

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

UNDP IN NEPAL

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



UNDP NEPAL ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without prior permission.



© 2024 United Nations Development Programme Nepal

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WORK AND KEY HIGHLIGHTS IN 2024	2
IMPACT:	
Governance that Delivers for All	4
Transforming Economies for People and the Planet	12
From Risk to Recovery to Resilience	20
Powering Change, Empowering Lives	28
Stronger Together: The UN System at Work	32
INNOVATIONS	36
VOLUNTEERS	40
PARTNERSHIPS	44
PATHWAYS FOR 2025	50

OUR WORK AND HIGHLIGHTS

UNDP leverages digitalization, innovation, and financing to promote structural transformation, inclusive governance, and climate resilience. Working with partners across all levels, we empower communities and strengthen institutions to ensure no one is left behind.

As one of the first adopters of UNDP's integrated portfolio approach, our programmes directly contribute to three of the four outcomes of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2023–2027).

Scan for more

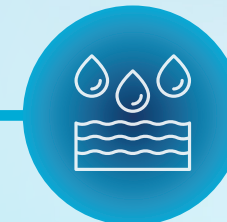


- 1 GOVERNANCE, FEDERALISM, PARTICIPATION AND INCLUSION**
- 2 SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION**
- 3 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE**

275,000
people ensured continuation of public services post-Jajarkot Earthquake 2023 via prefab structures



55,000
people (50% women) benefitted from integrated nature-based adaptation solutions implemented in 10 watersheds



52,300
people (51% of them women) benefitted from expanded access to clean energy for over 12,000 households



6,767
person-days of employment created (for 780 women) in the tourism sector



19,000
elected representatives and officials across Nepal enhanced their capacities on inclusive governance and service delivery



42,000
(47% women) benefitted from legal representation



5,900
(60% women) gained access to agricultural land for multi-layer agroforestry



2,800
women from most vulnerable groups benefitted from Temporary Basic Income



400
federal and provincial parliamentarians (52 % women) enhanced their skills in parliamentary affairs

OUR IMPACT

Governance That Delivers for All

UNDP is committed to strengthening inclusive and gender-responsive governance by enhancing institutional capacities, supporting legal and policy reforms, and promoting civic awareness and participation. Our key interventions include:

Support to federalism:

UNDP supports Nepal's federalism by strengthening governance systems and promoting inclusive and participatory policies.

Access to justice, rule of law, and human rights:

UNDP advances access to justice for all by working with national human rights institutions and rule of law agencies.

Wider public participation:

UNDP fosters open governance by improving public access to information and empowering women and marginalized groups to participate meaningfully in decision-making processes.

Scan for more



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

575,000+

citizens reached through radio programme's and informed about parliamentary practices, transparency and accountability.

19,000

elected representatives and officials across Nepal were oriented on inclusive governance and service delivery through UNDP's Provincial and Local Governance Support Programme

4,000

people in Karnali Province gained improved access to basic services through a one-stop delivery model piloted in two local governments

44

provincial laws and policies, have been drafted with technical support from the UNDP

62%

increase in women's participation in local planning processes in capacity-building initiatives

210,000

people (29.8% women) with preventive legal-aid services, and 42,000 individuals (47% women) received legal representation in navigating disputes and legal cases

18,400

people (including 52% women) benefited from legal information, which has made the community more aware on legal issues and confident in claiming legal resources

58%

of the 1,700 grievances recorded through grievance-handling systems, were resolved via the UNDP-supported **Namaste Mayor** initiative in Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City and the **Hello Chief Minister** platform in Karnali Province



UNDP supported the preparation of the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights and drafted a detailed implementation plan, submitted to MoLESS, to enhance its effective implementation



NHRC investigated 354 complaints, conducted 220 monitoring visits and made 1407 recommendations



Supported in drafting e-governance blueprint to enhance accountability

A Life on the Brink: the Bankariyas' Struggle for Survival

The Bankariyas—one of Nepal's smallest indigenous communities by population and most vulnerable—face the looming threat of eviction as their 20-year land lease nears expiration. A visit to Musedhap in Hetauda reveals the stark inequities that persist just 100 kilometres from Kathmandu.

The Bankariya community has lived without land ownership for decades, limiting their access to basic rights like education, livelihood opportunities, and security. “We don't need allowances—we need land and jobs,” said Sangita Bankariya. Her family of nine depends on meager earnings, and her son Anil, despite studying in Grade XII, has been unable to secure stable employment. Education remains out of reach for many, with hidden costs and inadequate infrastructure forcing many children to drop out by Grade 6 or 7. Their language, culture, and heritage are also at risk, with only four speakers remaining.

A visit by Bagmati Provincial Assembly lawmakers brought a renewed sense of hope, as they pledged to advocate for land certificates and policy reforms. Through UNDP's Parliament Support Project supported by Norway—the voices and struggles of the Bankariya community were brought directly to the attention of policymakers.

The Bankariyas' simple request—a certificate for the land they have inhabited for generations—goes beyond legal recognition. It is a plea for stability, opportunity, and dignity. Their future now lies in the hands of Nepal's policymakers and institutions. The time to act is now.

Scan for more



A Bankariya woman at the public hearing of Members of Parliament of Bagmati Provincial Assembly ©UNDPNepal

Nepal Secures US\$ 51.27 Million Global Fund Grant to Tackle HIV, Tuberculosis, and Malaria



The Global fund team with UNDP Nepal at the Ministry of Health and Population, Nepal
©UNDPNepal

Nepal has secured a US\$ 51.27 million grant from the Global Fund to combat HIV, Tuberculosis (TB), and Malaria, with a focus on vulnerable and migrant populations. The GC7 funding cycle (February 1, 2025 – July 15, 2027) is a partnership between the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) and UNDP, aimed at strengthening Nepal's public health response.

The HIV grant aligns with Nepal's National HIV Strategic Plan (2021-2026), aiming for zero new infections and AIDS-related deaths by 2030.

It targets migrant workers, people who use drugs, and their partners to reduce infections and improve treatment adherence.

The TB component supports Nepal's National TB Strategic Plan (2021/22-2025/26) and the End TB 2035 goals, focusing on case notification, drug-resistant TB, preventive treatments, diagnostics, and private sector engagement.

