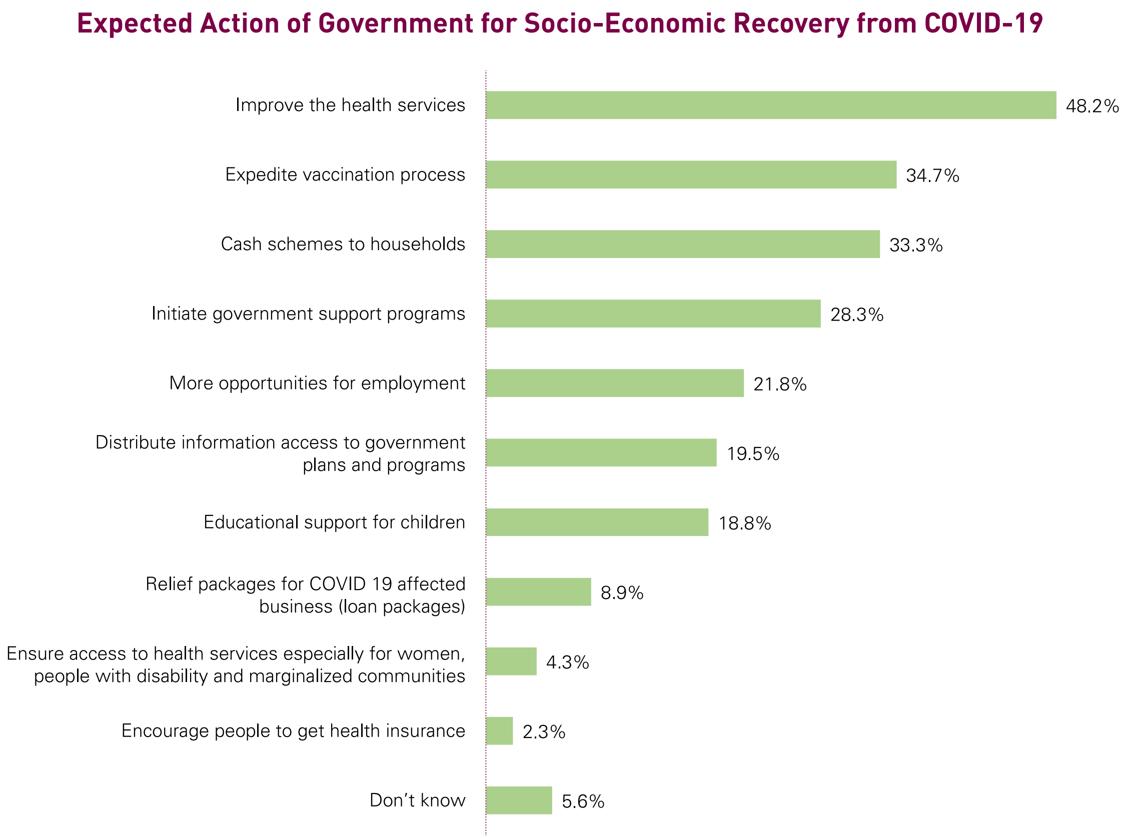

Figure 7.1.2: Q-I6. To support socio- economic recovery from COVID- 19, what could the government do more to support its citizens? (N=1008)

7.2 RESPONSIVE ACTORS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

In the 2022, respondents were asked who had been most active during the pandemic within their community. Almost two-thirds (65.9%) of respondents said that their local government had been most responsive. Far fewer people mentioned community volunteers (13.0%), local leaders (8.4%), public hospitals/health facilities (2.3%) and community-based organizations (1.3%).

7.3 MAJOR PROBLEMS AND COPING STRATEGIES DURING COVID-19

More than half (51.2%) of the respondents reported that they did not face any problem during the pandemic.

Those who reported facing problems reported that they struggled due to increased food prices (53.3%), found it difficult to get basic services (44.6%), decreased income/profit (39.9%), loss of employment or other income source (34.9%) and increased non-food necessity prices (30.2%).

The study asked respondents who reported facing some problems due to COVID-19 about their coping strategies. About one-third (32.5%) responded that they did not do anything to cope with the impacts of the pandemic. A considerable proportion used savings (30.5%), received assistance from relatives/neighbors (26.9%), acquired loans from money lenders (14.1%), and reduced non-food consumption (4.1%). Some people bought food on credit (10.6%), reduced food consumption (7.0%), and sold livestock and assets (4.7%).

Coping strategies during COVID-19

Coping strategies	%
Did nothing	32.5%
Used savings	30.5%
Received assistance from relatives/neighbors	26.9%
Acquired loans from money lenders	14.1%
Bought food on credit	10.6%
Reduced food consumption	7.0%
Sold livestock	4.7%
Acquired loans from Cooperatives	4.7%
Acquired loans from micro-finance	4.3%
Reduced non-food consumption	4.1%
Bought non-food items on credit	3.0%
Acquired bank loans	2.3%
Sold assets (land, building, ornaments, furniture, machinery)	1.0%
Received in-kind assistance from Government/Other Organizations	0.3%
Adopted new profession/business	0.2%
Migrated to find work elsewhere	0.1%

Table 7.3.1: Q-I10. How did you cope up with the above problems (during the lockdown and in the months after the lockdown)? (N=491)