

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

# Annual Report 2015

**UNDP IN NEPAL**



↑ COVER: Kumari Thapa, a trained mason from Kathmandu, works to rebuild an earthquake-damaged house

📷 CHANDRA SEKHAR KARKI / UNDP NEPAL

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**INSIDE COVER:**

*Poverty reduction includes support  
to people like this entrepreneur in  
Udayapur, eastern Nepal.*

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## FOREWORD



**2015** was an eventful year for Nepal. In April a massive earthquake struck followed by a powerful aftershock in May killing 8,850 people, injuring 22,000 people, and destroying 800,000 buildings. Basic service delivery was hampered particularly in the 14 hardest-hit districts, an estimated 700,000 people have been pushed below the poverty line, and GDP growth sunk to 3 percent against earlier projections of 6 percent. According to the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment, damages and losses rose to US\$7 billion and reconstruction costs are estimated at US\$6.7 billion.

UNDP mobilized expertise, formulated a comprehensive earthquake response programme to support local governments resume essential services, providing 4,300 community members with emergency employment to safely remove dangerous debris from structures in hard hit areas, restoring livelihoods of impacted entrepreneurs and initiated activities to build back better.

2015 also saw the promulgation of Nepal's long-awaited constitution. While the content of the new constitution was defined by Nepalis, UNDP advocated for and provided technical assistance for an inclusive process. While Parliament voted 84 percent in favour of the new constitution, political tensions arose. Demonstrations, especially in the Tarai, led to border obstructions resulting in an economic crisis pushing more vulnerable people into poverty.

In light of these challenges, UNDP has adapted to meet the new needs with a long-term development lens. By reprogramming its resources and projects to respond to the earthquake, UNDP was able to quickly address the emerging issues while continuing to provide support to the rest of the country.

2015 also saw the appointment of two women as President of the country and Speaker of the Parliament. This illustrates Nepal's progress to achieving gender equality. In 2015, Nepal rose two spots from last year in the global gender index.

At the global level, 2015 saw the adoption of important new international frameworks and agreements. The world transitioned from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) into the new agenda for 2030 with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While the MDGs focused mostly on social development issues, the SDGs include new challenges such as governance, resilience and climate change, highly relevant for Nepal. Similarly, the Sendai Framework and the COP21 Paris Agreement are both critical given the high vulnerability of Nepal to natural disaster and climate. UNDP is committed to providing assistance to help the country adapt and align to these new frameworks.

We would like to thank the Government of Nepal for its partnership and leadership, and also our donors who have supported our work in 2015.

Finally, as we reflect on 2015, UNDP would like to acknowledge the dedication of our team and recognize their hard work particularly during the earthquake response. The disaster took an emotional and physical toll on our UNDP family. They showed a steadfast commitment to work through their personal trauma and remain dedicated participants of the earthquake response. It is this determination that we'd like to praise.

As UNDP marks its 50th anniversary in 2016, we are committed to staying the course, building upon the strong work we've accomplished over the last year, and we look forward to continue supporting Nepal particularly as it reconstructs post-disaster and navigates the new federal structure.

**RENAUD MEYER**  
UNDP Country Director

**JAMIE MCGOLDRICK**  
UNDP Resident Representative (2015)

## EARTHQUAKE



Over

**1,400**

engineers and masons were trained on earthquake safe construction



**4,450**

households benefited from the rehabilitation of **40 community** infrastructure damaged by quake



**6,870**

existing micro entrepreneurs received psychosocial counselling training



**30,000**

quake affected people visited mobile human rights clinics



Rapid damage assessments of

**100**

micro hydro systems and 42 solar pumping systems were conducted

## POVERTY



**60**

additional senior officials have enhanced monitoring and evaluation skills for pro-poor policy growth

# RESULTS



Over

**11,000**

new micro entrepreneurs were created [through MEDEP and MEDPA] (of which over 70% are women, over 24% dalits)





## GOVERNANCE



**20,000**

women and vulnerable people benefited from mobile legal aid clinics



Over  
**719,000**

citizens were added in the biometric voters' roll



**10,480**

out of 31,642 Ward Citizens Forums (33%) are monitoring and engaging in civic oversight activities



**41,433**

justice court users visited information desks in 15 districts aimed at increasing access to justice

# BY NUMBER\*

## DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION



More than  
suggestions on the draft constitution made online (website and social media) and in person

**15,500**



**345** government officials, civil society and political leaders (23% women) equipped with collaborative leadership and dialogue skills

**8,800** people including journalists, civil society leaders and community leaders educated on key constitutional issues



Over  
**60,000**

people vulnerable to floods benefited from protective infrastructure like bunds and embankments



**3,581** additional households connected to electricity



Over  
**2,300**

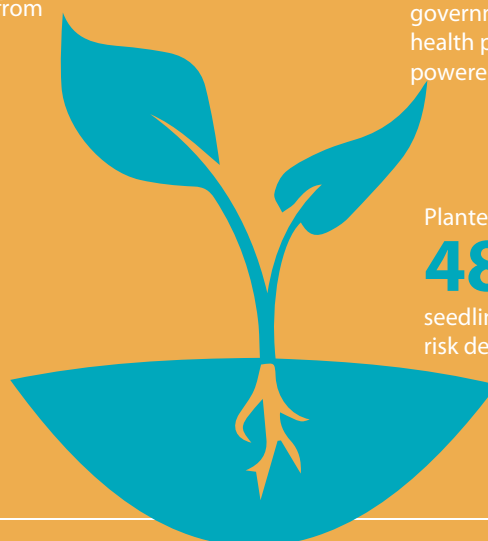
remote households were provided with energy from 2 interconnected micro-hydro plants



**40** additional local government offices and health posts were fully powered by solar energy



Planted  
**489,655** seedlings in 518 ha high risk degradable land



\* UNDP supports the Government and people of Nepal in collaboration with other development partners.

All the numbers presented here are part of either government-led and UNDP supported projects or projects directly implemented by UNDP in collaboration with other development partners.



## INTRODUCTION

In 2015, UNDP was engaged in supporting the Government of Nepal's efforts to reduce poverty, build resilient communities and promote sustainable development.

Students in Bardiya district help to launch the SDGs.

© LAXMI PRASAD NGAKHUSI / UNDP NEPAL

The trajectory towards these goals was disrupted in April with the devastating earthquake and the strong aftershock in May. UNDP reprogrammed its activities to adapt to the emerging needs of the people and Government of Nepal; helping many of those affected cope with the disaster, and assisting the Government in its response, at both local and national levels.

In the earthquake response, UNDP played a significant role in the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment, co-chairing the Secretariat and co-leading four sector assessments, and also co-chaired the Early Recovery Cluster. With additional UNDP experts from around the world, the earthquake recovery programme scaled up rapidly and made use of existing projects and their established delivery mechanisms to provide the needed assistance in a cost efficient manner.

A large component of UNDP's work in 2015 focused on restoring the livelihoods of Nepal's most vulnerable communities, as well as to promote new







Micro-entrepreneurs greet visitors in Jhapa district.  
© CHANDRA SEKHAR KARKI / UNDP NEPAL

opportunities particularly for the poorest citizens, UNDP also assisted local governments to resume services as quickly as possible following the disaster.

UNDP did not overlook the development work needed in areas unaffected by the disaster, particularly in the south and the west of the country. Social cohesion underpinned all poverty reduction and capacity building activities, ensuring civil society's engagement in development activities and monitoring of ongoing projects.

Nepal reached a major milestone with the adoption of its new constitution. With UNDP support over the last few years in helping the government move forward with the constitution, Nepal started its transition into a federal state and began the process of public administration reform. UNDP offered technical assistance and support to

*With additional  
UNDP experts  
from around  
the world, the  
earthquake  
recovery  
programme  
scaled up  
rapidly*

strengthen the Parliament, helped the government adapt its fund tracking system to follow financial aid, supported the adaptation of laws to be more inclusive and gender sensitive, among other work.

In the promotion of a disaster and climate change resilient Nepal, UNDP scaled up several initiatives in relation to the earthquake such as rolling out mechanisms to ensuring all reconstruction aligns with the build back better approach. With trained masons and engineers, new reconstruction guidelines and an online building permit system, Nepal is laying a strong foundation for a more resilient country against the multiple hazards it faces.

Finally, following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, UNDP started its support to Nepal to adopt and adapt the Global Goals in a way that will address Nepal's long term development needs.

# RESPONDING TO THE EARTHQUAKE

In April 2015, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck Nepal killing 8,850 people and damaging 800,000 structures. Damages and losses rose to US\$7 billion as estimated in the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment. In June, the international donor community pledged US\$4.1 billion for the reconstruction of Nepal.

UNDP played a significant role in the PDNA as part of the coordinating body and as co-lead to four sectors. Furthermore, UNDP co-led the early recovery cluster under the leadership of the Government of Nepal.