The Malaria funding aids Nepal's National Malaria Strategic Plan (2014-2025), contributing to the goal of eliminating indigenous malaria cases.

Beyond disease control, the grant strengthens Nepal's commitment to achieving universal health coverage by 2030, positioning the country for sustained progress in global health efforts. Further, the programme aims

In 2024, UNDP also facilitated to procure the health products of USD 1.3 Million supporting the essential services to the key affected populations.

Scan for more



One-Stop Service Delivery Offers Efficient Services to Local Communities



Staff working at the OSSD centre in Chaurjahari Municipality ©UNDPNepal

Pushpa Badi, the first elected mayor from Nepal's marginalized Badi community, has pioneered the establishment of a One-Stop Service Delivery (OSSD) centre in Chaurjahari Municipality, Rukum (West), making it the first in Karnali province streamlining services and enhanced accountability.

Traditionally, the Badi community has been engaged in fishing, crafting musical instruments like the maadal, and performing arts. Despite a population of 38,603, the Badis have faced economic hardship and social exclusion, resulting in limited political representation.

Infrastructure has also improved significantly:

85% of households have electricity

all of the 14 wards have established health offices

Scan for more



Staff working at the OSSD centre in Chaurjahari Municipality ©UNDPNepal

Mayor Badi highlighted the power of inclusive leadership, stating that lived experience with discrimination creates a stronger drive to address historically neglected issues. Under his leadership, Chaurjahari has prioritized education by providing free uniforms and textbooks to primary-level students.

The OSSD centre—established with support from UNDP's Support to Inclusive Federalism (EUSIF) project, funded by the European Union—has notably enhanced service delivery in the municipality. This initiative stands as a model of effective, inclusive governance and demonstrates how marginalized leadership can drive meaningful change for underserved communities.

OUR IMPACT

Transforming Economies for People and the Planet

UNDP is committed to fostering inclusive and green economic growth to reduce poverty, unemployment, and vulnerability while enhancing resilience. Through policy advisory and technical support, UNDP partners with national institutions to develop sustainable financial framework strategy for Nepal's graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status.



Women clearing the road to create a hiking trail in Nagarkot ©UNDPNepal

Key areas of focus include:

Supporting policies: status by 2026.

UNDP is helping lay the groundwork for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and supporting Nepal's goal of graduating from LDC

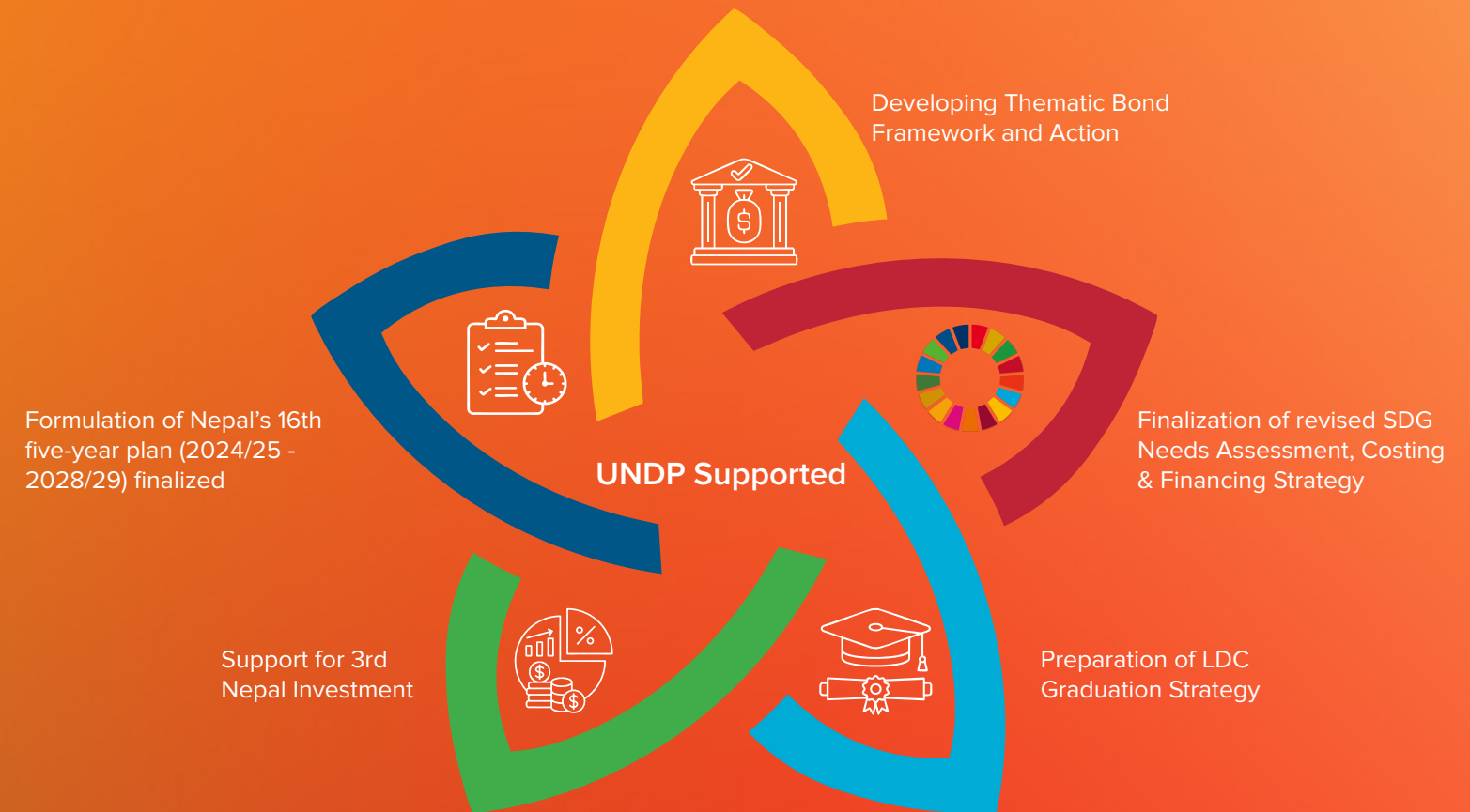
Expanding opportunities:

UNDP empowers women, youth, and marginalized groups by creating green jobs, enhancing skills, and providing temporary income support.

