Annual Report
2022
COVER: Nagendra Giri, a landless resident in Hariwon municipality, is one of the many people struggling below the poverty line in Nepal who have now gained ownership of land and a steady income through fruit and vegetable farming in reclaimed riverbeds. Since 2020, UNDP in partnership with local governments, has transformed over 300 hectares of degraded or flood-ravaged riverbed into lush green multi-layer farms and orchards, benefiting over 10,000 most vulnerable people.

UNDP Nepal/Laxmi Ngakhushi

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FOREWORD

It is my great pleasure to extend my heartfelt greetings to all readers on the occasion of the publication of the Annual Report of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Nepal.

The UNDP is playing a vital role in advancing sustainable development and fostering inclusive growth across the globe. In Nepal, the UNDP has been an invaluable partner in our nation’s pursuit of social progress, economic prosperity, and environmental sustainability. The annual report serves as a comprehensive account of the UNDP’s efforts and achievements in Nepal, shedding light on the remarkable work undertaken to address the country’s development challenges.

Nepal has made significant strides in its development journey, overcoming various socio-economic and political hurdles. However, we recognize that there is still much to be done to ensure a better future for all Nepali citizens. The partnership between the Government of Nepal and the UNDP has been instrumental in addressing these challenges, aligning with our national priorities and the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This year’s annual report provides a detailed overview of the UNDP’s initiatives and projects in Nepal, focusing on key areas such as poverty reduction, good governance, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and gender equality. It highlights the collaborative efforts made by the UNDP and the Government of Nepal, as well as the engagement of various stakeholders, including development partners, private sector entities, and civil society organizations.

I commend the UNDP Nepal Country Office for its dedication, expertise, and commitment to supporting Nepal’s development agenda. The report showcases the impact of their interventions and the positive changes brought about in the lives of Nepali people. It also emphasizes the importance of innovation, resilience, and inclusive approaches in addressing the evolving challenges of our time. We reiterate our commitment to continuing our partnership with UNDP in achieving our national developmental objectives in 2023 and beyond.

I extend my warm congratulations to UNDP in Nepal on its accomplishments in 2022.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

I am pleased to present our Annual Report 2022, showcasing the impact of our work in Nepal. Our mission is clear: to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by fostering inclusive economic growth, democratic governance and resilience, while insuring no one is left behind.

2022 was a pivotal year for Nepal. We faced the challenges of ongoing economic turmoil due to the global pandemic and witnessed significant political developments, including the May elections for 753 local governments and provincial assemblies. It was a year that marked the beginning of Nepal’s journey towards graduating from Least Developed Country status by 2024 – a testament to decades of development efforts, including those led by UNDP. It also marked the end of our five-year programme cycle (2018-2022) and the preparation of our new Country Programme Document (CPD) for 2023-2027.

To ensure Nepal’s journey towards graduation remains on track, we focused our interventions on sectors that are vital to the country’s economy. These included agriculture and cooperatives, nature-based tourism, micro and small enterprises, and technical and vocational education and training for migrant returnees. These sectors hold immense potential for job creation and economic growth, especially for women, youth, and marginalized communities.

Our interventions reached various areas of Nepal, aiming to bring the benefits of development to the poorest and most marginalized communities, whether in rural or urban settings. At UNDP, we are guided by the principle of Leaving No One Behind (LNOB). Our policies and programs prioritize the needs of women, marginalized communities, persons with disabilities, and gender and sexual minorities. In 2022, we focused on livelihoods and skills training for those who face exclusion and poverty. We collaborated with the government to experiment with Temporary Basic Income, supported access to renewable energy in remote rural areas, and reclaimed degraded land in partnership with local governments, enhancing the lives of those who can now farm it.

Our work goes beyond policies and technical assistance – it is about making a real difference in people’s lives and livelihoods. For instance, in collaboration with relevant ministries and partners, we achieved concrete results positively impacting thousands of lives.

Over 90,000 fruit and vegetable farmers saw improvements in their productivity and income, 3,000 returnee migrant workers continued to train in the labor market, and over 1,400 workers in the tourism industry gained short-term employment opportunities.

Notably, in 2022, UNDP contributed, among other things, to enhance capacity of over 23,000 local elected representatives on gender-responsive planning, procurement and service delivery. Under the resilience portfolio, one of the key achievements is the finalization of Nepal’s climate ambition – the Nationally Determined Contributions, which will shape Nepal’s climate action up until 2045. And our work is not limited to easing assistance -- it is about making a real change in the lives of those who can now farm it.

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As part of our transparency standards, in this report, we have also presented where and how the resources were spent. For instance, in 2022, more than half of our total expenditures contributed directly or significantly to achieving gender equality and social inclusion. We are committed to ensuring that our efforts continue to make a meaningful difference in Nepal’s development journey.

I would like to thank the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Planning Commission, international development partners, and all stakeholders for their unwavering support. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to the provincial and local governments, CSOs, the UN family, as well as our dedicated partners, National Programme Directors (NPDs), National Programme Managers (NPMs), and their entire teams. It is through our collective efforts and collaboration that we have been able to deliver meaningful impact.
The government has crafted 4 key policy documents on Leave No One Behind, tourism recovery, climate financing, & LDC graduation, fostering inclusive economic growth.

- **35,000 people**, 52% of them women, secured short-term jobs, livelihoods opportunities and skills training.
- **2,500 vulnerable women** and their family members gained access to social protection schemes and insurance coverages, including premiums.
- **Six curricula on high demand skills** in tourism and hospitality sector were developed and rolled out.
- **11,000 farmers**, 63% of them women, adopted agricultural technology and tools.
- **52,000 people**, 51% of them women, benefited from ecosystem restoration services and nature-based solutions.
- **50,000+ people** accessed and converted 400 ha of degraded riverbeds into green and productive fields.
- **8,000 people and 380 enterprises** in remote areas gained access to clean and affordable energy.
- **5218 law experts and students**, 52% of them women, from marginalized communities were trained and deployed to enhance government service delivery.
- **10 laws and policies** were drafted to standardize legal aid services. Seven law reviews were completed through open public consultations.
- **Grievance handling, e-governance and e-legislation** solutions were introduced in five government offices.
- **400 elected representatives** and civil servants were trained on resilient infrastructure.
- **261 water sources** secured for 5,700 households and 214 hectares of agriculture land irrigated.
- **400 accelerated labs incubated**, including for pollution control, waste management and climate-smart farming.
- **261 hospitals adopted sustainable waste management plans**, benefiting an estimated 2.5m people served by these hospitals annually.
- **7 laws and policies** were drafted to standardize legal aid services. Seven law reviews were completed through open public consultations.
- **Election Commission managed to rollout the virtual/in-person voter education campaign to reach some 3.5m people in the run-up to the elections.
- **218 law experts and students**, 52% of them women, from marginalized communities were trained and deployed to enhance government service delivery.
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- **Federal and Provincial Governments finalized and approved 7 key policy documents**, including NDC Action Plan and Province Level Climate Change Financing Framework.

Results by Numbers 2022*

With UNDP’s support, thousands of people improved their lives.

* UNDP supports the Government and people of Nepal in collaboration with other development partners. All the numbers presented here are part of government-led and UNDP supported projects or projects directly implemented by UNDP in collaboration with other development partners.
Our interventions to foster inclusive and sustainable economic growth are purposefully aimed at the primary drivers of Nepal’s economy. They are agriculture and cooperatives, nature-based tourism, and micro and small enterprise development, technical and vocational education and training. These areas boast remarkable potential for creating job opportunities and promoting economic growth, particularly for women, youth, and other marginalized communities. Our interventions ensure that the benefits of economic growth and development reach the poor and the most marginal people who live in both rural and urban settlements.
In 2022, the UNDP supported the Government of Nepal’s efforts to promote inclusive and equitable economic development by providing assistance in drafting four key policy documents through a consultative process. They include the Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) Framework, Province Level Climate Change Financing Framework, National Tourism Recovery Strategy, LDC graduation Strategy. These policies have laid the foundation to promote inclusive economic growth ensuring women and the most marginalized people get the first priority.

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Substantive results have been achieved in, for example, agriculture, tourism, and skills’ development. Fruit and vegetable farmers now have better access to markets. Returnee migrant workers have gained new skills and been reintegrated into society. The recovery of the tourism industry has been aided by the development of small tourism infrastructure, which has also provided jobs for vulnerable people.

Nepal’s economy has long been centred around agriculture, with the sector contributing 20.3% to the national GDP in 2022 (CBS). Despite being the largest employer with about 40% of the population engaged in farming, food imports have increased. Nepal’s import of agriculture products soared to $2.1 billion in Fiscal Year 2021/22 (Department of Customs). Challenges such as limited infrastructure, small farming areas, and constrained access to markets have impacted productivity.

To address these challenges, UNDP has been implementing two projects since 2018: the Cooperative Market Development Programme (CMDP), funded by the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation (MoLMCPA), and the Value Chain Development of Fruits and Vegetables Project (VCDP) funded by KOICA. These projects aim to improve the productivity and income of smallholder farmers.

In 2022, these projects helped over 39,000 smallholder farmers (53% of whom are women) to improve their access to technology, agriculture inputs and markets through provision of vegetable collection centres, cold storage, post-harvest management and transportation support. Among them, over 15,000 agriculture cooperative members gained capacities in cooperative management, marketing and developing business plans. The final evaluation of VCDP confirmed a 16% and 28% increase in the production of fruits and vegetables respectively, compared to 2019, and a 15% increase in farmers’ income compared to 2018 in 36 municipalities. They sold a magnificent 60,000 tons of fruits and vegetables in 2022.

With CMDP support, a cooperative market network was established, which led to significant improvements in farmer income and market access.