With its vast experience in post-disaster early recovery expertise from around the world, UNDP devised a comprehensive recovery response strategy targeting four areas of work: governance restoration, safe demolition and debris management and community infrastructure rehabilitation, the revival of damaged livelihoods, and climate and disaster risk management. To reduce transaction costs and not delay activities, UNDP used existing projects and adapted to deliver the earthquake assistance needed.



**295,000 m<sup>3</sup>**  
of debris safely removed



**90%**  
of debris reused in the  
reconstruction

## DEBRIS MANAGEMENT

With over 800,000 damaged or destroyed buildings, safely clearing debris was of top priority. Focusing initially on houses in rural areas and then moving to public rural structures, UNDP employed a team of six international engineers and 90 young Nepali UN Volunteer engineers. Between May and December 2015, the teams assessed and safely removed debris from 3,468 houses and 146 public structures with teams of community members who earned daily wages under the cash-for-work scheme.

## LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY

The earthquake affected the livelihoods of 2.3 million households and 5.6 million workers. Up to 90 percent of enterprises, markets and livelihoods were affected in the worst-hit districts. UNDP seeks to revitalize the hardest-hit areas and promote sustainable local economic recovery through supporting micro-enterprises, community infrastructure and skills building.



© LAXMI PRASAD NGAKHUSI / UNDP NEPAL

## GOVERNANCE RESTORATION

Public services were slow to recover after the earthquake. The governance sector suffered US\$183 million worth of damages and losses. UNDP is assisting in the restoration of local governance systems; including justice, police, the National Human Rights Commission, and legal aid to ensure affected communities have access to these services. Peace, gender equity and social cohesion issues cut across all UNDP's assistance during Nepal's recovery.

## CLIMATE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION MANAGEMENT

UNDP is helping Nepal develop a long-term recovery framework that emphasizes resilience. Existing projects have been reprogrammed to address urgent needs following the disaster and include scaling up renewable energy alternatives for some of Nepal's most vulnerable people, building a culture of disaster risk awareness, and helping to ensure all reconstruction is done with a build back better approach.



**4,293**

people with  
emergency employment  
/ 1,664 women



Rebuilding  
**12,000**

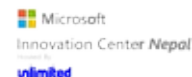
damaged small businesses



**100**

solar power systems  
installed in temporary  
government offices

## INNOVATION



In 2015, UNDP Nepal found new ways to address old problems. Innovation drove several key areas of work over this year including a simple, but comprehensive mobile tracking system imbedded in the debris management work following the earthquake. In partnership with the Microsoft Innovation Centre Nepal, UNDP's debris teams used the smart phone app to register workers, record damage assessments of earthquake-hit homes, track the emergency employment debris removal, and record demographic data. There is great potential to upscale this innovation to include mobile payment systems and financial tracking. UNDP also engaged youth particularly on finding technological answers to problems arising from the earthquake. During a Hackathon, a global technology challenge event, youth coders developed apps like an online volunteer platform, a mobile virtual marketplace for reconstruction materials, and a pre-fabricated home order form.

UNDP also engaged a host of young IT brains in harnessing technology for the benefit of unemployed youth and entrepreneurs through the innovation project, Idea Factory. The project helps rural enterprises to market and expand their businesses through an online superstore ([www.nepali.market](http://www.nepali.market)) and support young and potential entrepreneurs to start up businesses through the Idea Store ([www.ideastorenepal.com](http://www.ideastorenepal.com)).

On the human rights front, UNDP in partnership with MIC, brought together hundreds of students from across the country to brainstorm ideas for promoting, protecting and reporting human rights in Nepal. The Human Rights Ideathon not only helped raise awareness among students about human rights but also provided with a rich store of ideas on how technology could be leveraged for the promotion of human rights.



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## SECTION 1

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# Reducing Poverty and Promoting Sustainable Development

In addition to bringing destruction and hardship to Nepal's people, the earthquake has had a severe impact on the economy of Nepal. An estimated additional 700,000 people are now under the poverty line. With 5 million Nepali migrant workers overseas, the remittances provided short-term relief for the earthquake-affected population; not enough to mitigate the negative economic consequences of the disaster.





By affecting districts that were not among the most poor or vulnerable of Nepal, the earthquake has exacerbated existing inequalities in Nepal.

In order to address these challenges, UNDP continues to work with the government to promote inclusive and sustainable development that factors in regional and social disparities and sustainable use of natural resources to generate employment that target youth, the poor and the marginalized communities.

UNDP's current work in Nepal on poverty and sustainable development has been designed around two broad pillars: livelihoods and employment creation, and policy support in pro-poor development planning and monitoring. The earthquake recovery is integrated in both pillars.

↑ *Hira Tamang makes traditional treats in Udayapur district.*

© CHANDRA SEKHAR KARKI / UNDP NEPAL



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

At the United Nations on 25 September 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030.

The SDGs build on the success and shortcomings of the Millennium Development Goals that concluded in 2015. While Nepal made significant strides towards achieving the MDGs, particularly in poverty reduction, the SDGs are a new set of comprehensive development targets that each country will adapt to meet their own specific needs.

UNDP's SDG support to Nepal, and to developing countries around the world, encompasses three pillars: information and advocacy, programmes to support the implementation, and monitoring and reporting. Under the programme pillar, UNDP focuses on planning, costing and budgeting, and localization of the targets to fit the country context. This work has begun in partnership with the Government of Nepal.



## MAKING AID WORK TRANSPARENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY

Amongst both donor and recipient countries, the effective and responsible use of aid has become a central priority in recent years. Nepal is a signatory to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Busan Commitment and the High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation and participant in the UN's Third Financing for Development conference that took place in Addis Ababa in July 2015.

With the support from Denmark, United Kingdom (DFID), United States (USAID), the Developing Capacities for Effective Aid Management and Coordination (DCEAMC) project was established at the request of the Ministry of Finance in 2009 to institutionalize an aid management information system in order to effectively manage and coordinate the international development cooperation that plays a crucial role in Nepal's development.

As a result of the Aid Management Platform (AMP), transparency and accountability of aid information in Nepal has improved in recent years. As a part of building the capacity of the Government to manage resources effectively, 167 government officials were trained on Project Cycle Management, Negotiation and AMP.

After the 2015 earthquake, UNDP provided technical support to the government to adapt the aid management system to the sudden increase in emergency and reconstruction funding from donors. As the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) takes off, the aid system will be used to track funding, monitor the use of funds and ensure funding is spent efficiently with every dollar accounted for.



# 167

government officials were  
trained on Project Cycle  
Management

*The effective  
and  
responsible  
use of aid has  
become a  
central priority  
in recent years*

↓ A farming couple  
waters their crops in  
Guleriya, Bardiya.

© LAXMI PRASAD  
NGUKHUSI/UNDP NEPAL

## BETTER PRO-POOR PLANNING

Accurate data and information are critical to effective decision-making. That's why the Strengthening National Planning and Monitoring Capacity (SNPMC) project, co-funded by DFID and run jointly by UNDP and the National Planning Commission (NPC), works to enhance evidence-based planning and policy making by supporting the improvement of data collection systems at the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) and the incorporation of that data into policies designed by the NPC. The project aims to strengthen the national M&E system and undertaking policy advocacy and institutional capacity building to support the formulation of pro-poor and inclusive growth policies.

With continued UNDP support in 2015, the Government of Nepal has begun implementing evaluations of national programmes. Using data from the Second Annual Household Survey supported by UNDP, the Government is now able to clearly undertake an evidence-based policy design and decision-making. UNDP conducted trainings on enhancing monitoring and evaluation skills of 60 senior officials from 20 ministries. Following which the Government undertook three independent





evaluations of national programmes. The findings from these evaluations will influence the continued performance of the programmes. Additionally, Nepal has prepared its country report on SDGs and has begun adapting the Goals to the national context and will integrate the SDGs in development planning and budget discussions.

## POVERTY ALLEVIATION THROUGH MICRO ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Since 1998, the Micro Enterprise Development Programme (MEDEP) has been the flagship poverty reduction programme of the UNDP and the Government of Nepal. MEDEP, currently in its fourth phase, is funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and Central

↑ *Technology meets  
business for  
microentrepreneurs  
in Parbat*

📷 KAMAL RAJ SIGDEL/  
UNDP NEPAL



UNDP conducted trainings  
on enhancing monitoring  
and evaluation skills of

**60**

senior officials from  
20 ministries

Queensland University. It continues to contribute to the Government of Nepal's overarching goal of poverty alleviation through its micro-enterprise development based employment creation approach. The programme is trying to internalize this approach within government structures to make the micro enterprises sustainable beyond the scope of the project. This is being done by building Government and private sector capacity in promoting sustainable micro-enterprise development. MEDEP has demonstrated a viable model of poverty alleviation and social inclusion through optimum use of local resources, indigenous skills and collaboration for sustainable livelihoods. A study on gender and social inclusion impact of MEDEP interventions conducted in 2014 supports this conclusion.