Scan for more



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



18,000

students (50 % girls) benefitted from improved WASH facilities in 30 community schools



2,800

women from most vulnerable groups benefitted from Temporary Basic Income.



6,800

person-days of employment were created in the tourism sector.



2,400

farmers enhanced their capacities for climate-resilient agriculture practices

Pokhara's Green Ambition

Renowned for its natural beauty, Pokhara now faces mounting waste management challenges driven by rapid urbanization. In response, Mayor Dhana Raj Acharya has launched a zero-waste strategy to transform Pokhara into a sustainable and resilient city. This prioritises recycling, upcycling, and the creation of green jobs.

On November 22, 2024, a public discussion organized by UNDP Nepal and AP1 Television convened local leaders, environmental activists, entrepreneurs, and development partners to address Pokhara's growing waste crisis. Mayor Acharya highlighted plans to implement waste segregation at the household level and establish a new landfill site spanning 96 ropanis to accommodate the city's daily generation of 182 tons of waste, as reported by the World Bank.

Scan for more



Collaborating with UNDP's Green Job Creation Through Recycling and Upcycling (GCRU) project, funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Pokhara aims to establish the Green Venture Zone (GVZ). This innovation hub will focus on converting waste into valuable resources, supporting businesses, and promoting sustainable practices within a circular economy. The private sector is playing a vital role in advancing circular economy efforts. For example, Himalayan Life Plastic recycles up to 1,200 tons of plastic annually, generating over 9,000 tons of carbon offsets each year. The company also provides employment to 55 workers and engages more than 350 plastic collectors. Similarly, Green Road Waste Management utilizes plastic waste in the construction of roads and public toilet facilities—an innovative approach that not only reduces plastic pollution but also creates job opportunities. These collective efforts underscore Pokhara's commitment to environmental sustainability and the development of a green economy.



Waste segregation for recycling and upcycling ©UNDPNepal

Empowering 18,000 Students in Madesh



Students receive school kits as part of the project ©UNDPNepal

In a collaborative effort to bolster educational resilience in Nepal's Madhesh province, UNDP Nepal, with funding from China Aid has supported 32 schools through the "Support for Schools and Communities in Remote Areas for Pandemic Prevention and Green Recovery" project.

Launched on May 9, 2024, at Shree Saraswati Secondary School in Sarlahi district, the initiative has benefitted

18,000
students

and

7,500
families

mainly belonging to marginalized and disaster-vulnerable groups —such as Dalits, ethnic and religious minorities, female-headed households, and persons with disabilities.

The project aims to enhance preparedness for pandemics and natural disasters while improving access to quality education. The project focuses on enhancing classroom environments and improving water and sanitation facilities by providing essential furniture and equipment. To safeguard students' health amid the pandemic, it supplies health protection and sanitation materials. Additionally, the initiative supports families by distributing items like mats and improved stoves, aiming to strengthen community resilience against environmental challenges.

Scan for more



Financial Literacy and Livelihood Creation through Temporary Basic Income

Born out of the hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNDP's Sambodhan project (TBI initiative) was designed to support socio-economically vulnerable women in some provinces of Nepal. From emergency cash transfers to financial literacy and linking women to social protection schemes, Sambodhan evolved into more than just a relief effort.

1,900+ *women*

received basic income through the TBI initiative, in Madhesh and Sudurpaschim provinces via Rastriya Banijya Bank.

Despite lockdowns, NGO partners and municipalities ensured support reached those in need. As the project expanded to Gandaki and Karnali provinces, the focus shifted to long-term empowerment.

To strengthen local response, Sambodhan introduced SEVIMS (Socio-Economic Vulnerability Identification and Mapping System)—a digital tool using over 200 indicators and QR-coded house numbers linked with GPS coordinates. SEVIMS enables municipalities to identify, monitor, and respond to vulnerabilities using real-time data.

17 *municipalities*
(fully functional in 5)

adopted SEVIMS and are driving data-based, locally funded interventions.

6,300 *women*

have been supported, showing how data can turn vulnerability into visibility—and action.

SEVIMS directly addresses the challenge of information gaps, offering a scalable solution for governments to understand real-time needs, tailor support programs accordingly, and build resilience in the country. Sambodhan, with the power of SEVIMS, is not just supporting vulnerable people today—it is laying the foundation for smarter, more inclusive governance for tomorrow.



*A beneficiary of the Sambodhan project
©UNDPNepal*

OUR IMPACT

From Risk to Recovery to Resilience

UNDP supports Nepal's commitment to climate action, disaster resilience, and environmental sustainability by aligning with national priorities, including the National Adaptation Plan (2021–2050), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and the Long-Term Strategy for Net-Zero Emissions. Our work focuses on three key areas:

Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Resilience:

UNDP strengthens community and institutional preparedness through advanced risk management systems, climate-resilient infrastructure, and early warning mechanisms.

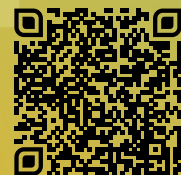
Environmental Governance:

UNDP promotes sustainable natural resource management by supporting watershed conservation and inclusive climate adaptation plans.

Clean and Sustainable Energy:

UNDP expands access to clean, affordable energy while supporting renewable energy businesses, including women-owned ventures.

Scan for more



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Expanded access to clean energy to

25,127
households

benefitting more than

120,000
people (52% women)



Plans finalized:

- Implementation Plan for second NDCs
- Karnali Province Risk Sensitive Land Use Plan



COP28 Global Stocktake emphasis on

Sustainable Mountain Agenda



10,900
people

from

2,325
households

in Madhesh Province benefitted from

7 new reliable drinking water facilities

100+
hectares
of degraded land restored

and

400+
hectares
with irrigation



benefitting close to

47,000
people (50% women)



4

additional local governments implemented the

Electronic Building Permit System (e-BPS)

Five Reasons Why Cash for Work is Vital for Post-disaster Recovery

Severe floods hit parts of Nepal on 27 and 28 September 2024, leaving a trail of destruction across multiple districts. Continuous rainfall triggered widespread flooding, landslides, and road blockages—disrupting transportation, livelihoods, and public safety. Kavre and Lalitpur were among the hardest-hit areas. In response, UNDP Nepal launched Cash-for-Work (CfW) programmes in severely affected communities such as Kavre and Lalitpur. These initiatives not only provided immediate relief but also empowered local communities to drive their own recovery.