In 2022, to aid the recovery of Nepal’s tourism industry impacted by the global pandemic, UNDP in partnership with Nepal Tourism Board constructed 76 small-scale infrastructures, including foot trails and parks, providing short-term employment for 1,389 tourism workers, of which 27% were women. UNDP Nepal

Improving Farmers’ Income

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improvements in farmers’ access to market, while reducing intermediary channels that take undue benefits. Spread across four tiers – national market, regional market, district market and municipal market, including collection centres – the network aims to directly benefit 50,000 cooperative members, mostly farmers.

Over 4,800 farmers received timely and onsite access to technology, information, and guidance on crop production, marketing, and post-harvest loss management through the mobilization of 460 agriculture technicians.

With the programme’s support, 36 local governments enhanced their institutional capacity in agriculture sector. All local governments prepared their agriculture annual plans to realize targets. Five of these local governments developed agricultural sectoral plans and 15 prepared and endorsed local agricultural guidelines and standards to help with agriculture planning and implementation. Three local governments have also established farmer registration and production control system which has increased the effectiveness of the service delivery, with more than 5,000 farmers registered in 2022.

Digital solutions were also introduced to promote the farmers’ access to market. Cooperatives were trained and given technology support, and 24 cooperatives installed digital price boards informing local farmers in real time of the prevailing daily wholesale prices, leading to fairer and consistent produce pricing.

In 2022, COVID-19 continued to disrupt the lives of many Nepali migrant workers living abroad. The pandemic caused a global employment loss, which led to an 8.3% decline in labour income worldwide (ILO). As a result, many migrants were unable to earn a living in expensive cities and towns overseas and had to return to their home countries.

This was a significant challenge for Nepal, as remittances from migrant workers are crucial for the country’s social and economic development. However, their return – even if only temporary – also provided an opportunity for Nepal to retain these workers and rebuild economic and market capacity.

As a response, UNDP with the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MoEST) launched a project to train and reintegrate some of these returnee migrant workers in Lumbini and Madhesh provinces. It was supported by the British Council through the EU-funded Dakchyata Project.

A total of 1,612 returning migrant workers, including 64 women and eight persons with disabilities, improved their skills and received certifications in 11 different occupations, such as aluminium fabrication, house wiring, painting, masonry, plumbing, and welding. The workers were also provided with post-training career counselling and technology support to help them start their own businesses or find employment in the local market. More than 60% of these workers are now either self-employed or working for wages.

With the project’s technical support, MoEST developed a mobile application showcasing education sector data and information. The app is expected to inform and help policymakers, planners, and local, provincial, and federal governments develop evidence-based policies, plans, and programmes for education, science and technology.
In the wake of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the tourism industry experienced one of the worst impacts. It is estimated that globally, the collapse of international travel contributed to a $1.3 trillion loss in export revenues (WTO). And in Nepal, the numbers were even worse, with a staggering 81% decline in tourists, prompting massive job losses according to Nepal Tourism Board. Nepal’s tourism sector accounts for 6.7% of the country’s GDP and is the fourth largest industry by employment, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics. After COVID-19, reviving the sector to support the country’s economic recovery remains a major challenge.

To address these challenges, UNDP and the Nepal Tourism Board launched the ‘Sustainable Tourism for Livelihood Recovery Project’ (STLRP) in December 2020. It prioritized reaching the most affected workers through short-term employment opportunities while building the capacity of tourism institutions and tourism stakeholders to accelerate recovery efforts.

In 2022, the project successfully constructed 76 small-scale infrastructures in partnership with 30 local governments, generating more than 30,000 person days of employment for around 1,400 local tourism workers, of which 27% were women. The project also provided training and certification to more than 1,400 tourism workers, of whom 40% were women. About half of the trained workers are now self-employed, with 28 women becoming homestay entrepreneurs and one receiving an international appointment. The programme leveraged more than $257,000 in parallel funding from local governments and private sector partners. The project developed a Domestic Tourism Promotion Strategy for Nepal and standardized six tourism industry level services through the development of reference books and training manuals, including on Restaurant and Bar Management, and Tour Product Development. The guidelines aim to ensure quality and minimum standards of tourism services. The project won the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award 2022 in the Tourism Destination Resilience (Asia/Pacific) category for its contribution to the revival of Nepal’s tourism sector by supporting the livelihood recovery of the most affected tourism workers during the pandemic.

Through UNDP’s support, 30 green and resilient infrastructures such as deep boring, rainwater harvesting ponds and irrigation canals, including innovative solutions such as seepage water raising technology, have been built providing short-term employment to 4,000 people. In addition, 60,000 agricultural tools and equipment supported the farmers to enhance their production and income. Over 25,000 fruit and tree saplings planted for income generation and environment conservation and flood control.

Promoting Tourism for Livelihood Recovery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People trained and provided income opportunities</th>
<th>1,400+</th>
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<tr>
<td>Small-scale tourism infrastructures constructed</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National standards on tourism professions were developed</td>
<td>6</td>
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Green Jobs for Recovery

In 2022, UNDP partnered with 16 local governments to create green jobs for more than 8,000 people through agro-forestry schemes, which benefited over 46,000 people, 71% of them women. These partnerships were made possible with parallel funding of 50% from local governments. Since 2019, the project has directly benefited over 42,000 people from marginalized communities through green jobs and income opportunities, while also transforming 303.75 hectares of degraded riverbed into green fields (187 hectares in 2023). In 2022, UNDP partnered with 16 local governments to create green jobs for more than 8,000 people through agro-forestry schemes, which benefited over 46,000 people, 71% of them women. These partnerships were made possible with parallel funding of 50% from local governments. Since 2019, the project has directly benefited over 42,000 people from marginalized communities through green jobs and income opportunities, while also transforming 303.75 hectares of degraded riverbed into green fields (187 hectares in 2023). Through UNDP’s support, 30 green and resilient infrastructures such as deep boring, rainwater harvesting ponds and irrigation canals, including innovative solutions such as seepage water raising technology, have been built providing short-term employment to 4,000 people. In addition, 60,000 agricultural tools and equipment supported the farmers to enhance their production and income. Over 25,000 fruit and tree saplings planted for income generation and environment conservation and flood control.

Innovative seepage water raising technology implemented by the Community Development and Advocacy Forum in Bardibas with the support of UNDP and Bardibas municipality has enabled year-round irrigation, allowing farmers to cultivate three crops per year.
Promoting development effectiveness

Foreign aid plays a crucial role in Nepal’s development. Almost one-fourth of the national annual budget in FY 2020/21 came from foreign (MoF). Ensuring effective and efficient planning, management and coordination of foreign aid has been one of the key priorities for the Ministry of Finance. UNDP’s Effective Development Financing and Coordination project, with support from UK Aid, has been supporting the Ministry in these priority areas since 2016.

In 2022, with the project support, 360 officials at provincial and local levels enhanced their knowledge and skills for effective planning and efficient resource management for development cooperation. The training continues to have a significant and positive impact on policy decisions within the ministry, helping to foster dialogue among government agencies and development partners.

Following these capacity building initiatives, government officials substantially improved their management of development cooperation projects and in optimizing resource allocation. This resulted in more focused interventions, minimized duplication of efforts, and enhanced funding utilization. Over a dozen policy research and publications carried out on international development finance contributed in evidence-based decision-making and the adoption of best practices in development finance management, promoting greater harmonization and efficacy of foreign assistance at national and provincial levels.

The Development Cooperation Report is one of the flagship publications which was prepared based on the data generated through Aid Management Information System (AMIS). This report offered transparent and efficient insights into ODA resource allocation and disbursement across key sectors like education, health, infrastructure, and energy. The in-depth account of development cooperation, including both ODA and INGO collaborations, has helped to improve alignment and cooperation among different actors. That alignment led to the identification of potential synergies, elimination of duplication, and recognition of funding gaps and areas requiring increased support. Consequently, the government and its partners are able to make more informed resource allocation decisions.

Increased transparency and data-driven decision-making has also resulted in more effective development interventions in Nepal that are better aligned with the country’s national priorities, such as the SDGs and the National Development Plan.

With UNDP’s support, the Ministry of Finance studied the capitalization of green finance for Nepal. This is expected to help the country maximize the evolving situation of global development and available climate financing windows. The report suggested exploiting new forms of finance, including blended finance, public-private partnerships, private philanthropies and co-financing, among others, and work with development partners for new forms of support mechanisms such as dedicated funds for LDC graduated countries, disaster insurance, and technology transfer mechanisms.

With the project support, MoF monitored at least 26 development projects being supported by bilateral and multilateral development partners. It helped to take stock of progress and obtain updates on major issues. And it helped to resolve issues faced by the project to ensure timely implementation.
Nepal is one of the United Nations’ 193 member countries to commit to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Despite some progress, these goals are yet to be fully attained in all tiers of Nepal’s government and public spheres. Work towards achieving these goals needs to be accelerated. Government bodies must make their plans and budgets SDG-responsive, productive, and functional. SDG implementation also requires investments and innovative financing.

In 2022, national capacities and policy environment for SDG acceleration was further strengthened through the support in the development of key policy documents, including the National Human Resource Plan, provincial level climate change financing framework, and a national LDC graduation strategy and related policy action matrix. The policy documents are expected to be instrumental in guiding the government’s policies and programmes to ensure sustainable LDC graduation and SDG localization. Revision of SDG indicators reduced a long list of 479 national indicators to 304 and identified 90 indicators as high priority, allowing further focus in SDG implementation and monitoring. The LDC graduation strategy, once finalized, will help Nepal to prepare for graduation by devising further sectoral policies to minimize and address the possible negative impacts of the withdrawal of concessions and subsidies for which Nepal will no longer be eligible after graduation. The National Human Resource Plan will guide sectoral policies to cater to the demand and supply of skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled labour. Provincial and local governments have enhanced knowledge and capacity to integrate SDGs into their planning, budgeting, and reporting process.