MEDEP is currently assisting the Government of Nepal to institutionalise the MEDEP model through the government's own Micro-Enterprise Development

for Poverty Alleviation (MEDPA) programme, and create relevant structures and policies for sustainable micro enterprise development in Nepal. In 2015, the focus of MEDEP was to ensure a full Government ownership of this poverty-reduction vehicle and to further strengthen micro enterprise associations' ability to deliver business development services for their members.

Despite the challenges resulting from the earthquake and the significant loss to the gains MEDEP had made in the previous years, several milestones were reached in 2015. Most notably, 14,200 new micro-entrepreneurs were created, thus helping to alleviate their poverty conditions, exceeding the project target

## BACK TO BUSINESS

The earthquake severely affected 12,059 UNDP-promoted micro entrepreneurs (ME). To respond to their immediate needs, UNDP established the Rapid Enterprise and Livelihoods Recovery Programme (RELRP), funded by the Government of Australia, to provide quick enterprise recovery support to earthquake-affected micro entrepreneurs. Immediately after the earthquake, UNDP established help desks to provide counseling for enterprise recovery, collected data of enterprise losses and helped the affected MEs establish linkages with organisations providing rescue and relief support—resulting in rapid recovery of the affected MEs. In months between May to December, over 4,000 micro entrepreneurs affected by the earthquake were revived. With additional financial support from the Government of Australia, UNDP was able to establish over 1,000 new enterprises. Along with technical business support, the entrepreneurs received psychosocial counseling, which also helped them to overcome trauma of the earthquake shocks.



# 12,059

earthquake-affected enterprises received quick recovery support



# 76,322

micro-enterprises have been created since the start of MEDEP

↓ *A woman weaves a scarf in Rasuwa*  
© CHANDRA SEKHAR KARKI / UNDP NEPAL

of 10,000. Till now, MEDEP has created 76,322 micro-enterprises and contributed to the creation of over 90,000 jobs for the rural poor and socially excluded groups.

## CREATING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS FOR NEPAL'S VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

The Livelihood Recovery Programme (LRP), a UNDP Nepal project nearing the end of its lifespan after six years in operation, was scaled up and adapted to quickly respond to the earthquake in 2015 to restore and revitalize critical infrastructure damaged by the disaster. With funding from the Government of Mauritius, UNDP was rapidly able to adapt the project's model to earthquake-affected areas. The LRP model, a bottom-up approach, has proved to be very successful in helping the ultra-poor in conflict and disaster prone areas of three districts in Tarai to overcome development impediments.







By the end of 2015, With direct engagement of communities, UNDP completed 40 community infrastructure works including markets sheds, irrigation channels and water supply systems—spurring economic opportunities for 20,000 households in earthquake-affected communities. The community infrastructure restoration work has generated 6,289 days of short-term employment (60% male and 40% female). Mindful of disaster depriving the poor the most, the project has also helped to socio-economically mobilize 27,202 ultra-poor and poor households through 917 community organisations. A total of 7,500 community members have been registered into cooperative organizations, and 4,000 beneficiaries of the project have become micro entrepreneurs.

↑ *A woman in Bardiya weeds her cabbage fields*

© LAXMI PRASAD NGAKHUSI / UNDP NEPAL



A total of

**7,500**

community members have been registered into cooperative organizations



UP CLOSE

# IRRIGATION CANAL RESTORATION

IRRIGATION SYSTEM RESTORATION ENABLE FARMERS TO GET BACK TO WORK

Following the 2015 earthquake, communities in the hardest hit areas in Nepal scrambled to survive. In Gairibisaune, Kavre, not only did 23 people lose their lives, but the small farming community lost 500 houses, 500 cattle and precious infrastructure like irrigation systems.

Bouncing back seemed insurmountable for subsistence farmers like Ram Kanta Dhakal, whose livelihood was lost right before the planting season. While food aid was keeping the community going in the short term, Dhakal worried about what would become of the poor community members if they couldn't plant the fields.

"Already pushed to the life's edge, it wouldn't have been possible for the low-income farmers to reconstruct the canal and yield agriculture produces within four months of the earthquake," said Ram Kant Dhakal, chairperson of the User Committee.

With assistance from UNDP and funding from the Government



© SANJAY PARIYAR / UNDP NEPAL

of Mauritius, work began in restoring community infrastructure like the canals and water sources. Within only a few months, the community members were able to plant their crops and start earning much-needed income.

"Life is back with the reconstruction of this canal, which stretches nine kilometers and irrigates 509 hectares of land. At least 2,800 people are benefitting from the reconstruction," said Prajina

Karmacharya, a UN Volunteer helping in the reconstruction.

National Farmers Groups Federation (NFGF), with support from UNDP, mobilized a local workforce to reconstruct 23 irrigation canals, drinking water systems and market linkage centers that are vital to people's livelihood recovery in Kavre District.

The rapid reconstruction of the irrigation canals has been a boon to earthquake survivors.

Almost all of the 300 households of Gairibisaune have made a modest income from the sale of vegetables because the irrigation canal was quickly renovated.

"My family alone made an income of NRs 10,000 with the sale of 200 kg of tomatoes this season. My neighbour Tara Prasad Dhakal earned NRs. 30,000 selling onion seedlings," said Surya Dhakal.

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## SECTION 2

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# Promoting Inclusive And Effective Democratic Governance

**N**epal is currently at a critical stage of its democratic transition as 2015 saw the promulgation of the long-awaited constitution. To assist the Government of Nepal during this transition, UNDP has offered its support to strengthen important democratic institutions, and enable effective and inclusive democratic governance.









## REFORMING PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

With the new constitution, Nepal begins its transformation into a federal structure, changing central, provincial and local systems. The project to Prepare the Public Administration for State Reforms (PREPARE), launched in 2013 with the funding support from UNDP, foresees the needs for a great deal of preparations and supports the government to make this transition smooth.

The project works with Government partners, including the Public Service Commission, Ministry of General Administration and the Prime Minister's Office, to conduct needs assessments of immediate and longer-term administrative reforms in the federal context. Part of the support also includes development of transition management plans, including capacity development of government bodies for effective management of possible risks ensuring inclusion and effective service delivery.

UNDP helped the Ministry of General Administration to carry out the functional analysis of different sectoral ministries to streamline core functions and

↑ A woman visits the Jhapa District Court information desk  
 CHANDRA SEKHAR KARKI  
 / UNDP NEPAL



Over  
**90%**

of help desk users who evaluated their visits rated it as quite useful to understand citizen's rights.

responsibilities of different tiers of the government in the federal context. In line with the findings of the functional analysis, UNDP also supported the government to lay out blueprint for effective institutional arrangements at the federal, provincial and local level governments. The project also supported the development of a gender sensitive human resource development plan that caters to the HR needs of the new federal set up.

## PROMOTING CITIZEN AWARENESS

Getting people to the voters' booth: UNDP's Electoral Support Project (ESP) helped establish the Electoral Education and Information Centre, a hub for the Election Commission of Nepal to plan and implement public outreach and voter education campaigns. Since opening, over 90 percent of the visitors who evaluated their visits rated it as quite useful to understand citizen's rights. With ESP support, over 719,000 citizens were added in the biometric voters' roll, accumulating a total registered citizens to 13.3 million. The biometric identification system is expected to help enhance voter security and eliminate opportunities for proxy and multiple voting. ESP is implemented by UNDP in partnership with the European Union, UK Aid, the Government of Norway and the Government of Denmark.

## PRESERVING PEACE IN A POST-CONFLICT NEPAL

As Nepal moves ahead to consolidate its peace and development gains achieved in the past few years, the task of violence prevention and strengthening

community security demands due attention. Some areas of Nepal are characterized by sporadic violence and unsettled political tensions. With support from United Nations Peace Fund for Nepal (UNPFN), UNDP is working with the Ministry of Home Affairs through the Armed Violence Reduction and Strengthening Community Security (AVRSCS) project to reduce risks and incidents of armed violence, strengthen community security initiatives and planning processes and build capacity of security bodies, including Nepal Police in monitoring and controlling crime and violence in nine key Tarai districts.

In 2015, Nepal established the National Crime Observation Centre (NCOC). With UNDP support, the centre will aid Nepal's Police force to centralize, collect and analyze crime data to inform security policy and programming. To foster cooperation between police and the public, UNDP helped Nepal Police in its expansion into remote and often-neglected communities while engaging youth among other groups. Public trust in police is also increasing due to the meaningful engagement of women and minority groups like Madhesi, Dalits and Muslims in the implementation of community security plans that are gender responsive and link local government, community groups, private sector and security agencies.