Here are five key reasons why CfW plays a vital role in post-disaster recovery:

1. Swift income support for affected families

Cash-for-Work (CfW) provided immediate financial relief to flood-affected families, such as Phulmaya Tamang from Bethanchowk Rural Municipality in Kavre. The support helped families recover lost livelihoods and begin rebuilding their homes. In Namobuddha Rural Municipality, the restoration of an irrigation pond through CfW revived local agriculture, while the income earned ensured steady cash flow to meet daily needs.

2. Prioritized local needs:

Communities identified urgent needs, such as debris clearance and restoring irrigation ponds. This ensured that resources were directed where they were most needed, with inclusive decision-making.

3. Economic stimulation through local circulation:

By injecting cash into local economies, CfW revitalized markets and increased household purchasing power. Community members contributed labour and equipment, strengthening collective ownership and sustainability of recovery activities.

4. Restoring hope through purposeful action:

Natural disasters often leave communities overwhelmed by destruction and loss. Engaging affected individuals in meaningful work not only supports physical recovery but also fosters emotional healing. CfW activities gave people a renewed sense of purpose, helping them move forward after the disaster.

5. Foundations for long-term development:

Even small-scale CfW interventions in the productive sector can generate long-term benefits. In Bethanchowk, trail restoration not only rebuilt essential infrastructure but also improved access to farmland and supported local tourism. These efforts contribute to sustainable recovery and future economic development at the community level.



“With the cash I received for my 10 days of debris removal work, I can return to my house, be with my community and revive my livelihood.”
Phulmaya Tamang, Beneficiary, Cash for Work, Kavre district ©UNDPNepal

Phulmaya whose house was covered in debris after the September 2024 floods shares how her recovery is progressing ©UNDPNepal

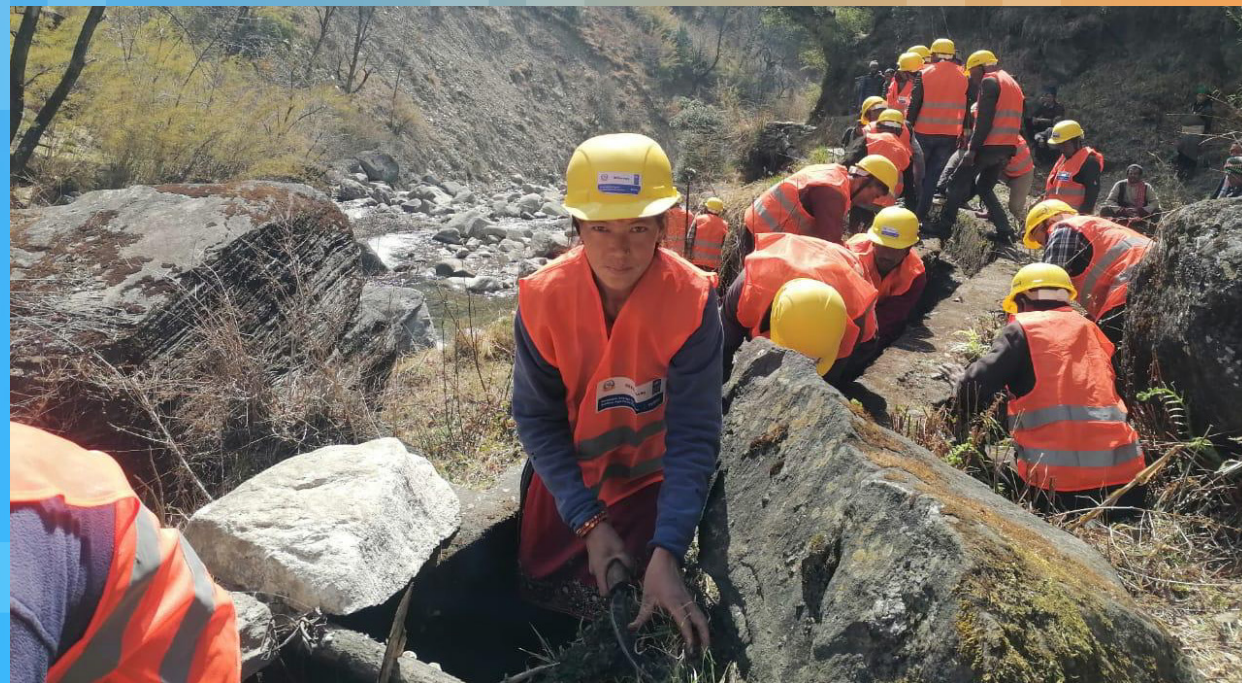
Scan for more



Lighting up Lives in Nepal's Mountains

In Nepal's remote mountain regions, limited access to electricity has long hindered progress in education, healthcare, and livelihoods. But through the UNDP-supported Renewable Energy for Rural Livelihoods (RERL) project, micro-hydropower plants are transforming lives and communities.

In villages like Kharbang, electricity has become a catalyst for change—children can now study after dark, women have launched businesses, and health posts operate essential medical equipment. Women like Manju Bhandari and Geeta Rana have emerged as entrepreneurs, leading soap-making and milling ventures that generate income, create local jobs, and boost the rural economy. With easier access to energy, household burdens have lessened, giving women more time, independence, and decision-making power.



Locals help in setting up a micro-hydro powerplant by clearing a path for electrical lines ©UNDPNepal

To date, over 400 micro-hydro systems have been installed with strong community participation, bringing clean energy to more than 600,000 people. These systems are community-owned and maintained, with local energy users' groups managing operations and ensuring inclusive governance. Women and indigenous communities are actively involved in decision-making—helping shape a more equitable energy future.

This initiative doesn't just light homes—it powers opportunity. Schools function more effectively, healthcare delivery has improved, and small enterprises are thriving. Centered on renewable energy, the RERL project drives climate action, economic empowerment, and inclusive development—helping Nepal's mountain communities build a more resilient and just future.