Over 1,500 officials (including 100 women) from all 753 local governments were trained in SDG-aligned planning, budgeting, monitoring and reporting on the National Data Profile (NDP). Resource allocation processes of the seven provincial governments were digitalized and systematized through roll-out of the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). As a result of joint UN support (UNDP, UNCDF, UN Women) for SDG financing, the resource books for SDG budget coding and MTEF preparation to local governments and provinces were formulated, and more than 1,500 provincial and local government officials were trained on them. Five provincial administrations and 14 municipalities prepared their medium-term expenditure framework as model frameworks.

Through tailored advanced training in coordination with the National Planning Commission, over 80 civil servants (10 of them women) of various government ministries enhanced their knowledge and understanding on macroeconomic policy formulation and analysis, and SDG responsive monitoring and evaluation system. Two important studies were carried out on ‘Status of Gender and Sexual Minorities in Nepal’ and ‘Mechanism of Inclusion of Marginalized Population in Social Development Process for SDG Localization’. The study on gender and sexual minorities focused on different challenges faced by the LGBTIQA+ community in Nepal, highlighting gaps in their inclusion in Nepal’s policies and their absence in policy-making processes. The second research highlighted mechanisms to include marginalized populations in the social development processes and analysed the factors that hinder their participation. The study also recommends policy measures to promote meaningful engagement and ways to enhance their participation and ownership in development processes.
On a hot September day, Brij Kishor Raut Chaurasiya was working on cutting out an aluminum frame for a window. Despite the heat, Chaurasiya was very energetic and proudly displayed the window frame he had built himself out of aluminum.

“I feel proud to be doing something useful in my homeland,” said 42-year-old Chaurasiya. Just a few year ago, Chaurasiya and his cousin were working at a restaurant in Malaysia when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. The restaurant closed down and both of them lost their jobs. Things only got worse when Chaurasiya’s cousin contracted COVID-19. Due to a lack of health care and support, Chaurasiya’s cousin subsequently lost his life, leaving Chaurasiya devastated.

“When my cousin brother died of COVID-19 and I was jobless, there was no one to help us even bring back the dead body to Nepal,” said a tearful Chaurasiya, recalling those difficult times. “I couldn’t even perform his last rites.”

Chaurasiya returned home to Parsa in Madhesh Province in 2021 but he did not have much to do until he got an opportunity to join a skills training programme. He has completed an aluminum fabricator training programme organised by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and UNDP’s “Enhancing Returnee Migrant Workers’ programme” funded by the European Union’s ‘Dachyata’ programme under The British Council in Nepal. The programme provides reskilling/upskilling and post-training support in high-demand skills including plumbing, building electrician, community livestock and chef and helps engage the trained people in gainful employment. Special priority is given to returnee migrants, especially disadvantaged and Dalits like Chaurasiya to ensure a smooth transition to employment and successful integration into their own communities and local markets.

“I have learned the basics of aluminum fabrication and with this skill, I am confident that I can start my own business and provide employment opportunities to my friends who are in need,” said 42-year-old Chaurasiya.

Chaurasiya is one of the 1,612 returnee migrant workers who received training and certification. UNDP’s initial study shows 68% of them are either currently employed or engaged in self-employment.
Having conducted two rounds of elections to the federal, provincial, and local governments in 2017 and 2022, Nepal has gained solid experience and made substantive progress in implementing federalism as envisaged by the 2015 Constitution. Still, a great deal remains to be done to transform and strengthen the existing institutions and promote service-oriented public administration at all three tiers of government. The provincial and local governments are actively striving to enhance their ability to carry out their duties – in terms of accountability, transparency, inclusion and service delivery – with greater efficiency.

**Fostering Democratic Governance**

- **Women’s representation**: 34% in Federal Parliament (ECN 2022), 36% in Provincial Assembly (ECN 2022), 41% in Local Government (ECN 2022)
- **Representation of Dalits in Parliament**: 1% (ECN 2022)
- **Cases registered**: 21,000 cases registered in 230 Judicial Committees of which 60% settled in FY 2021-2022 (A2J/UNDP 2022)
- **Press freedom**: Nepal ranks 76th out of 180 countries in press freedom (RSF 2022)
- **Corruption Perceptions Index**: Nepal ranks at 110 in Transparency International’s 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index (TI 2022)
- **Voter turnout**: 61% voter turnout in 2022 general elections (ECN 2022)
- **Corruption complaints**: 24,000 corruption complaints lodged at CIAA in FY 2021-22, of which 70% were settled (CIAA)
- **Legal aid awareness**: 52% of citizens are unaware of free legal aid services (A2J/UNDP 2022)
- **Artists stage “Three Transit,” a gripping drama showcasing the choices faced by Nepali youth compelled to seek employment abroad, motivating them to stay back and engage in elections for a brighter future. @ UNDP Nepal

*Artists stage “Three Transit,” a gripping drama showcasing the choices faced by Nepali youth compelled to seek employment abroad, motivating them to stay back and engage in elections for a brighter future. © UNDP Nepal*
Based on the needs and priorities expressed by the Government of Nepal, UNDP has been assisting to build stronger institutions, strengthen oversight bodies of the government and create impartial spaces for dialogue. This is aimed at bringing effective and equitable delivery of services to people and enhancing the rule of law and human rights.

This includes supporting the building of strong democratic institutions such as the Parliament, the National Human Rights Commission, Office of the Attorney General, and Election Commission, which provide mechanisms for citizens to participate in the political process, hold leaders accountable, and protect rights and freedoms.

In 2022, UNDP supported parliamentary outreach and civic engagement, with special priority to women parliamentarians and parliamentarians representing marginalized groups, through training, technology support, interaction with the general public and minority groups. Major headways were made in promoting accountability through digitization of complaint handling in Karnali and Sudurpaschim, improving voter education during local and general elections, and in advancing access to justice through provision of free aid.
Since the establishment of federalism in the country, Nepal has made continued efforts to introduce and institutionalize the political system as envisioned by the Constitution. Despite notable accomplishments, elected institutions at federal, province and local levels face numerous challenges to meet people’s expectations due to limited resources and capacities. Responding to the needs of these new institutions, UNDP introduced the Parliament Support Project (PSP) in 2018. The project builds on, and is a continuity of, earlier support to participatory constitution building, active since 2008.

In 2022, UNDP extended its support in law-making and post-legislative scrutiny, representational role, parliament oversight through direct engagement with parliamentary committees, and facilitating parliament outreach and openness. The House of Representatives endorsed the Bill to Amend Some Acts on Criminal Offences and Criminal Procedures, with UNDP contributing to the drafting and review process. The bill aims to help strengthen the rule of law, prevent GBV, and enhance social accountability. Parliamentary committees furthered the legislative reform process, including by adopting an approach to assess and conduct post-scrutiny of laws related to, for instance, untouchability and domestic violence.

Over 50 policies, laws, and strategies facilitating the implementation of the Constitution were drafted or reviewed, identifying major gaps to be addressed in line with the Constitution. Pending Cabinet endorsement, these laws will significantly impact progress towards inclusive governance, service delivery, and public sector reform. A post-legislative review of the Domestic Violence (Prohibition and Punishment) Act led to a parliamentary directive recommending the government to make the act victim-centric by incorporating new definitions of domestic relation, mental and sexual torture, and provisioning of trained psychosocial counsellors at Nepal Police Offices. A similar post-legislative scrutiny on the Caste-based Discrimination and Untouchability Act led the government to establish a Dalit cell in all 77 districts in 2022.

An online course on law-drafting process, coupled with a step-by-step guideline was developed and made publicly available. UNDP contributed to these results through its long-standing capacity development and technical support to the federal parliament.

The specialized training provided to the secretariat staff, including verbatim management, library management, website management, and virtual conferencing, has played a significant role in advancing digitization in the parliament’s secretariats. Karnali Province Assembly improved its internal documentation and digitization systems as a result of UNDP’s assistance in developing e-legislation software.
Assisting the Election Commission

UNDP has supported Nepal’s efforts to promote free, fair, inclusive, and credible elections since as early as 2008. Over the last four years, the Election Commission was supported in the drafting and implementation of four critical policies to ensure inclusive election management, effective utilization of social media and communication, efficient human resource management, and voter education.

In 2022, the Election Commission (ECN) demonstrated increased capacity to conduct peaceful, democratic elections, including at the local level in May, and the federal and provincial levels in November. Women secured 41% of positions at local level, 36% at provincial level, and 34% at federal level, with marginal improvements compared to the 2017 elections. Peaceful conduct of the second democratic elections for all three levels of government is a key building piece for implementation of inclusive, democratic, accountable, and transparent institutions in the federal structure, among the major ambitions of the Constitution and a high priority for UN support.

UNDP has provided long–standing capacity development support to ECN since 2008, significantly contributing to its capacity to conduct elections independently. Elderly, people with disabilities and lactating mothers were able to participate in election due to accessible election booths, in line with GESI policy. While voter turnout was slightly lower than expected, a total of 22.4 million people cast their votes, including 11.35 million in the local elections (64% turnout) and 11.04 million in the federal/provincial elections (61%).

Civic engagement and participation of youth, women and vulnerable groups was further increased at all levels. With UNDP support, more than 3.5 million people were reached with election information and voter education messages, including through radio, TV, public service announcements, social media, and direct engagement, including with social media influencers. Among them, over 12,000 people, 40% of them women, from marginalized groups, including youth, Dalits, and persons with disabilities, gained a better understanding of voting procedures from voter education programmes, conducted in partnership with civil society organizations, enabling their informed participation in elections, many for the first time.

To further amplify the voter education campaign, the Election Commission’s call centre, developed with UNDP support in 2015, was brought into operation during the elections, enabling voters to connect directly with the Commission.

The Commission took special measures to ensure the participation of people with special needs, including senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Developed with UNDP support, the training manuals for Electoral Focal Persons also came in handy in encouraging the participation of women, senior citizens and people with special needs while also tackling misinformation and disinformation during elections.