## ENSURING EQUALITY IN ACCESS TO LAW

While Nepal's post-conflict transition has been exemplary in many ways, challenges in terms of institutionalising the rule of law, peace and development remain, and are a central priority for the establishment of a stable governance system. With funding support from Denmark, Finland and Norway, UNDP's Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human



**23,750**

people received legal  
awareness



Information desks in

**22**

districts increased  
community access to  
legal recourse



**30,000**

people benefited from  
human rights clinics

Rights Protection System in Nepal (RoLHR) programme works to strengthen coordination among justice sector institutions, enhance access to justice for women and vulnerable groups, and ensure compliance with international human rights standards throughout law making and law enforcement processes.

2015 saw a dramatic increase in legal services for marginalized communities and women. Through UNDP support, Nepal broadened its services and public awareness to a wide range of the population. In 2015, there was a 230 percent increase in the number of legal aid beneficiaries with 4,181 people receiving services, and over 23,750 people who received legal awareness. Also, with help from UNDP, Nepal revised the Legal Aid law to allow for a broader definition of those who can receive legal aid. This will directly improve the ability to seek justice for the most vulnerable people in Nepal.

Joint monitoring mechanisms under the Justice Sector Coordination Committee, a UNDP-supported mechanism established at the national and district level, have been developed to keep track of the human rights situation of Dalit and other marginalized groups. The coordination directly addresses issues related to judgement execution, coordination among all local level justice sector actors, witness protection and the implementation of the overall strategy of the Supreme Court. Also, information desks in 22 districts have increased the opportunities for those at the fringe of Nepal's society to gain access to legal recourse.

## MAINTAINING HUMAN RIGHTS IN EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY

Human rights violations in Nepal, such as extra judicial killings, abductions, torture, violence against women, caste-based discrimination, child labour



## SOCIAL COHESION

Nepal continues to experience a complex transition characterized by political instability and the absence of consensus on many pivotal issues. A new constitution was introduced in September this year but old conflicts are beginning to resurface in new and more intense forms, with evolving ethnic and social divisions posing a threat of social fragmentation as the country struggles to achieve a new democratic order. The immediate reactions on the newly promulgated constitution, and the ongoing unrest and tensions have created wide divisions in the society. Once the government, parliament and political parties move ahead in the transitional course, strengthening social cohesion is going to be a key for successful implementation of the new constitution, and for Nepal to achieve SDGs. In 2015, with a focus on social cohesion, UNDP enabled constructive dialogue opportunities for key stakeholders from political, media, religion and civil society groups. Under the Conflict Prevention Programme, UNDP helped develop mechanisms to facilitate collaboration and helped to mainstream conflict sensitivity in several key government departments. Similarly, through the Armed Violence Reduction and Strengthening Community Security Project, UNDP helped bring together a cross-section of Nepali society to contribute to community security plans. Working directly with Nepal's police offices, UNDP has helped improve security and public awareness in some of the more remote communities.

Going into 2016, it will be important for UNDP to support government officials at every level, as well as other key stakeholders, to strengthen the social contract that glues a functional state together. At the most essential level it will be important for government officials, political party leaders and civil society figures to be highly aware of and sensitized to the political, cultural and other dynamics in their respective geographic areas of work. This will be particularly true in which the new federal boundaries have sparked friction between identity groups.

In 2015, UNDP helped the Commission to roll out mobile human rights clinics. This was imperative in the 14 hardest-hit districts where relief and reconstruction was most needed. To ensure the distribution of aid and reconstruction does not violate human rights, these clinics provide monitoring and offer services as grievance outlets.

## EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, local governments had lost infrastructure, systems and in some cases, the lives of civil servants. Yet in the case of disasters like the earthquake, the local government is on the frontline to deliver aid and coordinate the relief and reconstruction efforts. Through the Local Governance and Community Development Programme (LGCDP), funds were transferred immediately to the affected local governments; this was made possible by the project's existing support to improve effective service delivery across Nepal. The programme is funded by Denmark, United Kingdom, Japan and Norway. The quick release of funds enabled officers to undertake assessments, establish emergency systems and deliver financial aid to those who needed immediate relief.

and abuse of Nepali migrant workers occur and often go unaccounted for. There are a number of human rights obligations yet to be implemented. The National Human Rights Commission has a significant role to play in this regards. UNDP's Strengthening the Capacity of the National Human Rights Commission (SCNHRC) project, funded by Denmark, Finland, Switzerland and United Kingdom works to support the NHRC in effectively fulfilling its mandate to promote and protect human rights.



**41%**

of Ward Citizen Forums are women

Also invaluable to the recovery phase are the Ward Citizens' Forums established nationwide as part of UNDP's work. In 2015, 41 percent of the Forum participants were women. Almost half of the Forum-made development plans were approved by local government, which is in part due to UNDP's advocacy for the engagement of marginalized voices to demand that development should best address their needs. The Ward Forums will be of particular use during the multi-year recovery of Nepal post-earthquake to ensure its equity, transparency and quality.

UP CLOSE

# INCLUSIVE DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES REACH NEPAL'S VULNERABLE PEOPLE

**THE BASTOLA FAMILY HAS NEVER CAST A VOTE. KABI LAL BASTOLA, 71, AND HIS DAUGHTER, KUMARI, 20, TOOK STEPS TO CHANGE THAT.**

While Kumari was getting her citizenship certificate at the Morang District Administration Office, the father-daughter duo also registered to vote. As part of a national drive to build the registration list, citizens are encouraged to get their names on the list. For Kabi Lal Bastola, being able to vote is a matter of rights; his civic duty.

"I will never miss the chance to vote, whether it is the national election, local or provincial, and I will teach my children to use their rights," Mr Bastola said.

Driven from their remote district to Morang in search of economic opportunities, the family couldn't afford school fees for Kumari. She dropped out before graduation. Despite their economic situation, as newly-registered voters, the Bastolas' voices will now be heard, their votes counted.

"I am so proud to be part of Nepal's democratic process," Kumari said.



The Voter Registration Programme, assisted by UNDP's Electoral Support Project, exists in all 75 districts in Nepal. It ensures that newly eligible

citizens are registered to vote as soon as they get their citizenship certificates. The drive also catches those with certificates but having yet to register to vote.

In 2015, 719,000 voters were added to the biometric voters' roll.

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## SECTION 3

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# Building Resilience Promoting Ecosystem Based Adaptation Solutions

Nepal is amongst the most vulnerable countries in the world to both natural disaster and the effects of climate change. The country is located in a high seismic hazard zone, and over 80 percent of the population faces high risks from other natural hazards, including floods, landslides, windstorms, hailstorms, fires, and glacial lake outburst floods.

Nepal is home to 10 percent of the world's potentially dangerous glacial lakes, and ranks fourth globally in terms of vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. Exacerbating this situation is the fact that nearly 70 percent of Nepal's population depends upon agriculture and even slight changes in climatic conditions can have a major impact on their lives and livelihoods.









Such far-reaching consequences of climatic changes have the potential to undermine development significantly reversing development gains. Addressing current and future risks requires a comprehensive preparedness programme that integrates disaster-risk sensitivity in development programming. This also calls for creating a solid repository of disaster knowledge and trained human resources to deal with increasingly complex challenges stemming from high frequency of disasters. UNDP has been working with the Government and communities of Nepal to address the myriad risks faced as a result of climate change and frequent disasters towards enhancing resilience.

## MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Human well-being depends on nature, more so in the mountainous regions. Yet, climate change is imposing

Electricity has changed the lives of Bhim Bikram Malla and his community in remote Darbang, Myagdi.

© LAXMI PRASAD NGAKHUSI / UNDP NEPAL

a serious threat to mountain ecosystems, putting the lives and livelihoods of mountain communities in Nepal at risk.

Ecosystem-based approaches aim to strengthen the resilience of these communities by addressing the crucial links between climate change, biodiversity, ecosystem service and sustainable resource management, and to integrate the management of ecosystems and biodiversity into a coherent strategy. UNDP's Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Mountain Ecosystems in Nepal (EBA) funded by Germany is part of a global pilot project, along with Peru and Uganda, which has been working to strengthen vulnerable communities to build resilient ecosystems and use resources wisely.

In 2015, EBA in Nepal promoted opportunities for diversified livelihoods opportunities that protect ecosystems; water and land conservation, including production of non-timber forest products (NTFP);

and ecotourism amongst the poor and vulnerable communities in the Panchase Mountain areas. EBA has renovated 11 conservation ponds and nine traditional water sources, benefiting 966 households and 4,955 people—enhancing ecosystem's water recharge capacity and increasing water availability for drinking, as well as agriculture. EBA has planted approximately 4,500 multiple-use plants and distributed more than 26,000 seedlings of NTFP and multiple-use species of various species, conserving 20 hectares of land to control soil erosion, while utilizing open area, promoting greenery, and controlling open grazing.

Land rehabilitation interventions such as gully control, river bank conservation, river restoration and soil conservation through green belt establishment

EBA has renovated



11

conservation ponds  
and nine traditional  
water sources

↓ *Communities face  
increasing flood  
risks due to climate  
change.*

📷 LAXMI PRASAD  
NGAKHUSI / UNDP NEPAL

were carried out in 35 degraded and vulnerable sites of Panchase Mountains, conserving more than 50 hectares of land. This was aimed at reducing the vulnerability of local people suffering from climate-induced hazards such as landslides.