Women from a local cooperative produce soap to sustain their business after receiving uninterrupted power supply from the operation of the micro-hydropower plant ©UNDPNepal

Scan for more



Fostering Resilience: Enhancing the Majhi's Livelihoods

The Majhi community—indigenous riverine dwellers of Nepal's Okhaldhunga district—have long relied on fishing, boat-making, and subsistence farming for their livelihoods. However, climate change has significantly disrupted these traditional practices. Erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts, and declining water levels have severely affected fishing and hindered agriculture due to inadequate irrigation. As a result, many Majhi have turned to alternative income sources such as alcohol brewing and manual labor. These challenges are further compounded by harmful modern fishing methods, including the use of electricity, which disrupt aquatic ecosystems and threaten the Majhi's way of life.

In response, the Government of Nepal, in partnership with the UNDP, initiated the 'Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal' (DCRL) project in 2020. The initiative seeks to strengthen the resilience of the Majhi community by combining traditional knowledge with sustainable practices. Key interventions include the construction of multipurpose ponds for irrigation and fish farming, promotion of conservation agriculture, and distribution of drought-tolerant seed varieties.

Scan for more



Through the DCRL project, 74,447 people have directly benefited from integrated watershed management interventions—nearly 50% of them women. Water-fetching time has decreased by over 65%, from 16.8 minutes to 5.8 minutes, following the protection of 121 water sources—easing the daily burden on 5,396 women. Additionally, 20 hectares of drought-resistant forest species and 50 hectares of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) were planted in community forests, contributing to biodiversity conservation and improved ecosystem services.

By honoring indigenous knowledge and promoting adaptive solutions, the DCRL project exemplifies a holistic approach to climate resilience. It highlights the importance of empowering marginalized communities to confront environmental challenges while safeguarding their cultural heritage.



A UNDP-supported multipurpose pond being built in partnership with the local government empowers the Majhi community with sustainable water access ©UNDPNepal

OUR IMPACT

Powering Change, Empowering Lives

In 2024, UNDP Nepal reaffirmed its commitment to advancing gender equality and deepening social inclusion by mainstreaming GESI (Gender Equality and Social Inclusion) principles across governance, livelihoods, legal empowerment, environmental sustainability, and climate resilience initiatives.

UNDP continued to address structural inequalities and

empower marginalized groups— including persons with disabilities as part of an overarching programming principle, “leaving no one behind,” ensuring development that is both inclusive and equitable.

Building on past achievements, including the 2023 UNDP Gender Equality Seal Gold Award, UNDP deepened its focus on transformative, community-led action.



Gender Equality, Social Inclusion & Innovation: KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



257 local governments and 77 provincial ministries conducted GESI audits

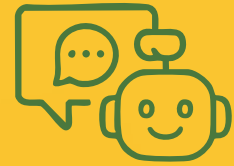


Scaled up 4 tech-enterprises and additionally initiated 10 new enterprise opportunities in circular economy (waste, energy, agri-based enterprise), creating over 200 jobs and recovering/ reusing more than 30 tons of waste at 6 municipalities

"Statistical Report on Persons with Disabilities in Nepal" was developed and published in partnership with NFDN and lead of National Statistical Office to enhance data-driven advocacy and inclusive policy planning



AI-powered chatbot was jointly developed and implemented with two local governments



37 new women-led local enterprises established and equipped with energy access



Socio-Economic Vulnerability Information Management System rolled out in 14 local governments

By embedding GESI principles across multiple sectors, UNDP aims to continue working towards more inclusive policies and practices that empower women, marginalized communities, and historically excluded groups. UNDP remains committed to deepening these efforts, ensuring that no one is left behind in Nepal's journey toward sustainable and inclusive development.

A Mithila Artist Breaking Barriers and Empowering Communities in Madhes

Nirmala Jha uses the centuries old Mithila Art to paint a future where women lead, communities thrive, and important messages about health, equality, and sustainability reach everyone—one stroke at a time.

In 2020, Nirmala led a team of female Mithila artists to create artwork representing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This initiative localized the seventeen global goals for the Maithili-speaking community, making complex issues like poverty and climate change more relatable. Married at 16 and widowed at 32 with three young children, Nirmala turned to her passion for painting, passed down by her mother, to support her family.

Now, working with Relative Nepal, a partner of UNDP for the “Leave No One Behind Initiative,” she uses Mithila Art to highlight gender inequality issues in the Madhesh province.

In 2021, as part of post-COVID tourism recovery, Nirmala was among twenty Mithila women artists who painted key cultural sites in Janakpur, including the Ram Janaki temple and Ganga Sagar area. Supported by UNDP’s Sustainable Tourism for Livelihood Recovery Project (STLRP), this initiative provided local women with income and recognition.

Nirmala now travels across the country, empowering women to learn the craft and use it as a means of livelihood. Through the vibrant colors of Mithila art, Nirmala is painting a future where women lead, communities thrive, and important messages about health, equality, and sustainability reach everyone—one stroke at a time.

Scan for more



Nirmala Jha in her studio displaying a Mithila painting ©UNDPNepal

OUR IMPACT

Stronger Together: The UN System at Work

In 2024, UNDP continued to work in close collaboration with sister UN agencies to deliver integrated solutions that were meant to 'leave no one behind.' In partnership with UNICEF and UN Women, UNDP launched the SUPER II: Strengthening Urban Preparedness and Earthquake Response project. This initiative aims to enhance disaster resilience for over 500,000 people across Lumbini, Karnali, and Sudurpaschim provinces, reinforcing urban preparedness and inclusive response capacities.

Scan for more



The demonstration by firemen to strengthen urban preparedness witnessed by the EU ambassador ©UNDPNepal



Senior officials from the Royal Norwegian Embassy visit a school in Jumla where UNDP's Energy for Food project, enhances food and nutrition security ©UNDPNepal

With support from the Government of Norway, UNDP and the WFP are working under the Renewable Energy for Resilient Agri-Food Systems project to improve food security in far-western Nepal. The Energy for Food initiative leverages renewable energy to power sustainable, community-driven solutions that bolster food security and livelihoods in vulnerable rural areas.