Protecting Human Rights

A strong and independent national human rights institution bridges the protection gap between the rights of individuals and the responsibilities of the state by monitoring the human rights situation in the country and the actions of the state. In addition, the oversight bodies do have advisory, promotion and partnership mandates to look after human rights in a holistic manner. The National Human Rights Commission functions in that watchdog role, together with a number of other thematic and issue-wise constitutional commissions. UNDP has supported the Commission since 2002 to effectively fulfil its mandate to protect and promote human rights in Nepal.

Nepal has implemented all 152 of the accepted recommendations (out of 195) from the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2015. In 2022, the government accepted 196 out of 233 third cycle UPR recommendations, following the implementation of the Post-UPR Strategy, with UNDP support, to steer the effective implementation, coordination, information management, and reporting. With the UN’s continued advocacy and support, amendments to the law related to sexual violence were made, increasing the statute of limitation for reporting rape cases from one to two years for adults. For minors, a case can be filed within three years after a child turns 18 years. However, complete removal of the statute of limitations in cases of rape is yet to be achieved.

The NHRC enhanced its institutional capacity to resolve cases of human rights’ violations, with 91 cases resolved in 2022, out of 101 registered, and the investigations completed an additional 503 cases. This was a result of UNDP’s support to mobilize 214 monitoring officers in all seven provinces. The Commission further strengthened its online Complaint Management and Reporting System (CMRS) by developing and implementing Standard Operating Procedures.
The Commission finalized its Strategic Plan for 2022-2026 to respond to the changed context of federalism and the implementation of the Constitution. The plan clarifies several issues, including the specific mandates of its provincial offices to work closely with subnational governments and support the law reforms required by the Constitution.

The NHRC initiated a nationwide human rights monitoring campaign, covering all 77 districts, targeting the local election, including election law review, monitoring of voter education, possible violations by political parties, and overall security. There were 47 officials deployed to conduct the monitoring, supported by UNDP. The report was shared with the Election Commission for necessary reformation aimed at improving voter education, civic engagement and representation of women and marginalized communities in candidacy.

Seven constitutional commissions, including NHRC, National Dalit Commission and National Women Commission developed a common coordination and collaboration strategy, action plan and mechanism to further increase the effectiveness of their recommendations. The strategy has already helped to carry out more than 40 joint missions to monitor the election from a human rights perspective.

NHRC staff, officials from federal, provincial and branch offices and other thematic commissions enhanced their knowledge and skills on gender equality, non-discrimination, diversity and inclusion policy through a series of orientations. This training not just helped to promote inclusion in the commissions’ work and create a gender-friendly environment within the offices but also led the Commission to recommend the Election Commission to increase voter education outreach and adopt ways to promote gender equality and social inclusion in elections.

The Commission finalized the draft of Human Rights Defender’s law as a standard framework to enhance and strengthen the capacity of HR defenders. Prepared through a series of consultations facilitated by UNDP, the law is now in the process of endorsement.

Business and Human Rights

The Government of Nepal has drafted a first-of-its-kind plan of action on business and human rights, which seeks to promote and safeguard human rights through private sector involvement in their business practices. And more importantly the action plan aims to ensure responsible business in the country.

This draft plan is currently being refined in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders. As part of this initiative and as well as assisting with the draft plan, UNDP provided training to more than 100 private sector representatives. It also published four knowledge products including on human rights due diligence, and United Nations Guiding Principles of Business and Human Rights, to help unpack the concept of business and human rights to a Nepali audience.

Free legal aid is a crucial component in ensuring equitable access to justice for all, especially for marginalized communities such as women, Dalit, persons with disabilities, LGBTI+, senior citizens, and others. Nepal’s Constitution guarantees free legal aid as a fundamental right, but marginalized communities still face challenges in accessing justice and legal remedies. Barriers, including capacity gaps, weak law implementation, limited awareness of legal rights, and reluctance to seek formal justice, hinder access to justice.

To overcome these challenges, UNDP has been supporting the government since 2015 to build stronger institutions and effective policies that help deliver equal access to justice for all. In 2022, UNDP, with funding support from Norway, supported justice sector institutions to improve systems and procedures for enhanced access to justice in line with the constitution. The Legal Aid Bill, together with an integrated Legal Aid Policy was finalized and is pending Cabinet approval, following consultations with a wide range of stakeholders. Once endorsed, it will ensure the fundamental right of free legal aid to all.

More than 6,400 people, 63% of them women, accessed free remedial legal aid services, and 24,000 people, 68% of them women, enhanced their awareness of available legal aid services and procedures, all achieved through UNDP’s collaboration with federal and district legal aid committees and civil society organizations. Similarly, 1,802 people, including 418 women, benefited from legal assistance and counselling on vital registration and legal aid for equal access to justice
counselling on issues related to family disputes through mobilization of 218 law students and law interns in three provinces. The interns and law students, mostly women and from marginalized groups, were empowered on practical knowledge of lawyering, skills on drafting, litigation, human rights, gender equality and social inclusion. As a result, 25 interns entered the legal profession and are now practicing. The project has digitized the grievance handling system at Karnali and Sudurpashchim provinces. The grievance handling system at Karnali Province Government, Hamra Harma Mukyamantri, received 485 grievances, of which 64 were resolved. Notably, among 485 grievances, 129 grievances were from the Dalit community.

The project helped improve Judicial Committee (JC) efficiency, as evidenced by a 2022 UNDP study showing a positive trend. Over two years, 21,314 cases were registered in 230 municipalities, with a notable resolution rate of 59.62%. Since 2018, UNDP has been building the capacity of JC members in dispute resolution. In 2022, 546 JC officials, including 181 women, received training, resulting in the development and implementation of standardized procedures and a case management system for effective dispute resolution.

Nepal has a predominantly young population, with around 40% of people aged between 16 and 40 years. Despite this, representation of young people in decision-making processes at all levels of the government has been low. To address this issue, UNDP has been promoting youth-friendly local governance (YFLG) initiatives, which encourage the active participation of young individuals in decision-making processes.

In 2022, three local governments institutionalized YFLG to promote youth engagement in local development processes. UNDP, in collaboration with National Youth Council and UNICEF, initiated a national campaign that formalized the involvement of youth in policy-making, programming, implementation, and monitoring in seven local governments across the country. The YFLG framework contains 46 indicators and seven strategies in line with the National Youth Policy. Local governments must achieve at least 80% of these indicators to be designated as youth-friendly.

As part of the campaign, over 230 youth representatives of local governments were trained on youth-friendly local governance, following a new national guideline and training manual on YFLG. The seven local governments are expected to transform themselves as youth-friendly governments by 2027.

In 2022, UNDP also launched a campaign, Hariyo Pusta, to drive youth-led climate action across the country. The campaign directly reached and engaged over 1,300 students from 21 schools and formed 21 eco-clubs, planted over 500 trees, organized cycle rallies and interactions to advocate for green habits.
Promoting Inclusive Federalism

Nepal has made significant strides in institutionalizing inclusive federalism as envisioned by the 2015 Constitution, which ensures equal rights and participation for all segments of society. However, key provincial and local institutions still face capacity gaps in terms of laws and policies, procedures, and intergovernmental coordination.

To address these challenges, the government, with UNDP as a technical assistance provider, has been implementing its flagship programme, the Provincial and Local Governance Support Programme (PLGSP). It helps address policy and capacity gaps and strengthen intergovernmental mechanisms across three tiers of government.

With PLGSP support, the provincial and local governments increasingly have systems, procedures, and capacities in place to effectively implement constitutional mandates and deliver inclusive services. While much remains to be done to ensure fully inclusive, transparent, and accountable subnational governments, progress was made in 2022, including most notably through the successful completion of provincial and local elections.

More than 23,000 newly elected local government representatives, of whom 20% were women, enhanced understanding of planning, programming, procurement, and service delivery through trainings developed with UNDP's support. 753 local governments enhanced financial management systems and compiled income and expenditure estimations, budget approvals, and treasury operations in the online budgeting and reporting system, developed through UNDP technical assistance to the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA). Five local governance guidelines related to fiduciary risk management, community mobilization, ward office operationalization, internal control systems and capacity development were developed and rolled out to enhance institutional local governments' capacities for inclusive service delivery. Two provinces endorsed codes of conduct against sexual abuse and harassment. 20 local governments developed capacity development plans, building on a model plan prepared through UNDP support.

UNDP provided technical support to MoFAGA for roll-out of Local Institution Self-Assessment (LISA) and, by 2022, it has been rolled out in 700 local governments. Four key laws/guidelines, including a resource book on fiduciary risk management for local governments, a guideline on community mobilization for economic empowerment, a handbook for ward office operationalization, and a Special Area Protection Act (Bises Samrachhit wa Swayatta Chhetra Bidhayak) were provided to provincial and local governments to adopt and use. The Personal Information System was upgraded with two subsystems, including a personal information system for provincial government and one for Anya Sewa (other services) and handed over to Nijamati Kitabkhana following orientation on its use.

As an important technical assistance partner in PLGSP, UNDP also implements two model projects in Karnali Province — the European Union Support to Inclusive Federalism (EUSIF) and the Local Infrastructure Support Programme (LISP). The latter promotes more inclusive and sustainable local development, transparency, and accountability.

In 2022, the EUSIF supported enhancing capacity of the Provincial Centre for Good Governance (PCGG). It helped create an inclusive pool of 32 local trainers, including eight women and seven Dalits, on local economic development to be deployed under PCGG. It also helped set up a system to select trainers following a competitive, transparent and inclusive process. And through PLGSP, UNDP supported a comprehensive study on the overall needs of the PCGG in all provinces. The report has become a reference material for the government.