## BETTER PLANNING FOR A CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENT NEPAL

In order to help increase the resilience of communities in the mid and far western regions of Nepal, UNDP works with the Ministry of Population and Environment (MOPE) to deliver the Nepal Climate Change Support Programme (NCCSP). With DFID funding, NCCSP works at both the local and national level to help communities adapt to the effects of climate change through integrated management of the agriculture, water, forest and biodiversity





sectors, and enhances capacities of the Government to mainstream climate change into Nepal's national development agenda and contribute to poverty reduction, livelihood diversification and community resilience.

In 2015, UNDP effectively implemented 873 most urgent and immediate actions as documented in 100 local adaptation plans for action (LAPA) benefiting 78,717 vulnerable people. The programme created 95,786 working days (and employed 29 percent women), mitigating disaster risks and increasing agricultural productivity through improved infrastructure like irrigation. In addition, UNDP-supported mechanisms have pulled together all relevant stakeholders and created a platform to discuss climate change agendas and monitoring of ongoing action plans.

## BUILDING BACK BETTER AND STRONGER

While Nepal faces many hazards, the 2015 earthquake uncovered the widespread structural vulnerability



60

trainers trained on safe construction practices in Nepal's vocational schools



580

national engineers (of which 100 are women) trained on conducting detailed assessment of damaged buildings

*A worker builds back better by complying with building codes*

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of building and infrastructures to disaster and climate change risks. Led by the Ministry of Home Affairs, several relevant ministries and departments have been working to reduce the disaster risks in Nepal, in coordination with different development partners, including UN agencies. UNDP through its Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Programme (CDRMP) has been supporting the government in policy and institutional development for effective implementation of the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management (NSDRM). CDRMP, funded by United Kingdom, Republic of Korea, Japan and Baidu Foundation, is also working towards enhancing communities' resilience to cope with the effects of disaster and climate risks.

Ensuring that Nepal can withstand future shocks is at the core of UNDP's earthquake recovery. As a result of UNDP's support in 2015, Nepal has strengthened its building codes and has begun investing in compliance through an integrated electronic permit system. Prior to the earthquake, UNDP and the Government had developed safer construction guidelines and video toolkits for masonry trainings and guidelines for retrofitting buildings. Engineers and masons are undergoing safe construction trainings to build back better and stronger.

## SMALL ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS FOR NEPAL'S VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

Environmental protection does not have to come at the cost of livelihoods. Nepal's poor and vulnerable communities are at high risk both from the effects of climate change and unsustainable environmental practices. To help address these challenges, UNEP, UNDP and Global Environment Facility (GEF),



through the Small Grants Programme, provide small grants directly to at-risk communities to conserve biodiversity, mitigate effects of climate change, reduce land degradation and eliminate harmful chemicals and pollutants in agriculture while simultaneously helping them to preserve their livelihoods.

In 2015, UNDP and GEF supported 30 small grants projects. In Baglung, for example, the grant enabled the construction of a dam, 15 roadside retention walls and six waterways that diverted water that was eroding the riverbank. In all, the project has saved over 3,100 hectares of riverbank, while controlling the erratic flow of water during the monsoon season. This has helped farmers to prevent land erosion and maintain healthy production of their crops.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR NEPAL'S RURAL POOR

With a quarter of Nepal's population deprived of access to electricity, access to energy has become a critical barrier to long-term development. This, despite tremendous opportunities for clean and renewable energy development, as well as the potential multiplier effect of energy in promoting livelihoods opportunities. With funding support from Republic of Korea and Norway, the Renewable Energy for Rural Livelihood project (RERL) is funded by GEF and jointly implemented by the GEF, UNDP and the Government of Nepal.

Since 1996 UNDP supported rural energy programmes have provided access to renewable energy to over 300,000 people in remote and off-grid areas, largely through development of micro hydro systems.



In 2015, UNDP and GEF supported

**30**

small grants projects

Following the earthquake in 2015, UNDP integrated RERL with its recovery programme to rapidly assess 100 micro hydro systems and 42 solar pumping systems that were affected by the earthquake and repair the damage to 31 energy-generating systems, which directly benefited 7,500 households. UNDP also helped local governments restore their damaged buildings like offices and health clinics, ensuring all temporary structures of local governments were solar-powered.

With the aim to promote sustainable and reliable mini-grid systems, UNDP supported Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPIC) to successfully install the Gulmi Mini Grid Project in Wami Taksar, Gulmi district. It connects two micro hydro plants: one 135 kilowatts and the other 83 kW, and provides reliable electricity to more than 2,300 households in the vicinity through a single system. UNDP also helped additional 3,581 households to be connected to electricity in 2015.

## EARLY WARNINGS DOWNSTREAM FROM GLACIAL LAKES

A large volume of water is held back by delicate bunds of ice and soil in Nepal's Himalayas. Communities living downstream are at increasing risk of these glacial lakes bursting their banks and causing devastating floods. Since 2013, the Government of Nepal, UNDP and GEF have worked together to reduce the human and material costs of potential glacial lake outburst flooding (GLOF) under the Community-based Flood and Glacial Lake Outburst Risk Reduction Project.

Lake Imja is one particularly delicate glacial lake with over 9,000 people directly living in harm's way if its



UNDP also helped additional

**3,581**

households to be connected to electricity in 2015

banks burst. When the 2015 earthquake struck, these vulnerable communities immediately put on alert against a potential flooding. Over the years, this UNDP project installed 15 community-based early warning systems along a 50-kilometre stretch downstream from Lake Imja and the Dudhkosi River corridor. The project also upgraded 12 evacuation centres and has identified ways to lower the water level of Imja. Controlling the water levels with regular drainage will reduce the impact of a potential outburst that could come with earthquakes.



12

evacuation centres  
upgraded in high-risk areas

Similarly, in Nepal's Tarai region in the country's south, communities are also at risk of severe flooding. This year, UNDP completed the construction of 4.4 kilometre stretch of embankment, 4.5 kilometres of flood-proof drainage, installed six tube wells and 18 early warning systems in areas where vulnerable communities live. In addition, a total of 7,633 members of vulnerable communities across the country have benefited from 67 mock drills, dramas and trainings aimed at raising awareness on disaster and climate risk management.

## EARTHQUAKE RESILIENCE AND THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK

In 2015, the world's nations adopted a new set of targets toward disaster resilience building upon the successes and shortcomings of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 - 2015. The Sendai Framework 2015 -2030 is a guiding agreement for vulnerable nations to mitigate effects of climate change and strengthen their resilience in the face of disasters. For Nepal, the framework came right before the earthquake which brought about a potential paradigm shift in how it approaches disaster vulnerabilities. UNDP has worked with the Government of Nepal to address existing disaster vulnerabilities; to build its disaster response mechanisms; to integrate mitigation systems like early warning systems; and raise public awareness on disaster and climate risks. In the aftermath of the 2015 earthquakes, UNDP is helping Nepal build back better, employing guiding principles within the Sendai Framework. UNDP will also assist Nepal to mainstream disaster risk reduction and management in its sustainable development plans.

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UP CLOSE

# CONSTRUCTION AT THE CLICK OF A BUTTON

**STARTING 6 DECEMBER, 2015, NEPAL IS WISHING TO BUILD NEW STRUCTURES CAN OFFICIALLY APPLY AND RECEIVE THEIR BUILDING PERMITS ONLINE.**

Launched at the Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KTM) Office, the electronic building permit system or e-BPS, is a simple online application system that makes obtaining a permit easier and will improve compliance to building codes. The e-BPS is an initiative supported by UNDP under its Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Programme.

Following the April 2015 earthquake that saw the destruction and damage of 800,000 structures, it became apparent that compliance with the National Building Code was low. Where structures adhered to the law, destruction and major damage were rare.

This new system, according to Gail Marzetti, Director of DFID in Nepal, will drastically improve the safety of Nepal's structures, particularly in the face of disasters.

"It is not earthquakes that kill people, but unsafe buildings," Dr. Marzetti said. "DFID



congratulates this initiative to ensure in the future better building code compliant buildings will be built in Kathmandu and across Nepal."

Joined by Nepal's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Local Development and Federal Affairs Hon'ble Kamal Thapa, UNDP's Country Director for Nepal,

Renaud Meyer, celebrated the online system that applies to Kathmandu but will be rolled out nationwide.

"KMC as a pioneer in this system could serve as a mother municipality in replication of e-BPS to all other municipalities within the Kathmandu Valley, especially since the entire valley remains highly vulnerable to

earthquakes," Mr. Meyer said.

The e-BPS has already been attributed as the key reason for Nepal's move upwards by 35 places in World Bank IFC's Doing Business 2015 ranking in the category for dealing with construction permits. Several countries have expressed great interest to replicate the e-BPS.

