We started the Evidence Yatra journey last year from September 2020, with the vision of promoting evidence uptake in Nepal. In this *yatra*, we received tremendous encouragement and support from our collaborators, advisers and followers.

In the 12 editions of Evidence Yatra, we have shared 43 evidence initiatives in Nepal. Likewise, we have also interviewed 10 evidence champions, who have shared their personal journeys of evidence generation and uptake across various sectors.

We also had a special women’s edition in March where we celebrated Women’s Day with 7 women evidence champions. Over the last year, we also unfortunately lost two of our esteemed advisers, Mr Purna Prabhat Thapa and Mr Narayan Prasad Uprety. We will be forever indebted to them for their encouragement and motivation to continue promoting evidence uptake campaign. As we move to Year 2, we pledge to continue the campaign and expand our horizon, reaching out to more interested evidence enthusiasts, across the country.
Women and gender norms in Nepal's parliament

Funded by the Advancing Learning and Innovation on Gender Norms (ALIGN) platform, YUWA conducted a research in June 2021. Highlights from the study:

- Women representatives in Nepal’s Parliament report high levels of emotional and verbal gender-based violence (GBV).
- While a strict code of conduct has helped to prevent physical violence in parliament, respondents report that misogynist remarks and ‘character assassinations’ aimed at women are commonplace.
- The views of male parliamentarians on key social and political matters are prioritised by the media, while the views of female parliamentarians on these issues are rarely sought.
- Proportional representation has enhanced parliamentary diversity, but members who have been elected as a result of proportional representation (including most female members) are often looked down on, while members who have been directly elected tend to control parliamentary resources.
- Every parliamentarian can in theory, raise concerns, at a specific time during the parliamentary session. Most female parliamentarians, however, are skeptical that their complaints have any impact. Male members of parliament in executive positions and their parties rarely take women’s viewpoints into account.
- Nepal’s parliament has no reporting mechanism for cases of GBV or defamation. A formal mechanism could direct the management of future cases and ensure greater sensitisation. At present, if a female member of parliament (MP) experiences GBV, she has to turn to the country’s legal system for redress.

For more details, follow this link.

Nepal Child Labour Report 2021

This report is part of Nepal Labour Force Survey 2017/18 conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics in collaboration with the International Labour Organization. It provides the data of child labour in general and in its worst forms in Nepal. The data are disaggregated by age, sex, sector, provinces as well as caste and ethnicity. The report unveils nearly 1.1 million children are involved in child labour of which 0.2 million children are involved in its worst forms. The statistics reveal that child labour is still significant although the overall trend is declining in Nepal (2.6 million in 1998, 1.6 million in 2008 and 1.1 million in 2018). More details, available here.
The Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE), Government of Nepal recently published a Vulnerability and Risk Assessment report in order to help Nepal’s National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process assess climate-related hazards, vulnerabilities, and risks, as well as identify practical adaptation options at the municipal, sectoral, and provincial levels. The Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (VRA) embraces eight thematic sectors, including one cross-cutting sector identified in the National Climate Change Policy (2019), as well as municipalities, 77 districts, seven Provinces, and five physiographic regions. However, due to a lack of data, a comprehensive assessment was conducted for 293 urban municipalities and a basic assessment for 460 rural municipalities. Read more about the report here.

Freedom in the World 2021: Nepal Findings

As per the Freedom in the World 2021 survey conducted by Freedom House, Nepal has scored 56/100 with the overall assessment that Nepal is 'partly free'. Nepal had the same score in 2020 (56) while in 2019, the overall score was 54. Based on the responses by the survey participants on the score 0 to 4, the overall findings from the study have been summarized as below:

- The ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP) won 16 of the 18 upper-house seats contested in January elections.
- Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli triggered the dissolution of the parliament in December after his authority over the NCP weakened due to an ongoing dispute with former rebel leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal. Over 10,000 people protested the dissolution in Kathmandu later that month.
- Nepali authorities imposed a lockdown to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in late March before loosening it in July. The government faced ongoing public dissent over its perceived inability to competently respond to the pandemic, while migrant workers reportedly faced poor conditions in quarantine facilities. Local transmission accelerated in the second half of the year, with authorities reporting over 260,000 cases and 2,758 deaths to the World Health Organization (WHO) by year’s end.

Read more about the report here.
Year 1 Evidence Champions At A Glance

Many thanks to all evidence champions who were gracious enough to be interviewed, sharing their personal journey of generating evidence across various sectors in Nepal.

Dr Nipun Shrestha  Dr Khem Pokhrel  Sudeepa Khanal  Mirak R. Angdembe

Dr Sushil Shrestha  Rabin Dhakal  Pramod Sah

Chiranjibi Bhandari  Pratik Khanal

Nikesh Balami