LISP supports capacity development for 15 of 79 local governments in Karnali, focusing on planning, execution and management of resilient, inclusive and sustainable local infrastructure. In 2022, the UNDP programme contributed to a 20% improvement in service delivery, transparency, and accountability across 15 local governments in the province, according to a survey carried out by the project. This was achieved by deploying 16 planning and capacity development experts to each government and training over 400 elected representatives and civil servants on climate-resilient infrastructure and accountability.

Karnali Province initiated Inclusive Basic Service Delivery Mapping in 23 local administrations to identify institutional and capacity gaps in service delivery and best practices for replication.
Empowering Communities through Grievance Handling

In Rajigaun, a remote village in Chaukune Rural Municipality, Surkhet, 45 households had been facing an ongoing water shortage. With just one communal water tap, they faced daily hardships, often resorting to fetching water from a nearby river. However, a glimmer of hope emerged when Prem B. Raji lodged a complaint at the grievance handling mechanism “Hamra Kura Hamra Mukhya Mantri.”

In a swift response, the Chief Minister’s Office contacted the Municipality, demanding a response within three days. The municipality replied within the deadline, assuring that a budget had been allocated to address the water shortage, guaranteeing implementation within the current fiscal year.

Prem received a call from Chief Minister’s office delivering the encouraging news. Grateful, he thanked the grievance handling process, witnessing firsthand how it led to concrete action.

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When a devastating flood swept through Barahatal Rural Municipality, Ward No. 4, Chhepang, Surkhet, it left destruction in its wake—roads, drinking water sources, houses, and livestock were washed away. Mrs. Rama, a survivor, remembered the information she had received about the grievance handling mechanism of Karnali Province, “Hamra Kura Hamra Mukhya Mantri.”

She quickly reached out through the hotline number, sharing the challenges her community faced. The response was swift and decisive. The Barahatal Rural Municipality promptly provided tents and essential supplies, ensuring the community had a safe place to stay and access to food and drinking water.

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The Karnali province hospital, a major healthcare facility in the region, serves over 80,000 patients annually. During a visit, Ratan (name changed), an aware senior citizen encountered a slippery passage leading to the billing counter, witnessing another senior citizen’s fall. Unable to find hospital management, he utilized the grievance handling mechanism to report the issue. His complaint finally led to the remodeling of the passage with non-slippery material. This improvement has made it safer for patients to walk, reducing the risk of accidents.

So far, 331 out of 519 registered grievances (64%) have been successfully resolved, showing that “Hamra Kura Hamra Mukhya Mantri” is becoming the voice of the voiceless in Karnali province. Karnali Province is one of the three offices where grievance handling has been digitized with the support of UNDP.
Nepal is one of the world’s most climate-vulnerable countries, with ever increasing risks of floods, landslides, glacial lake outbursts and droughts. The country is located in a highly active seismic zone. Nearly 80% of its 30 million population is directly exposed to these hazards (MoHA 2017). Threats to livelihoods and environmental security loom large, especially for poor and marginalized groups and key sectors and infrastructure, such as hydropower and agriculture.

To address these challenges, UNDP has worked closely with the Government of Nepal to enhance institutional capacities and drive policies and actions that focus on climate change adaptation, mitigation, reduction of disaster-related risks, and increasing the resilience of infrastructure, livelihoods, biodiversity, and ecosystems conservation. This has been achieved by mobilizing domestic financing and accessing international climate finance.
In 2022, Nepal's environmental management, sustainable recovery and reconstruction and resilience to climate change and disaster continued to be strengthened at all levels. Building on ongoing work, the federal government enhanced its systems and procedures for integrating climate risk and adaptation measures across sectors.

The Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE) finalized its NDC Implementation Plan and organized a series of events to celebrate the International Year of Mountains, culminating in the Mustang Declaration outlining Nepal's reaffirmed commitment to the Sustainable Mountain Agenda, and Nepal's high-level contribution to the adoption of a UN General Assembly Resolution on Sustainable Mountain Development. Nepal's advocacy at COP27 also contributed to the historic establishment of a Loss and Damage Fund. Both the National Climate Change Financing Framework (CCFFs) and implementation of UNFCCC status were reviewed. All seven provinces prepared climate-responsive budgets, and three provinces finalized their respective CCFFs, as a result of UNDP’s support to the National Planning Commission. Important milestones were achieved in advancing climate action in the areas of increasing people’s access to clean energy, waste management, research, and policy advocacy. UNDP continued to inform policies through over a dozen in-depth research and policy dialogues on green financing, resilient cities and infrastructure and harmful agriculture subsidies.

Enhancing Preparedness for Disasters

Every year, Nepal pays the price for disasters through loss of human life and damage to properties. Disasters claim an average of 647 people every year, with property loss worth $21 million (Nepal Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Report 2021). In 2022, Nepal recorded over 35,000 disaster-related incidents such as landslides, floods, wildfire, debris flows and lightning (MoHA). Everyone vividly remembers the earthquakes of 2015 in Gorkha, and more recently the Doti earthquakes of 2022.

While such disasters cannot be averted, the damage they inflict can be controlled and lives can be saved.

Since 2021, UNDP’s Strengthening Urban Preparedness, Earthquake Preparedness and Response in Western Regions of Nepal (SUPER) project, funded by European Union Humanitarian Aid has been helping the provincial and local governments in Lumbini, Karnali and Sudurpaschim to build their earthquake resilience. SUPER is implemented by a UNDP-led consortium, which includes UNICEF and UN Women.

In 2022, the capacities of provincial, and local level Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs) were further strengthened to ensure effective communication, information management, and coordination related to disaster risks. This comes as a result of UNDP’s long-standing support, including through capacity development, provision of necessary IT equipment, pre-positioning of search and rescue equipment, mapping of at-risk wards and critical infrastructure, and community awareness-raising in two provinces and three local government EOCs.

The capacities of four UNDP-supported EOCs in Karnali and Sudurpaschim Province to facilitate effective disaster response were tested during the devastating monsoon floods and the magnitude 6.6 earthquake in Doti in November. In its aftermath, technical support was extended to two provincial governments to facilitate emergency meetings with provincial ministers and coordination meetings with cluster co-leads. Regular information sharing was facilitated through Provincial EOC of Sudurpaschim Province including preparation of situational reports.
Disaster risk reporting was further digitalized through the capacity development of government officials and roll-out of the Building Information Platform Against Disaster (BIPAD), jointly developed by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) and UNDP. Provincial Preparedness and Response Plans for two provinces were also endorsed. Development of daily situation reports was increasingly institutionalized and cluster coordination strengthened through the development of Provincial Disaster Response Framework of three provinces, which is ongoing. This was supported by UNDP by embedding two Information Management Officers (IMOs) in Provinces and three IMOs in Municipal Emergency Operations Centres. Four cluster-specific capacity assessment and stakeholder mappings were undertaken to understand cluster-specific preparedness to earthquake and urban risks and coordination for humanitarian response.

Provincial and urban disaster preparedness was enhanced in three provinces and four municipalities by conducting earthquake impact modelling. Baseline simulations for two provinces and four municipalities were undertaken to take stock of disaster preparedness while rapid vulnerability assessments, disaster risk mappings, and related capacities and resources were enhanced in six wards through GIS mapping exercises, resulting in the preparation of 12 maps for wards at high risk of multiple hazards.

With SUPER’s support, more than 7,200 people, 46% of them women, enhanced their capacities through training in household firefighting, first-aid, search and rescue, and training for electricians, as well as by inclusive policy formulation dialogues.

In recent years, Nepal has taken significant strides in providing access to electricity, with 95% of its population now having access to this essential commodity (MoF). But most households still rely on traditional biomass energy for cooking, and electricity is primarily used for lighting and low-power appliances. While there has been progress in disseminating off-grid renewable energy systems, the high upfront costs, financial sustainability, and lack of technical capacity have constrained progress.

UNDP’s Renewable Energy for Rural Livelihood (RERL) project supports the government in promoting community-scale off-grid renewable energy technologies for both domestic use and income generation activities. A significant milestone in 2022 was grid interconnection of two mini hydropower projects (MHPs). The 500kW Middle Phawa Khola MHP in Taplejung and 200kW Srijan Khola MHP in Jumla were connected with the national grid, providing stable power supply to 1,810 rural households (8,000+ people) and financial stability to the power plants. In the first month of commercial operation, the Middle Phewa Khola MHP exported about $120,000/kWh, generating over $4,300. The plant is expected to generate an annual revenue of over $150,000. The interconnection also benefits the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), the national utility, by improving reliability and quality of electricity in its distribution systems.

UNDP played a crucial role in drafting technical specifications for the interconnection of mini/micro hydro plants agreed by NEA and the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC), the national apex agency mandated to promote renewable energy in the country, and successful interconnection of eight micro and mini hydro plants, with a total capacity of around 1.6 MW in the last three years. These plants have powered over 13,000 rural homes, benefiting over 60,000 people. Based on the success of these interconnections, NEA simplified the mechanism under ‘net metering’ to interconnect hydropower plants up to 1MW capacity. These are exporting surplus electricity to the NEA grid system.

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The project is also supporting rural entrepreneurs to utilize at least 20% of the installed capacity of all Asian Development Bank and government-funded renewable energy projects under the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Project Off-Grid Component. So far, 380 enterprises, of which 165 are women-led, have been established. These enterprises provide employment to 561 people, of whom 46% are women. The project support includes
business opportunity assessment, business plan preparation, identification and procurement of appropriate equipment, skill development, training on book-keeping and financial management, access to finance, and other necessary services.

The project has also encouraged women to participate in regular saving and credit activities for meaningful participation in the management of energy projects and the optimization of benefits from access to electricity. As of December 2022, 257 saving and credit groups were in operation with 4,831 members, of whom 93% are women, and 33% are from other marginalized groups. These groups have so far saved $200,000, which is provided as credit to members to invest in income-generating activities. The total credit flow, including rollover, is $226,000 and over 90% of the borrowers are women and have invested mainly in vegetable farming, poultry, goat and pig rearing.