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## SECTION 4

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# Supporting Nepal's Democratic Transition

**W**ith the promulgation of the long-awaited constitution in September 2015, Nepal's political transition reached an important milestone. As the Implementation of the constitution begins, Nepal has entered the final leg of its democratic transition process that began with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2006. Despite major parties coming together to finalize the new constitution, it was not without dissent. Political tensions continue to impede Nepal's implementation of the constitution and thereby aspirations of peace and sustainable development.





Nepal continues to experience a complex transition characterized by political instability and the absence of consensus on many pivotal issues. As a long-term development partner, UNDP continues to assist the Government of Nepal, political parties and civil society organizations in their efforts to navigate the challenges of a transitional period by promoting a culture of participatory dialogue. In order to mitigate potential conflict, UNDP has been engaging national and local actors on emerging issues around politics, resources and identity. Mindful of how even development activities can fuel conflict, UNDP continues to work with a range of development actors to raise awareness among them of localized conflict dynamics.

## FOSTERING PEACE DURING THE TRANSITION

In order to address the ongoing tensions and prevent potential conflicts, the Conflict Prevention

Programme (CPP), funded by UNDP and United Nations Peace Building Fund, has been building collaborative leadership and dialogue skills amongst politicians and youth leaders on contentious transitional issues to help overcome the lack of consensual decision-making that has blighted governance in Nepal.

In 2015, the programme on conflict sensitivity has helped government and civil society, particularly with youth, integrate and mainstream conflict sensitivity into their programming. In addition, dialogue between senior editors of Nepali media and political parties has helped editors to reflect and introspect on their roles in the peace process. This has led to development of shared ideas of how they can contribute jointly to help political actors conclude the transition smoothly. It has also resulted in visible media coverage on promoting peace journalism and avoiding sensationalism.

CPP also assists actors in developing conflict-sensitive planning, and works with local peace structures and

↓ Youth play volleyball with local police in Rajapur, Bardiya

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government agencies for an early warning system and early response to potential conflict. The programme has developed strategies to focus on strengthening social cohesion and democratic participation from 2016 onward through an engagement with youth, women, marginalized groups, and community actors in violence-prone areas.

↑ *Mohana Ansari, member of NHRC, addresses delegates at a national dialogue on GBV*

📍 LAXMI PRASAD NGAKHUSI / UNDP NEPAL

## A CONSTITUTION INFORMED BY PUBLIC INPUT

With funding support from United Kingdom and Switzerland, UNDP's Support to Participatory Constitution Building in Nepal (SPCBN) worked closely with the Constituent Assembly (CA), the Government of Nepal and political parties. The project facilitated efforts to make the constitution writing process fully participatory and inclusive, by bringing international experts to assist the CA secretariat and Assembly members on making informed decisions. The new constitution, despite some objections from some parties, which are being renegotiated, has been able to secure rights of traditionally marginalised groups. The challenge now

is to implement the constitution. After promulgation of the new Constitution, UNDP shifted its focus to support the parliament in effectively playing its role of representing the public, policy making, budget approval and offering proper checks to the executive through regular oversight.

Promulgation of the new constitution was one of the biggest achievements of Nepal since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2006. In 2015, UNDP promoted more informed debates around key contentious constitutional issues, including federalism, electoral system, the citizenship issue, forms of government, judicial system, and inclusion. The project engaged political party leaders and CA committee members and offered platforms where compromise was facilitated during Chatham House style candid discussions. This contributed to a narrowing of the gaps between parties on several key issues. UNDP has worked to enhance the knowledge of women and excluded groups on the importance of their participation in the constitution making process.

In 2015, the public consultation component of UNDP's work led to an increased contribution to the constitution from a wider audience. In run up to the finalization of the constitution, an innovative and cost-effective method of public consultation facilitated by UNDP helped Nepal's Constituent Assembly reach over 2 million people and draw more than 15,500 comments on the draft constitution within a span of less than two weeks.

These suggestions and comments came via a dedicated website and Facebook page. These contributions were compiled and handed over to the CA for incorporation into the final draft. In parallel, another mechanism was on the ground holding similar community consultations in eight districts engaging local communities.



## LEARNING FROM BOSNIA

With UNDP's support, a group of Nepalis, who were victims of the 1996–2006 armed insurgency in Nepal, visited Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina to learn about memorials and livelihoods support to the victims of Bosnian war. In this picture, the members of the Conflict Victims' Common Platform (CVCP), the victims' network in Nepal, observe the eternal flame in honor of those killed in Sarajevo during World War II. As most CVCP members have never met a conflict victim from outside of Nepal, the group was able to learn and exchange experiences.

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UP CLOSE

# Do No Harm Reporting Keeps The Peace

**SENSATIONAL HEADLINES IN NEPAL'S NEWSPAPERS ARE A COMMON SIGHT. IF IT BLEEDS, IT LEADS, AS THEY SAY IN THE BUSINESS. BUT ONE STORY UPSET WOMEN'S RIGHTS GROUPS, SETTING THEM AGAINST MEDIA.**

"Woman burns her boyfriend alive for unrequited sex" was a sad story in and of itself, but the sensational nature of the piece led to an ever-expanding storyline of what happened between the victim and the accused; the comments section filled with anti-women commentary. Women's rights groups accused media of malice and condemned journalists. Journalists further twisted the story into a macabre sensational tale to sate the public appetite for stories like this.

Journalist Rudra Subedi was caught in the middle. While he was disappointed with the blanket accusation of local NGOs against journalists, he also saw bad reporting and little investigation of facts.

"I was not convinced from any angle that the news was true," Subedi said. "Many were behind cheap sensation without checking the ground reality as it was a very sexy news to make a quick sell."



Subedi's investigation revealed that the woman was fighting back against attempted rape and the victim was burned by accident. Subedi's report and the balanced news that followed saved the woman from wrongful prosecution and social ousting, and also helped bring to light the important role journalists play in keeping the peace.

"I would have followed the insensitive bandwagon had I not been oriented on Do-No-Harm approach," said Subedi, who had just attended a Do-

No-Harm training from UNDP Nepal's Conflict Prevention Programme (CPP). "As a chair of the Federation of Nepalese Journalists in Banke, it quickly clicked in my mind that it is the right time I should orient my fellow journalists on Do-No-Harm and gender-sensitive approach."

Through the Federation of Nepalese Journalists, around 200 journalists from the local radio, FM, television and newspapers were oriented on gender-sensitive reporting and the

Do-No-Harm approach. UNDP's peace-building team designed a training for Nepal's journalists that focused on sensitivities in reporting with a particular spotlight on connection rather than division.

Thanks to the Do-No-Harm approach, it has enabled quite a few journalists like Subedi to play a crucial and proactive role in promoting peace journalism, which helps maintain social cohesion and avert potential conflicts at troubled times.

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## SECTION 5

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# Promoting Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

In 2015, Nepal made strides in its efforts for a more inclusive society for women and vulnerable groups. Nepal moved two steps up from 2014 in the global gender gap ranking to 110 out of 145 countries. At the close of the MDGs, Nepal achieved its target of having women represent at least 30 percent of the seats in Parliament; laudable as well is the appointment of women as President and Speaker of the Parliament.

Nepal's new constitution, promulgated in 2015, has enshrined provisions for women and vulnerable groups raising the bar for Nepal's social inclusion markers as never before. Despite discrimination concerns from various groups in Nepal, positive steps in the constitution are many. Benchmarks are set for representation of women and ethnic groups, and for the first time, in the composition of the National Assembly, there must be representation of people living with disabilities, an oft-overlooked section of Nepal's society.



Students end LGBTI bullying with the  
PurpleMySchool campaign

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Several UNDP initiatives have led to strengthening an environment for increased participation of women and marginalized people in political roles, such as career counselling and guidance on civil service entry exams, scholarships in legal education for people in poor and rural areas of Nepal, and revisions of Nepal's legal curricula to incorporate the importance of gender and inclusion, and provisions of technical expertise to women MPs to bring their skills equal to that of their male counterparts.

With targeted advocacy and technical guidance, UNDP has helped Nepal amend over 30 laws from an anti-discrimination lens, including the Legal Aid Act 1997 amended to include previously overlooked groups, the Domestic Violence Act 2009; the Anti-Witchcraft Act 2015, and the Caste-based Discrimination and Untouchability Act.

The earthquake in April 2015 took a toll on the progress toward poverty reduction and increased the vulnerability of several groups already at risk. However, through UNDP's earthquake response work, a large number of women and marginalized groups were provided with emergency employment and

✦ *Monica Shahi, the first recipient of Nepal's third gender passport, celebrates Gaijatra Pride*

📷 LAXMI PRASAD NGAKHUSI / UNDP NEPAL

longer-term micro-enterprise support. These groups also benefited from mobile human rights clinics that ensured aid and opportunities were even distributed.