Scan for more



The Summit of the Future 2024 brought together more than 170 young leaders from all seven provinces. Organized by the UN in Nepal, in partnership with UNV and UNDP, the summit was inaugurated on 12 August by President Ram Chandra Poudel and Minister of Youth and Sports Teju Lal Chaudhary. Over two days, youth delegates engaged in dialogue on education, health, climate change, migration, and decent work. The event culminated in the presentation of a Youth Declaration to Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, contributing directly to the global Pact for the Future.

Scan for more



The Summit of the Future bringing youth at the forefront of the climate change initiative ©UNDPNepal



Winners of the National Poetry Competition 2024 on the occasion of International Women's Day ©UNDPNepal

On International Women's Day, 8 March 2024, UNDP and UNHCR co-organized a nationwide poetry competition under the theme "For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment." Students from public schools across all seven provinces reflected on the resilience and rights of women and girls, with many poems highlighting the impact of rising heatwaves on vulnerable communities.

Scan for more



Finally, the National Youth Agri Innovation Bootcamp (NYAIC), co-hosted by UNDP and FAO, brought together 40 aspiring agri-entrepreneurs and 21 startups from across Nepal. Women represented an inspiring 60 percent of participants. The bootcamp celebrated the innovation, energy, and leadership of Nepal's youth shaping the future of agriculture and food systems.

Scan for more



Winners of the NYAIC bootcamp ©UNDPNepal

CLIMATE ACTION – NOW!

In May 2024, the Nepal government hosted the International Expert Dialogue on Mountain, People, and Climate in Chandragiri Municipality, Kathmandu, bringing together over 250 policymakers, practitioners, and delegates worldwide to address climate change impacts on mountain communities and strategize for a sustainable future.

This initiative followed Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal's commitment during COP 28 to elevate awareness of climate change and advocate for mountain agendas within UNFCCC negotiations. Co-organized by UNDP and other development partners, the dialogue emphasized the critical need for immediate climate action, highlighting the rapid warming of mountain regions, unpredictable monsoon patterns, glacier retreat, reduced snowfall, and increased risks of glacial lake outburst floods to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services, contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals. Insights from this event were subsequently shared at the Bonn Climate Conference in June 2024, reinforcing Nepal's dedication to addressing climate challenges in mountain regions.

The dialogue served as a catalyst to underscore the need for urgent climate action for the people, planet and prosperity. From the participants gathered at the event—from high mountains to the low-lying plains - the call to action resounded loud and clear: the time for climate action is now!



Dialogue on climate change, mountain ecosystems, and community resilience ©UNDPNepal

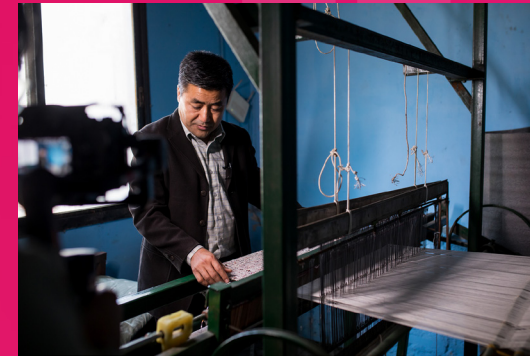
Scan for more



OUR INNOVATIONS

Using MLP fabric for bag production

One of the innovations UNDP piloted was the use of multi-layered plastics (MLP) to create upcycled fabric, later tailored into bags and other products. The process uses multi-layered plastics (MLP) which are either spun into thread or cut into strips and woven with cotton thread on a loom to generate a piece of fabric. Key equipment includes a cleaning tool, heat sealer, scissors, spinning wheel, and loom. The current production is 1.5 to 2 meters of MLP fabric per day.



Looming process of turning plastic into fabric ©UNDPNepal

Transforming glass waste into decorative sea glass

UNDP piloted an initiative to upcycle low-value broken glass into smooth, colorful sea glass for use in ornaments, aquariums, gardens, and other decorative purposes. The process—using rotary and vibration tumblers along with a sieving machine—removes sharp edges, making the glass safe to handle and reuse. The initiative currently produces up to 6 kilograms of sea glass per day, turning waste into value.



Repurposing glass to be turned into jewellery ©UNDPNepal

Producing upcycled plastic lumber for furniture

UNDP piloted the production of upcycled plastic lumber using mixed plastic waste. Customized machines—including shredder, dehumidifier, extruder, and molds—process the plastic into durable lumber. This material is then used to create furniture such as chairs, benches, and tables. Current production stands at approximately 7.5 meters of lumber per day, depending on the type of mold and raw material.



Plastic waste repurposed into a chair ©UNDPNepal

Green Transition in Nepal

In 2024, UNDP supported municipalities in fostering a green, inclusive economy tailored to their unique local contexts. Our efforts focused on restoring balance with nature through the development of sustainable municipal infrastructure and services, designed to enhance ecosystem resilience in and around urban areas.

This integrated approach contributed to reducing local climate and disaster risks. At the national level, we worked to create an enabling policy and governance environment to accelerate Nepal's transition toward a greener, more sustainable future.

The Green Transition Portfolio for Dhangadhi marks the first application of this approach. Implemented by UNDP Nepal in close collaboration with Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City (DSMC), the portfolio was developed through a co-design process that ensures strong local relevance and ownership.

Scan for more



*Beneficiary of Green Transitions
at Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan city
©UNDPNepal*

UN VOLUNTEERS



The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme connects UNDP with volunteers to support various development and humanitarian contexts. 83 UN Volunteers (7 International, 76 National), working across diverse sectors, are assisting UNDP as project officers, project assistants, and in various other roles. Eight UN Youth Volunteers deployed by UNDP are working alongside government engineers to conduct a detailed damage assessment of the September 2024 floods together with additional ten community volunteers for data collection.

In June 2024, UNDP and UNV organized a cleanup campaign at UN Park after the Bagmati flooding to demonstrate how small acts of service can contribute to a healthier planet. The Mayor of Lalitpur Metropolitan City, Chiri Babu Maharjan, attended the event, where he witnessed the commitment of volunteers first-hand and offered words of encouragement to continue building a cleaner, greener community.