UNDP has supported Nepal in promoting access to energy since the 1990s. Over 600,000 Nepalis in remote areas have gained access to renewable energy with the generation of over 11 megawatts of off-grid electricity since 1998.

Improving Waste Management

Waste management is a pressing issue that challenges many countries. Nepal is no exception. The country generates approximately 4,900 tons of urban municipal waste daily, of which 56% is organic and 13% is plastic (World Bank, 2020). Notably, a UNDP study in 2020 showed that three out of four municipalities still do not segregate the plastic waste before they reach disposal areas and 50% of the municipalities practice open dumping, which poses risks to environmental and human health. Against that backdrop, UNDP has been working closely with federal ministries and departments, as well as provincial and local governments, to support them in managing municipal solid waste and healthcare waste.

In 2022, UNDP successfully completed establishment of sustainable waste management system in five municipalities and seven provincial/regional hospitals. The municipalities developed strategic Green Recovery Plans, prioritizing a wholistic approach to municipal waste management along with the establishment of waste collection and segregation/processing units and opportunities for green jobs through composting and commercial organic farming.

This resulted in the creation of short-term employment as waste collectors for 190 people (including 117 women) who earned a total of $140,000 from short-term jobs in waste picking and segregation. Skills training on vermicomposting directly benefited over 1,300 households, with 32% of them starting to earn through the sale of compost.
Supporting Nepal’s Climate Ambition

Nepal is one of the world’s most climate-vulnerable countries due to its fragile geography, climate-sensitive livelihoods of the people, and weak adaptive capacity. Despite the country’s minimal emissions, Nepal is committed to fulfill its climate change targets under the Paris Agreement. The attempts to limit the world average temperature rise to 1.5°C would result in much lower risks for Nepal.

UNDP is assisting Nepal in its effort to adopt a low-carbon resilient development approach built on a green recovery strategy. In 2022, the Government, with UNDP’s support, finalized the plan to implement the nationally determined contributions, which details the country’s commitment under the Paris Agreement. The plan identifies key milestones, measurement indicators and resources, while also bringing clarity to the roles and responsibilities of federal, provincial, and local governments, line agencies and stakeholders to attain net-zero emissions on a sustainable basis by 2045.

Two crucial policy documents that support Nepal’s climate ambition: the Study on Policy Options for the Green Recovery of the Community-Based Forestry Sector in the Post-COVID-19 Situation in Nepal and the Policy for Green Recovery in Economics, Forest Management, and Institutional Development, were prepared with UNDP’s support.

Nepal initiated the Climate Youth Catalyst to build leadership and the technical capacities of 20 Nepali youth per year (of whom 50% were women) in 10 local governments and enhance their network to act as climate catalyst to lead effective policy advocacy, identify green solutions and scale-up climate actions.

Building Climate-Resilient Livelihoods

Mountainous communities living in watershed areas in the Himalayan region, particularly communities whose livelihoods are directly connected with the environment and climate, are among the most vulnerable populations to erratic weather patterns and global warming.

UNDP’s Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal Project, funded by the Global Environment Facility, focuses on safeguarding these vulnerable communities and their assets from climate change-induced disasters. The project helps strengthen the functional integrity of the pilot watershed in two districts through multiple activities, including capturing the policy, institutional knowledge gaps, and adoption of new tools and techniques.

A long-term solution to the climate change problem is to rehabilitate and maintain the functional integrity of watersheds that have critical functions of water storage and release, infiltration, drainage control with due emphasis on resilient livelihood development.

In that respect, 10 key integrated watershed management policies and frameworks were formulated, addressing the nexus of soil, water, vegetation, and food. These policies have systematized watershed management in the local governments in Okhaldhunga and Khotang. The formulation of these policies has led to the introduction of integrated watershed management practices, benefiting 121,000 vulnerable people.

About 52,000 people (51% women) have directly benefited from ecosystem services by promotion of nature-based solutions facilitating watershed restoration and rehabilitation, plantations and water use and reuse systems. They have irrigated 215.73 hectares of agricultural land. Under this initiative, 261 traditional water sources were protected, 15 km of contour trench constructed, 121,000 non-timber forest product seedlings planted. The project also initiated conservation farming in about 300 hectares of private land.

Further, 4,300 people, half of them women, enhanced their capacities in, and knowledge of, nature conservation, forestry, sustainable farming, and watershed management through tailored training. As a result, 31 community forest operation plans were developed, enabling greater integration of climate-responsive watershed management practices and solutions.
Biodiversity Finance Initiatives

Biodiversity loss is threatening the benefits nature provides to people around the world. And still, expenditure on biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization is largely insufficient. While $672 million was proposed for the six years of Nepal’s National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan period (2014-2020), the preliminary report on Biodiversity Finance Gap Analysis of Nepal suggests that a total programmatic expenditure over the period was $171 million at 2014 constant price, resulting in a total finance gap of $501 million.

The project collaborated with the Ministry of Industries, Tourism, Forests and Environment of Sudurpaschim Province in implementing a prioritized finance solution focusing on integrating biodiversity and finance in the community forests in the province. Guidelines for integrating biodiversity and finance in community forestry have been drafted, and will be piloted in 50 forest user groups.

Visible results were achieved with the implementation of community-led small grants projects in 2022. Three ecotourism sites were developed in Tanahun, Chhaime Gufa, Dang, and Makwanpur, with 47 homestays starting operations. This generated extra monthly income of between $80 and $120 per homestay for families in the region.

Biodiversity Finance Initiatives

Managed by UNDP, the Global Environment Facility’s Small Grants Programme has been working with local communities in Nepal since 1998 to address environmental issues. To date, the programme has funded 265 small grant projects in 54 districts, with notable results achieved in promoting ecotourism, green enterprise, and renewable energy.

In 2022, the programme awarded two new projects – one for the establishment of an upcycling centre in Pokhara, and the other to conduct policy research on plastic waste management – and implemented 16 ongoing projects linking biodiversity conservation with people’s livelihoods.

Conserving Biodiversity, Promoting Livelihoods

Visible results were achieved with the implementation of community-led small grants projects in 2022. Three ecotourism sites were developed in Tanahun, Chhaime Gufa, Dang, and Makwanpur, with 47 homestays starting operations. This generated extra monthly income of between $80 and $120 per homestay for families in the region.

Biodiversity Finance Initiatives

Managed by UNDP, the Global Environment Facility’s Small Grants Programme has been working with local communities in Nepal since 1998 to address environmental issues. To date, the programme has funded 265 small grant projects in 54 districts, with notable results achieved in promoting ecotourism, green enterprise, and renewable energy.

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Phulo Devi Raut, 39, has just harvested the first round of her vegetables that she grew in her new land, which had been a desert anyone would dread visiting until a year ago.

Once landless, Phulo Devi has witnessed the remarkable impact of multi-layer farming first-hand. In Nepal’s southern plains, where poverty and flash floods ravaged the lives of many, Phulo Devi’s journey embodies the transformative power of this innovative approach.

In the first six months of farming, she reaped the rewards of her labor, earning Rs. 50,000 (US$380) from her own land. With radishes thriving, she proudly shared, “I planted sesame, turmeric, and peanuts. They are almost ready to harvest, and I hope to earn another Rs. 50,000.” Her family’s meals are now filled with fresh, nutritious vegetables, and her daughters can attend a nearby government school. Reflecting on her own experiences, Phulo Devi vows to save for her youngest daughter’s future, determined to break the cycle of child marriages that plagued her community.

Phulo Devi’s story is just one example of the profound impact of multi-layer farming. Across Nepal’s southern plains, where public riverbed lands were left unused, this climate-smart innovation has become a beacon of hope. By reclaiming degraded land and training locals in the art of multi-layer farming, communities can achieve economic stability and ecological restoration. Since 2020, UNDP in partnership with local governments, transformed over 300 hectares of degraded or flood-ravaged riverbeds into lush green multi-layer farms and orchards, providing land, dignity and stable income for over 1,800 landless or near landless households, benefiting 10,000 most vulnerable people.

The benefits are twofold: a diverse range of crops provides a steady income, while the intermingling vegetation restores vital nutrients to the soil and prevents land erosion. The success of the project implemented by the Community Development and Advocacy Forum Nepal (CDAFN) has inspired other local governments and communities across Tarai to replicate the idea.
Promoting Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

Nepal, a diverse nation encompassing multiple languages, ethnicities, cultures, and religions, faces poverty and vulnerability linked to geography, caste, gender, and ethnicity. The development challenge highlights the importance of making special efforts to promote gender equality and social inclusion.

In 2022, UNDP prioritized empowering women leaders, especially elected representatives and advocates for marginalized groups, providing unconditional temporary basic income to most vulnerable women. Collaboration with all tiers of the government, justice institutions, UN agencies, security forces, and civil society organizations enabled the integration of gender, inclusion, and disability considerations into their programs and activities.
UNDP Nepal’s continued efforts to promote gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) have resulted in significant progress across various areas. The support to the Election Commission has led to more gender-responsive and socially inclusive elections, with women securing 41.2%, 36.4%, and 33.8% of positions at the local, provincial, and federal levels, respectively. UNDP’s advocacy efforts have also contributed to amendments in laws related to sexual violence, including an increase in the statute of limitation for reporting rape cases from one to two years for adults. Additionally, the endorsement of the long-pending 2nd National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security by the Cabinet aims to address issues of conflict-affected victims of sexual violence.

UNDP supported MoFAGA to develop a guideline to implement the Innovative Partnership Fund and the Strategy on GESI. Now being used by over 400 local bodies, the strategy is effectively promoting inclusion in the planning, monitoring, and reporting in local governments.