Another primary issues that UNDP Nepal has pursued concerns empowering women affected by HIV to engage with the justice and health sectors. Towards this end, a training manual, entitled 'Positive Protection: Empowering Women Affected by HIV to Protect their Rights at Healthcare Settings in Nepal', was developed in collaboration the National Federation of Women Living with HIV & AIDS, Nepal and in partnership with UNAIDS and Save the Children, as part of a regional initiative supported partly by Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

The manual will help civil society organisations build competency to work in partnership with the human rights, justice and health sectors to ensure that the health needs of women affected by HIV are addressed free of prejudice and discrimination. The manual was set in motion with the training of 26 community leaders from the key affected populations, including female sex workers and transgender people.

UP CLOSE

# WOMEN RISE IN NEPAL'S GOVERNMENT

**NEPAL HAS MADE HISTORY WITH ITS FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT. BIDHYA DEVI BHANDARI WAS ELECTED BY PARLIAMENT IN OCTOBER 2015. SHE IS JOINED BY ONSARI GHARTI MAGAR, NEPAL'S FIRST FEMALE PARLIAMENT SPEAKER.**

For the first time in Nepal's history, women are gaining ground in the seats of power. Enshrined in the new constitution is the mandatory one-third of women in the parliament. President Bhandari has ensured this is the case. Yet many women parliamentarians feel that while they are at the table, their voices could be fine-tuned, more audible and have greater impact.

"We as women parliamentarians need support to better perform our role," said Ranju Jha Thakur from the Parliamentary Committee on Women, Children, Senior Citizens and Social Welfare. "We want to show our constituents how we are contributing to Nepal's development."

In early November, UNDP and the Legislative Parliament Secretariat invited female parliamentarians for the first of many talks on the implementation of the constitution, challenges, gaps and support required by female Parliament members to play active roles as Parliamentarians.



For its first gathering, the parliamentarians discussed what kind of support they need and the challenges they face while performing their role.

"UNDP has an important role to play in supporting female parliamentarians because they have a tremendous role in decision making and shouldn't be overlooked because of their gender," said Sophie Kemkhadze, UNDP's Deputy Country Director. "We've heard from the parliamentarians that what they need most is building their technical capacity particularly to

help the public understand the Nepal's new constitution."

UNDP's Parliament Support Project will assist the parliamentarians develop their capacity and help in constituent outreach. By adding a forum for female parliamentarians to collaborate and build skills, UNDP promotes a space and opportunity to strengthen the role of women in parliament.

As part of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, parliamentarians play a particularly crucial role in

Nepal's achievement of the targets. According to UNDP's Country Director, Renaud Meyer, female parliamentarians will be the champions of the SDG achievements.

"These parliamentarians will engage in changing the dimensions of how Nepal approaches the path it takes toward sustainable development. This change will impact the SDG targets like business development and climate change, and transparency of the government," Mr. Meyer said.





*On 4th December 2015, the iconic building of Nepal's Parliament was turned orange as part of the global campaign to end violence against women and girls.*

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# THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS



The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme has been contributing to peace and development through volunteerism in Nepal since 1974. In its 41 years of experience in Nepal, 2015 was probably one of the most challenging years for the organization. In response to the earthquakes in April and May, UNV partnered with various UN agencies to deploy large number of volunteers to serve the people in need.

In 2015, Nepal became the second largest UNV programme country in the development sector with almost 188 national and international UN volunteers working with UNDP, OCHA, WFP, and other UN agencies. Following the earthquake, UNVs were deployed across the country to work with the Government of Nepal to reduce disaster risk, eradicate poverty, empower women, uphold human rights, promote safe migration and protect children, among others.

### **RESPONDING TO THE EARTHQUAKE**

UNV and UNDP partnered to roll out the debris management programme in the hardest hit areas. Starting as a nine-person UNV team, the programme expanded to deploy 84 national UNV engineers in Sindhupalchowk district to assess the level of structural damage to homes and public buildings and lead workers to safely demolish the buildings and remove the rubble. The engineers, trained under international demolition experts, will carry on UNDP's debris programme into 2016.

### **YOUTH INNOVATORS CHANGE THE WAY GOVERNMENT WORKS**

Under UNDP's Local Governance and Community Development Programme, 136 UNVs have been

deployed in all 75 districts in Nepal to digitize the Government's operational procedures, and strengthen and maintain the IT infrastructure of local governments. UNV Nepal has also deployed eight UNVs as ICT experts in six regional cluster units and two programme coordination units in the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD).

### **INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS DAY**

Over 500 volunteers rallied on International Volunteers Day 2015 to celebrate "Your World is Changing; Are You?" Participants were joined by Mr Bhim Bahadur Rawal, Nepal's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, and UNDP's Country Director, Renaud Meyer.



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*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

# UNDP NEPAL & THE UN SYSTEM



UNDP celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2016, but some offices around the world began operating prior to this. UNDP Nepal opened its first in-country office in 1963. Since then, its support has gone to building up the capacity of government agencies, civil society and community groups to fight poverty, and to bringing these groups and Nepal's donors together to design and implement successful development projects. Today 219 staff and service contract holders, 35 percent of which are women, work together and with government and civil society partners to meet the objectives of the agency, as set out in the Country Programme Action Plan, agreed in collaboration with the Government of Nepal.



The work of UNDP in Nepal is coordinated with 15 other UN agencies in Nepal through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2013-2017. The UNDAF is agreed between the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and the Government of Nepal (GoN) to guide the work of the UN in Nepal. The Framework focuses on the needs and rights of the most vulnerable, and supports effective governance and stability, livelihoods, basic services, disaster risk management, conflict prevention and other areas.

The UNDAF defines Nepal's key development challenges and sets out development priorities and objectives structured around 10 Outcomes: six that deal with moving the development agenda forward through advancing equality, three that aim to protect development gains made in the past, and one that helps create an enabling environment for enhanced international cooperation.

Following the April 2015 earthquake and strong aftershock in May, the UN system has adapted to meet

the emerging humanitarian needs. It established the Humanitarian Country Team, with the Resident Coordinator assuming the role of the Humanitarian Country Coordinator. The HCT through UNOCHA launched a Flash Appeal, which called for US\$422 million to support the relief and early recovery needs of 2.8 million people affected by the disaster.

UNDP assumes the role of co-chair of the Early Recovery Cluster worldwide. In Nepal, it co-chaired the Cluster under the leadership of the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) and the Ministry of Urban Development and coordinated the activities of the early recovery actors. The Early Recovery Cluster was well funded in comparison to other similar disasters. A total of 56.5 percent of the required US\$16 million was raised and mobilized.

By the end of 2015, the Early Recovery Cluster transitioned into a formal donor coordination mechanism on recovery and reconstruction co-lead by UNDP and the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA), a national body established to coordinate the massive recovery and reconstruction process.

# FUNDING SOURCES & PARTNERSHIPS

In 2015, UNDP implemented development programmes across Nepal with a total expenditure of \$35.7 million, of which 21 percent was resources from UNDP core funding. The remaining 79 percent was mobilized from bilateral and multilateral donors and agencies, Global Environment Facility, Peace Fund, and Thematic Trust Funds.

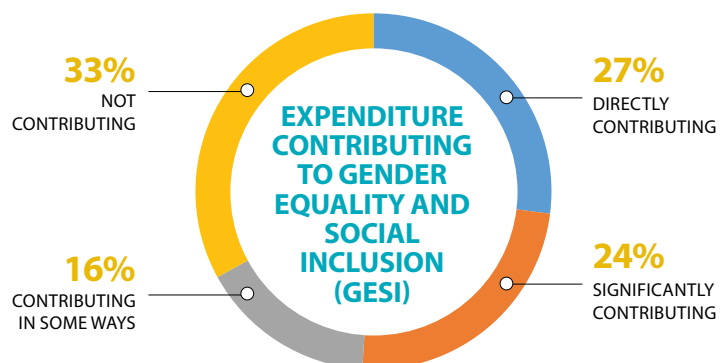
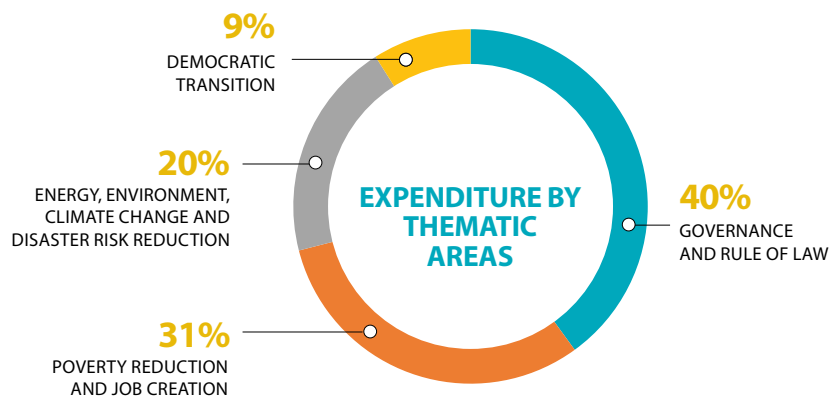
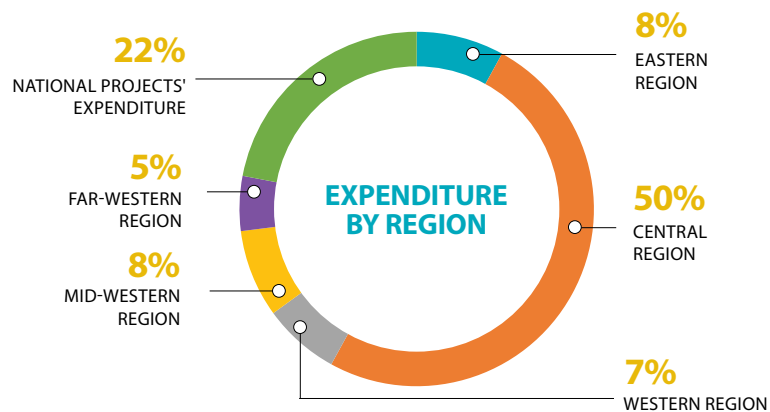
Breaking down UNDP's 2015 expenditure by thematic areas, the greatest investment by value was in governance and rule of law at 40% followed by poverty reduction and job creation at 31%, energy, environment, climate change and disaster risk reduction at 20%, and democratic transition at 9%.