Scan for more



UNDP and UN Volunteers joined hands for a cleanup drive at UN Park, Lalitpur ©UNDPNepal

Community Empowerment Through Volunteerism: Sworna's Story

In the wake of the floods and landslides that struck Nepal in September 2024, the resilience of affected communities was tested. Amidst the challenges, individuals like Sworna Joshi, a dedicated UN Volunteer working with UNDP, emerged as pillars of support. Serving as a Municipal Associate in the flood-affected regions, Sworna played a pivotal role in coordinating relief efforts, ensuring that aid reached those in dire need. She actively engaged with local communities, listening to their concerns, and facilitating programs aimed at rebuilding livelihoods.

Her efforts exemplify the impact of volunteerism in crisis response, highlighting how dedicated individuals can drive meaningful change on the ground. Sworna's work also underscores the importance of community-centric approaches in disaster recovery, showing the power of volunteerism in fostering resilience and rebuilding hope in the aftermath of natural disasters. For a visual glimpse into Sworna's journey and her contributions, watch a video on YouTube:

Scan for more



Sworna, a UN Volunteer with UNDP played a pivotal role in coordinating relief efforts, ensuring that aid reached those in dire need ©UNDPNepal

OUR PARTNERSHIPS:

Partnerships that Power Progress

In Nepal, our partnerships are the driving force behind sustainable development. We work hand in hand with government institutions at federal, provincial and local levels, the civil society, the private sector, academia, and the national and international development partners to address the country's most pressing challenges—from climate adaptation and inclusive governance to digital transformation and economic resilience. These partnerships are more than cooperative arrangements—they are the driving force behind our collective progress, enabling us to innovate, deliver impactful solutions, and ensure no one is left behind.



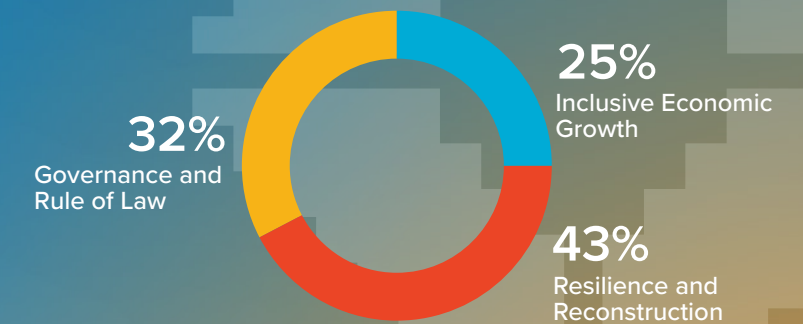
Our Country Programme Document (2023–2027) is a joint effort with the Government of Nepal, grounded in national priorities, mutual accountability, and a shared vision for a more equitable and sustainable future. UNDP conveys its deepest gratitude to the Government of Nepal and its agencies for their longstanding support. This includes the Federal Parliament, the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, and various ministries of the Government of Nepal. We also acknowledge the strong partnership with provincial assemblies, governments and commissions, and local governments.

Funding Sources:

In 2024, UNDP implemented programme and projects across Nepal with a total expenditure of USD 24.6 million, of which 30% was from UNDP Core Funding. The remaining 70% was mobilized through the Government of Nepal, and bilateral and multilateral donors including the Government of China, European Union, Government of Japan, Government of the Republic of Korea, Government of Norway, Government of Switzerland, the Asian Development Bank, the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the Global Environment Facility.

By thematic areas, the highest delivery was in the Resilience Portfolio at 43%, followed by Governance & Rule of Law at 32%, and Inclusive Economic Growth at 25%. In addition, more than half of UNDP's total expenditure has directly or significantly contributed to achieving gender equality and social inclusion across all programme portfolios.

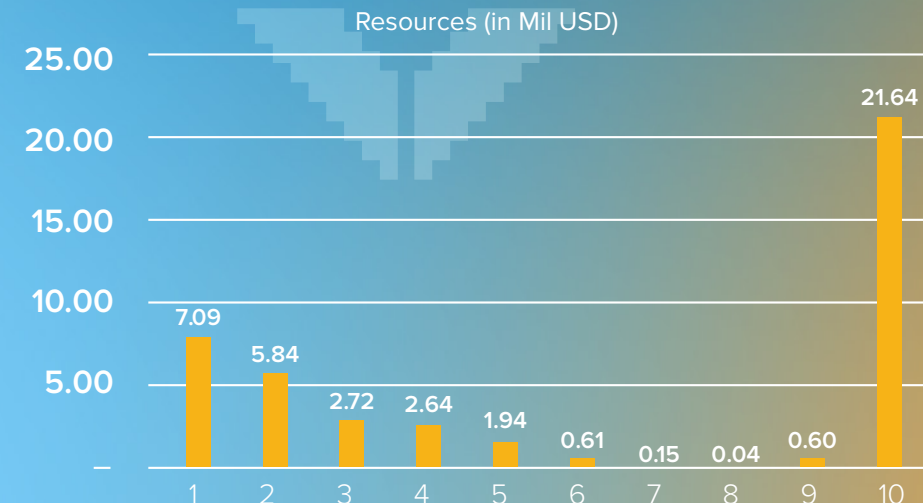
Year	Programme	
	Budget	Expenditure
2024	26.5M	24.6M



Planned Budget: 26.5 MILLION
Total Expenditure: 24.6 MILLION

Core Funding: 30%
Non-Core Funding: 70%

RESOURCES RECEIVED IN 2024



1. UNDP
2. Government of Norway
3. Vertical fund - GEF
4. European Union
5. Global Fund
6. Govt. of the Republic of Korea
7. Govt. of Switzerland
8. Govt. of Nepal
9. Others (Coca Cola, Nepal Chamber, etc.)
10. Total

Contributing Partners

UNDP sincerely thanks our non-core contributors for their targeted support, which plays a vital role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. Their contributions are driving meaningful progress across key development priorities in Nepal. This list includes bilateral and multilateral non-core donors, including regional and global contributors to UNDP. Please refer to “Funding Sources and Partnerships” for a full list of donors.