In 2022, working alongside the government, UNDP introduced and expanded new solutions to address socio-economic vulnerability, such as provision of temporary basic income, directly benefiting 1,500 vulnerable women from marginalized groups and indirectly benefiting more than 15,000 family members and dependents through additional livelihood linkages including access to social protection. Over 60% of these women used the temporary basic income to create livelihood opportunities for themselves and their dependents by initiating agro-business and livestock farming. 20% of them were able to re-enroll and send their children to school and higher education, while 10% who were chronically ill could access health treatment.

More than 7,000 vulnerable women gained access to financial literacy through Rastra Banijya Bank and were educated on savings, expenses, investment, and banking services. With that knowledge, these women could decide on their priorities in times of crisis and make their own, informed decisions.

UNDP’s livelihood and employment creation initiatives have prioritized women’s participation, with a focus on identifying at-risk populations such as women, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities in monsoon preparedness and response plans. Gender analysis has guided planning and programming for provincial and local plans and strategies, resulting in more GESI-responsive policies, plans, and budgets. The adoption of a GESI Policy in Karnali Province aims to strengthen institutional mechanisms to integrate gender into its budgets and programmes.

In 2022, the Cabinet endorsed the second National Action Plan for the Implementation of United National Security Resolution 1325 and 1820 and its subsequent Resolutions on Women, Peace, and Security (2022-2025). The document was the result of UNDP, UN Women, and other participating UN agencies, in collaboration with the conflict victims' groups and under the leadership of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Government of Nepal. The plan covers four areas: participation; protection and prevention; relief and recovery and capacity development; resource management; and monitoring and evaluation. It further
emphasized the need for coordination and cooperation between federal, provincial and local government, development partners and other stakeholders for its effective implementation. Sudurpaschim Province endorsed the Tourism Master Plan, developed with technical and financial support of UNDP. This emphasized the need to focus on promoting women and marginalized groups and communities, linking livelihoods with tourism promotion.

In 2022, UNDP collaborated with various institutions including the National Women Commission and supported finalization of the five-year strategic plan for the Commission, the analysis of women’s participation in May 2022 Local Election. This guided the Commission’s advocacy work in support of increased representation by women and other marginalized groups in electoral processes.

Nepal’s policy and institutional mechanisms to integrate the gender-responsive NDC Implementation Plan for climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and environmental management were significantly strengthened during the year, notably through a number of high-level international processes supported by UNDP.

UNDP in collaboration with local government developed an information management system – Socio-Economic Vulnerability Information Management System – which allows municipalities to identify their vulnerable populations and respond to their special needs. The system has been piloted in two municipalities (Beri and Phutlabazar) in Gandaki Province.

In partnership with Advertisement Board, over 30 private sector representatives working in advertising were oriented on gender-responsive advertising. A social media campaign on the issue helped raise public awareness of gender-responsive ads.

A dedicated TV programme in partnership with AP1 television documented and broadcast inspirational stories of struggle and success of women leaders from across sectors including journalism, entrepreneurship, politics and civil service to an audience of over half a million. Poetry competitions at the provincial and national levels provided a platform for young poets to express their ideas on GESI. The multi-country poetry recitation increased awareness of the need for GESI across borders. The climate dialogue brought women’s voices to the forefront and led to increased understanding of the impact of climate change on gender equality. The women’s leadership programme with UNDP’s Regional Director Kanni Wignaraja inspired Nepali women leaders to champion the cause of women’s empowerment and leadership in all sectors, while the youth dialogue led to increased engagement of young people on climate action. Over 350 young women and men were engaged in these interactions.

On International Human Rights Day, UNDP partnered with the National Federation of the Disabled Nepal (NFDN) to promote and advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities in Nepal, leading to increased understanding of disability rights and the need for inclusion.
Promoting Innovation and Digitalization in Nepal

UNDP has been actively supporting innovative solutions and digitalization in Nepal as enablers to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. These initiatives target rural livelihood improvement, promote sustainable development, and enhance resilience to climate change. Presented here are some of the most promising innovations supported by UNDP in 2022, which range from low-wattage cooking technologies and eco-friendly period products to seepage water technology for agricultural resilience and contour trenches for water protection.

BIJULI DEKCHI

In Nepal’s remote villages, over 1800 micro hydro plants are providing electricity to homes and enterprises. However, despite the availability of power, productive utilization rates have remained low at an average of 20% due to inefficient technologies for productive use. While the allocated power per household is sufficient for lighting and small appliances, it is not enough for electric cooking. This means, a major section of the population is bound to use electricity only for lighting.

To address this problem, with Japan’s funding UNDP’s Renewable Energy for Rural Livelihoods (RERL) has developed a ‘low wattage’ cooking technology, Bijuli Dekchi. In 2022, RERL collaborated with Nepal Yantra Shala and Energy (NYSE) to create a 23-liter prototype called the ‘Bijuli Bucket’. The vessel can heat water from room temperature to 80°C using only 200W of power, and can do so in 4 to 5 hours. The prototype was successfully tested among beneficiaries of the Giri Khola micro hydro plant, and their response was very positive. Going ahead, UNDP plans to scale this up to enable families in remote villages to enjoy the benefits of clean cooking.

ECO-FRIENDLY PERIOD PRODUCTS

Women entrepreneurs in Chitwan have launched an innovative social enterprise “Mirai Zabdi Pad” that produces biodegradable sanitary pads providing an alternative to the traditional sanitary pads which are mostly made of plastic fibre. “As a social enterprise we aim to promote dignified menstruation as a right of women and girls. The pads we have produced are friendly from both environment and health perspectives,” said Sabitri Bhandari, a founder of the enterprise. With a production capacity of 12,000 pads per day, the technology could help save nearly 200 tonnes of plastic and 1 tonnes of chemicals in a year.

SEEPAGE WATER TECHNOLOGY FOR AGRICULTURAL RESILIENCE

Nepal’s southern plains, particularly the area downstream of the Chure hills, face acute water shortages during winter and flash floods during the monsoon. To address this challenge, UNDP Nepal supported the Community Development and Advocacy Forum Nepal to scale up the Innovative Seepage Water Raising Technology.

This technology helps utilize seepage water that seeps through the clay layer of soil underground, raising it to the surface level through a canal for irrigation purposes. By doing so, farmers can cultivate crops throughout the year, even during dry seasons, and generate higher revenue while creating short-term employment opportunities.

The technology has been implemented in two locations, covering approximately 95 hectares of land and benefiting 287 households.

CONTOUR TRENCHES FOR WATER PROTECTION

Contour Trenches for water protection are innovative, low-cost solutions introduced by UNDP in Khotang and Okhaldhunga to help reduce runoff and improve groundwater recharge. Part of a program funded by Global Environment Facility, this is expected to ease water woes in two of these driest districts of Nepal.

“We have experienced increased discharge of water sources downstream of the contour trenches. In addition, in some areas, we have already started seeing improvement in soil moisture as a result of contour trenches constructed upstream of waterharvested,” said Mr. Ramesh Kumar Raut, Deputy Mayor of Halesi Tuwachung Municipality, Khotang.

DIGITAL BANKING FOR RURAL WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Nepal in early 2020, most businesses closed, causing 3 in 5 employees to lose their jobs. UNDP responded by introducing digital literacy training in a livelihoods recovery project. Collaborating with Laxmi Bank, the project empowered over 150 women entrepreneurs with skills like using QR codes and digital transactions. RITA, with just an 8th-grade education, discovered the potential of mobile payments and now not only utilizes them but also trains others.

In Kathmandu, a local company called Project CUBES has launched a smart composting system with the support of the UNDP’s Urban Innovation Programme. The technology includes a waste bin connected with a smart app which makes use of advanced sensors (for temperature, humidity, soil moisture) to inform the user about different stages of composting and alerting required actions. The technology is designed to motivate and engage people by addressing their concerns such as lack of experience, space and time. A working prototype of Smart Composting System is now ready for scale up. “We hope to scale up this project and create jobs while also addressing one of the biggest challenges of our country, managing waste,” said Ichchha Moktan, Tech Lead, Project CUBES.

SMART COMPOSTING

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SMART COMPOSTING
Karnali Provincia Assembly, in Nepal, has adopted a web-based automation software program called e- legislation to manage its legislative business. The software has helped the secretariat staff to collaborate more efficiently and save time, as it is a platform for documenting, processing and transmitting works electronically. The software has also helped to strengthen the database management of the parliament and systematize secretarial works. This initiative has contributed to addressing the need for increased use of ICT in parliaments to enhance their efficiency and effectiveness. The secretariat staff have developed skills to use the e-legislation software. "The initiative is a significant step in the digitalization effort of the Provincial Assembly," said Upendra Gurung, Computer Officer at Karnali Provincial Assembly. "The use of software has eased in database management and availability of information in the functioning of the House."

A GIS-based Project Information Management System has been established for the Karnali Province Government. The system provides data disaggregated by location, gender and sector. It is expected to help promote evidence-based and inclusive planning and budgeting in Karnali province. Data about projects dating back to 1970 has been included. It will help to track and identify which municipality has received the least amount of funds, which has received the highest amount, what types of interventions are needed, which area is left behind and what fraction of the budget is directly contributing to gender equality. According to Oli Magar, Section Officer at the Office of Chief Minister of Karnali Province, "This system has helped us bring the state and the people closer. It helps us to reduce inequalities among populations, make equitable distribution of resources, reduce the gender gaps so that we leave no one behind."

Berin Municipality has adopted a digital tool, Socio-Economic Vulnerability Information Management System (SEVIMS), to bring efficiency in services. SEVIMS helps local governments identify vulnerable people and respond to their needs. The tool allows local governments to collect data about their people across various areas, including health, education, income, agriculture, employment, housing, accessibility to public services and infrastructures, skills, disability, etc. "This system has helped us bring the state and the people closer. It helps us to respond to vulnerable people and respond to their needs. The tool allows local governments to collect data about their people across various areas, including health, education, income, agriculture, employment, housing, accessibility to public services and infrastructures, skills, disability, etc. This system has helped us bring the state and the people closer. It helps us to reduce inequalities among populations, make equitable distribution of resources, reduce the gender gaps so that we leave no one behind," said Surek KC, Mayor of Berin Municipality.