Asian Development Bank



China



European Union



Germany



Japan



Norway



Republic of Korea



Sweden



Switzerland



United Kingdom



Qatar



The Coca-Cola Foundation



Global Environment Facility



Nepal



The Global Fund



UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office

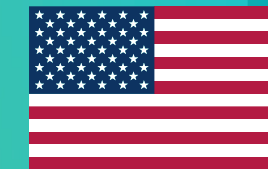
Core Donors:

UNDP is thankful to all our core donors for their longstanding and vital contributions at the global level. We are especially appreciative that many of these donors also provide direct support to UNDP Nepal, reinforcing their commitment to sustainable development at both global and national levels. Core donors provide UNDP with regular, flexible funding that enables coordinated, timely, and effective responses to development priorities and emergencies. This support strengthens our capacity to deliver integrated, multisectoral solutions; helps countries mobilize financing for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and supports innovation, thought leadership, and quality assurance across our work.

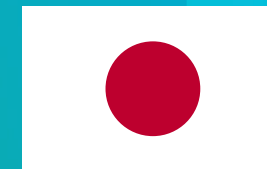
UNDP’s top core donors in 2024 include Germany, United States of America, Japan, Switzerland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Canada, Denmark and the Republic of Korea.



Germany



United States of America



Japan



Switzerland



Netherlands



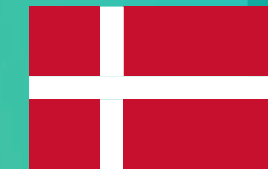
Norway



Sweden



Canada



Denmark



Republic of Korea

IN FOCUS:



During her visit to Nepal in early 2024, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, Kanni Wignaraja, spoke with Republica Editor Kosh Raj Koirala about her observations from a field visit to Imja Lake—one of Nepal’s glacial lakes at high risk of Glacial Lake Outburst Flooding (GLOF). She also discussed how UNDP could further support Nepal in addressing the impacts of climate change.

Reflecting on the urgency of regional cooperation, Kanni noted: *“There are 19 of these high-risk lakes around Nepal, and then there are many more around the borders of Nepal. So, this must be a cross-border regional effort.”*

During her interaction with community representatives, they shared that they are now able to sleep peacefully at night.

She added, *“You know, it is an interesting way to measure human development - this sense of less anxiety.”*

She noted that while the impact on income or job creation might not be immediate, the initiative clearly protects homes and families, enabling people to go about their lives. She emphasized its connection to biodiversity conservation and ecotourism—a powerful combination for Nepal’s future.

Scan for more



Watch the video of UNASG Kanni Wignaraja’s visit to Imja Lake:



PATHWAYS FOR 2025

UNDP's Continued Commitment in Nepal – 2025

In 2025, UNDP reaffirms its commitment to supporting Nepal in addressing its development priorities. Working in close collaboration with the Government of Nepal, development partners, and local communities, UNDP will build on past achievements and strategically scale up its impact. All initiatives will remain firmly aligned with Nepal's national development goals, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2023–2027), and the Country Programme Document for Nepal (2023–2027). Through focused interventions in key priority areas, UNDP seeks to drive transformative change, strengthen resilience, and accelerate Nepal's progress toward sustainable and inclusive development.



Climate Action

- Expand access to renewable energy and enhance community resilience to climate risks and disasters.
- Promote decentralized energy solutions to support Nepal's transition to a sustainable economy.
- Strengthen climate-resilient infrastructure, improve water resource management, and invest in early warning systems to benefit climate-vulnerable populations, especially in flood- and drought-prone regions.
- Support the implementation of Nepal's NDCs and biodiversity commitments by mobilizing public and private resources, including blended finance mechanism and green bonds.

Parliamentary Democracy:

- Promote inclusive legislative processes by enabling transparency and citizen participation in the drafting and review of laws.
- Foster meaningful collaboration between Parliament and civil society organizations (CSOs) to strengthen transparency, accountability, and responsiveness in policymaking.
- Leverage digital technologies to expand public access to legislative information, enabling online consultations, and modernize parliamentary operations and services.



Development for All

- Expand the use of solar energy for public infrastructure, including the electrification of health facilities and schools in remote areas.
- Scale up HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness programs targeting high-risk and marginalized populations, strengthening community outreach and access to essential health services.
- Promote sustainable green job creation through urban waste management, eco-tourism and nature-based enterprises that preserve Nepal's cultural and environmental heritage.

Financing the Future of Development

- Mobilize public and private financing to accelerate inclusive, green economic growth and advance progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nepal.
- Strengthen strategic partnerships with multilateral development banks to leverage development finance and technical expertise for sustainable development initiatives.



Abbreviations Used:

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome	NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
AP1	AP1 Television	NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
ASG	Assistant Secretary-General	NTFPs	Non-Timber Forest Products
CfW	Cash-for-Work	NYAIC	National Youth Agri Innovation Bootcamp
COP	Conference of the Parties	OSSD	One-Stop Service Delivery
DCRL	Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal	PPP	Public-Private Partnerships
DSMC	Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City	RERL	Renewable Energy for Rural Livelihood
EUSIF	European Union Support to Inclusive Federalism	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
FY	Fiscal Year	SEVIMS	Socio-Economic Vulnerability Identification and Mapping System
GC7	Global Fund's 7th funding cycle	STLRP	Sustainable Tourism for Livelihood Recovery Project
GCRU	Green Job Creation Through Recycling and Upcycling	TB	Tuberculosis
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion	TBI	Temporary Basic Income
GLOF	Glacial Lake Outburst Flooding	UN	United Nations
GPS	Global Positioning System	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
GVZ	Green Venture Zone	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
LDC	Least Developed Country	UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
LNOB	Leave No One Behind	UNV	United Nations Volunteers
MLP	MLP Multi-layered Plastics	US	United States
MOHP	Ministry of Health and Population	USD	United States Dollar
NAP	National Action Plan	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
		WFP	World Food Programme

©United Nations Development Programme
 UN House, Pulchowk, Lalitpur
 G.P.O. Box:107, Kathmandu, Nepal
 Tel: (+977) 1 4290000
 Fax: (+977) 1 4290055/4290066



www.undp.org/nepal



www.facebook.com/undpnepal



www.instagram.com/undpnepal



www.x.com/undpnepal



www.linkedin.com/company/undp