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The Rapid Vulnerability Assessment (RVA) is an innovative tool that is being used in Nepal to assess the seismic risk to individual buildings. With EU support, UNDP/SUPER has conducted structural assessments of 4,000 buildings in Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City, Amargadhi Municipality, and Napalpur Sub-Metropolitan City. The RVA assesses the probable damage and loss that an earthquake may cause in urban areas, which helps in seismic risk informed policies and strengthens response plans. The findings from the RVA will help identify vulnerable structures and access choke points during an earthquake.
UNDP Nepal Annual Report 2022

SDG Budget Coding Resource Book in Local Level Program and Budget, 2022
This resource book lists the absolute and concurrent rights and associated functions of the local government based on schedule 8 and 9 of the Constitution of Nepal. Main activities under the jurisdiction of the local government are grouped into five major sectors and 25 sub-sectors and corresponding SDG Goal No is given to each activity for budget coding in the software. This resource book helps local government officials to understand which activity falls under which Sustainable Development Goal and assign a SDG budget code.

Review of Disaster Management-related Laws of Three-Tiers of Governments (Bagnati Province)
This knowledge product is a result of a comprehensive review of disaster-related laws enacted by the federal, provincial, and local governments in Bagnati Province. The review was carried out by State Affairs Committee of Bagmati Provincial Assembly with support from UNDP's Parliament Support Project. The book provides a wider and deeper exploration and analysis of existing laws on disaster management and related complexities on the ground of their implementation. This book also offers corresponding remedies and measures for better drafting, uniformity, and effective implementation of similar laws in the future.

A Background Policy Paper on Green Finance 2022
This Policy Paper supports in promoting green investment in Nepal in order to stimulate green growth contributing to resilient, equitable and sustainable development. The paper has also forwarded a roadmap with immediate, medium and long-term priorities to minimize financing gaps.

UN CRPD - Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) is a big document and not easy to read. It covers every aspect of life and every person of every age. The UNCRPD matters to all of us. Eventually disability will touch each of us and our family members and friends. So, to localize it well for everyone’s rights. But no one can understand the way it is written. This Easy Read version of UNCRPD is a great way to get a grasp of the issues for anyone wanting to get the information about disability rights message.

Youth Friendly Local Governance Directive
The Youth Friendly Local Governance (YFLG) Directive, 2025, and its scoring system (indicators for YFLG) have been revised through a consultation with diverse youth groups and stakeholders which has been endorsed by National Youth Council. ‘YFLG’ is a movement that aims to enhance the capacity of local leaders in advancing youth friendly local governance practices across the country. The movement is jointly led by UNDP, UNICEF, National Youth Council and Jagriti Child and Youth Concern Nepal.

SDG Responsive Medium Term Expenditure Framework Preparation Resource Book
SDG Responsive Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) Preparation Resource Book for Local Government, 2022 (Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) is a mandatory document of the federal, provincial, and local governments in Nepal to be prepared every year with annual budget. This resource book helps local governments to prepare SDG Responsive Medium Term Expenditure Framework. This explains how to fill up the forms and formats, resource projection for three years and preparation of the result framework, financial framework, and budget framework for three years.

Rapid Market Analysis Report for the Reintegration of Returnee Migrant Workers
The report identifies the market prospects of the specific occupational skills in demand in the local market and skills learnt and brought by the returnee migrant workers (RMWs) to reintegrate them into the Nepalese economic system. The Rapid Market Appraisal conducted in major markets and business centers of Madhesh and Lumbini Provinces proved to be key in understanding migrants’ skills profiles. Based on the findings of the Rapid Market Appraisals, 6 new curricula (Community Livelihood Assistant, Community Agriculture Assistant, Building Electrician, Plumbing, Barista, and Nepal Cuisine Cook) and a Short-Term Training (Quality Assurance Guidelines were developed by CTEVT.

Guideline for the Feasibility Study of Solar Mini Grid Project
This guideline provides information and guidance on the planning, design and implementation framework for solar mini grid projects in Nepal. This document also identifies the key planning and strategic aspects of solar energy development. It provides guidelines for site selection, demand assessment, renewable resource assessment, design considerations, uses of simulation software, environment and social impact assessment, cost estimation, and financial analysis used by the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPc) while designing solar mini grid systems.

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NHRIs coordination and cooperation strategic guideline
The Nepal Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has developed a strategic guideline outlining the roles and responsibilities of various human rights institutions in Nepal. This document highlights the key areas of coordination and collaboration between NHRC and other National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in the country.

Guideline on Prevention of Tobacco and Alcohol Use Among Youth
This guideline provides a framework for the implementation and monitoring of policies and strategies in the prevention of tobacco and alcohol use among youth.

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Energy Resilience Roadmap of Maling
The Roadmap has been developed to strengthen existing knowledge and capability of Maling Municipality to promote risk-free investments and make urban development inclusive, sustainable and resilient. The roadmap development process passed through several stages following wider consultation at each stage. As part of roadmap development process, contemporary concepts and lessons learnt outside Nepal about urban resilience planning were compiled, decoded and contextualized to develop an urban resilience framework for Maling Municipality.

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The Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE) finalized its NDC Implementation Plan and organized a series of events to celebrate the International Year of Mountains, culminating in the Mustang Declaration outlining Nepal’s reaffirmed commitment to the Sustainable Mountain Agenda. UNDP, together with FAO and other partners, helped the Nepal government to organize the Mustang Summit.

Through the project, Strengthening Urban Preparedness, Earthquake Preparedness and Response in Western Regions of Nepal (SUPER), UNDP, UN Women and UNICEF worked together to enhance municipal and provincial preparedness for impeding urban and earthquake risks for effective disaster response in select places in the western regions of Nepal. UNDP, together with WHO Nepal along with Ministry of Health and Population continued to digitize the vaccine certification through joint advocacy in pre-registration campaign and post data registration campaign. The health officials were also trained on post vaccine data management.

UNDP jointly voiced against violence against women and girls by leading the main event in the Dhangadhi on the 16 days of Activism. A panel discussion and a drama were organized to create awareness to speak out against gender-based violence.

UNDP worked together with the UN family in empowering and engaging young people and youth organizations through youth-focused and youth-led activities. UNDP and UNICEF in Nepal kicked off Youth Friendly Local Governance and over 238 youth representatives of local governments were trained on youth-friendly local governance in all seven provinces. Similarly, through Generation Unlimited (GenU) youth challenge, together with ILO and UNICEF, UNDP organized GenU Youth Challenge 3.0 and young people competed in social campaigns.

UNDP continued to work closely with UNV to engage Nepali youth in volunteerism. In 2022, UNV facilitated to identify and deploy 37 volunteers, 17 of them women, across the country to support various UNDP projects. Overall, UNV deployed 117 volunteers, 445 online volunteers, to various host UN agencies, including UNDP in Nepal.

With the support from Joint SDG Fund, UNDP, UNCDF and UN WOMEN provided joint technical support to the provincial and local governments for SDG-responsive budgeting and expenditure tracking. Jointly we helped the sub-national governments to develop SDG response Medium-Term Expenditure Framework and SDG coding system through capacity development to 5 provinces, 14 municipalities and trained 1520 government officials. Besides the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), SDG Coding Resources Book in Madhesh and Budget, SDG Responsive MTEF of Gandaki and Suryodaya Municipality were also developed with the support of the Joint SDG Fund.

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In 2022, UNDP implemented development programmes across Nepal with a total expenditure of $22.54 million, of which 30% was resources from UNDP core funding and 16% from the Government of Nepal. The remaining 70% was mobilized from bilateral and multilateral donors and agencies, Global Environment Facility and other sources.

Breaking down UNDP’s 2022 expenditure by thematic areas, the greatest investment by value was in governance and rule of law at 35% followed by inclusive economic growth at 33% and resilience 32%. More than half of UNDP’s total expenditures contributed directly or significantly to achieving gender equality and social inclusion.

**EXPENDITURES IN 2022**

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**EXPENDITURE BY OUTCOME**

- **35%** Governance & Rule of Law
- **32%** Resilience & Reconstruction
- **33%** Inclusive Economic Growth

**EXPENDITURE CONTRIBUTING TO GENDER EQUALITY & SOCIAL INCLUSION**

- **41%** Significantly contributing
- **10%** Directly contributing
- **16%** Contributing in some ways
- **33%** Not contributing

**2022 EXPENDITURE BY SDG**

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**LEGEND**

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health & Well Being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water & Sanitation
7. Affordable & Clean Energy
8. Decent Work & Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequalities
11. Sustainable Cities & Communities
12. Sustainable Consumption & Production
13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water
15. Life on Land
16. Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions
17. Partnership for Goals
UNDP is thankful to all our core donors who have long been providing crucial funding to UNDP at the global level. Many of our core donors are also providing direct funding to UNDP Nepal in addition to their support at the global level. Core donors are those that provide UNDP with regular resources and that is the pillar of UNDP’s support to the world’s poorest countries to eradicate poverty and inequality, attain sustainable development, and strengthen resilience to crisis. Core resources allow UNDP to enable coordinated, flexible, and rapid responses to development needs and emergencies; provide capacity for multi-sectoral and integrated solutions; support countries to leverage financing for the SDGs; and enhance thought leadership, innovation, and quality assurance.

The top core donors include: United States of America, Germany, Sweden, Japan, Switzerland, Norway, Netherlands, Canada, Denmark, France, Belgium, India, Australia, Republic of Korea, Ireland and Qatar.

UNDP trainees celebrate their graduation after completing 11 months of impactful work in various projects. Traineeship programme is a unique opportunity offered jointly by UNDP and other UN agencies to Nepali youth to advance their careers within the UN System. (UNDP Nepal)