More than half of UNDP's total expenditures contributed directly or significantly to achieving gender equality and social inclusion.

## FUNDS RECEIVED IN 2015

DONORS	IN USD	PERCENT
AUSTRALIA	10,376,831	27%
UNDP CORE	8,439,768	22%
DFID	3,051,963	8%
UNDP HQ THEMATIC TRUST FUND	2,744,840	7%
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY	1,998,826	5%
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	1,823,097	5%
EUROPEAN UNION	1,378,850	4%
JAPAN	1,318,654	3%
DENMARK	1,245,516	3%
NEPAL	1,227,412	3%
UN PEACE FUND	1,124,606	3%
FINLAND	1,058,201	3%
REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS	1,028,936	3%
NORWAY	694,889	2%
UNEP	341,008	1%
INTEL FOUNDATION	330,000	1%
UK FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH OFFICE	149,925	0%
SWISS AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION	103,107	0%
ICFC, GEORGIA	100,000	0%
BAIDU FOUNDATION	99,984	0%
OHCHR	29,922	0%
RYOHIN KEIKAKU CO. LTD	24,149	0%
CENTRAL QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY, AUSTRALIA	18,835	0%
OTHER SOURCES	8,050	0%
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>38,717,369</b>	<b>100</b>





UNDP

# CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

Note: This list includes bilateral and multilateral donors only.  
Please refer to "Funding Sources and Partnership" for a full list of donors.



AUSTRALIA



DENMARK



EUROPEAN UNION



FINLAND



GERMANY



JAPAN



NEPAL



NORWAY



REPUBLIC OF KOREA



MAURITIUS



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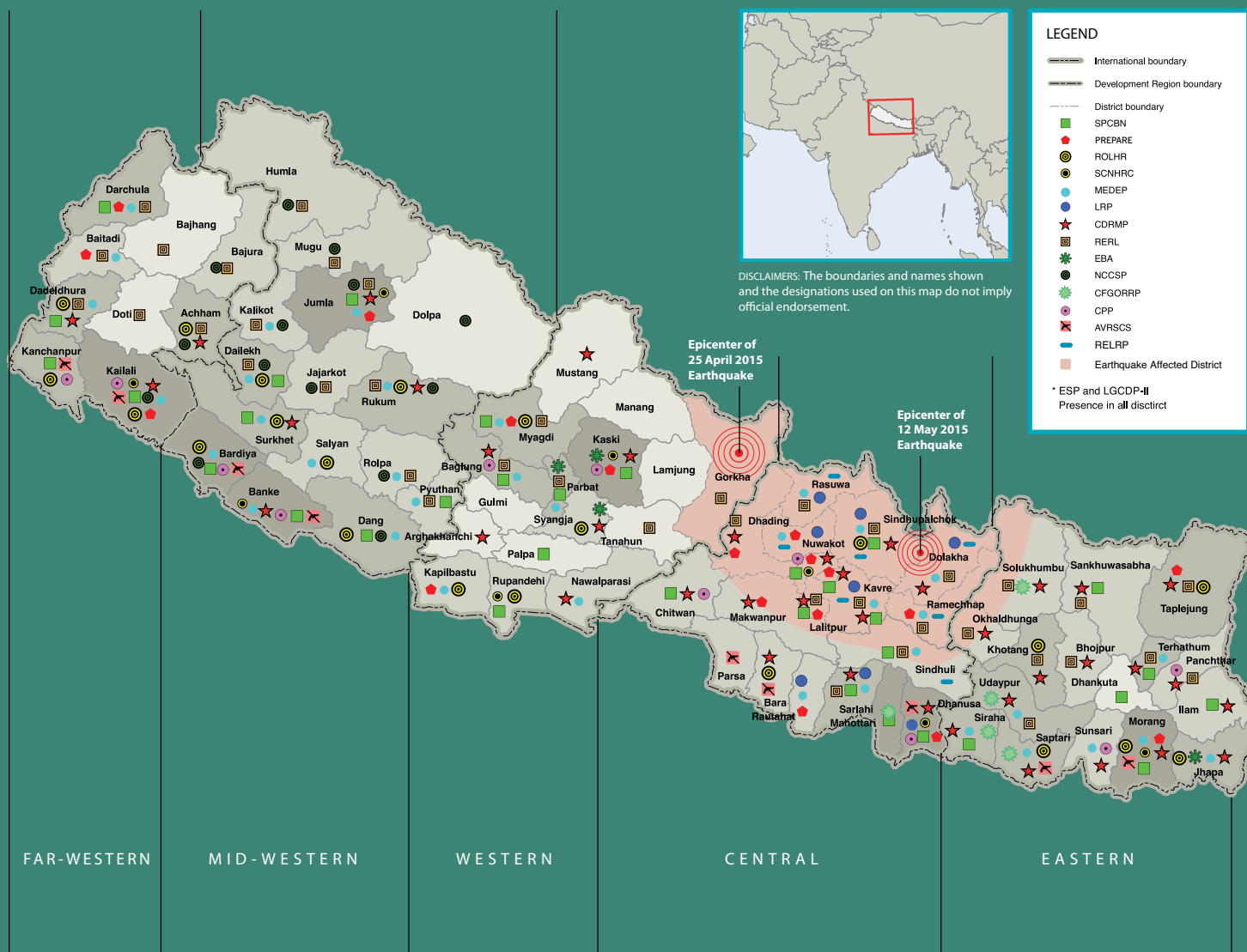


UNITED KINGDOM

# UNDP NEPAL

# FIELD LEVEL PRESENCE

AS OF JANUARY 2016





## LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>AMP</b>	Aid Management Platform	<b>MEDPA</b>	Micro Enterprise Development for Poverty Alleviation
<b>AVRSCS</b>	Armed Violence Reduction and Strengthening Community Security	<b>MoFALD</b>	Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development
<b>CBS</b>	Central Bureau of Statistics	<b>MoGA</b>	Ministry of General Administration
<b>CDRMP</b>	Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Programme	<b>MoHA</b>	Ministry of Home Affairs
<b>CFGORRP</b>	Community Based Flood and Glacial Lake Outburst Risk Reduction Project	<b>MoI</b>	Ministry of Industry
<b>CIAA</b>	Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority	<b>MoPR</b>	Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction
<b>CLD</b>	Collaborative Leadership and Dialogue	<b>MoSTE</b>	Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment
<b>CPP</b>	Conflict Prevention Programme	<b>NCCSP</b>	Nepal Climate Change Support Programme
<b>DCEAMC</b>	Developing Capacity for Effective Aid Management and Coordination	<b>NCOC</b>	Nepal Crime Observation Centre
<b>DDC</b>	District Development Committee	<b>NHRC</b>	National Human Rights Commission
<b>EbA</b>	Ecosystem-based Adaptation	<b>NPC</b>	National Planning Commission
<b>ECN</b>	Election Commission of Nepal	<b>NRA</b>	National Reconstruction Authority
<b>ESP</b>	Electoral Support Project	<b>NSDRM</b>	National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management
<b>EWS</b>	Early Warning System	<b>OCHA</b>	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-based Violence	<b>OHCHR</b>	The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility	<b>PDNA</b>	Post Disaster Needs Assessment
<b>GESI</b>	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion	<b>PREPARE</b>	Project to Prepare the Public Administration for State Reforms
<b>GFATM</b>	Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria	<b>RoLHR</b>	Rule of Law and Human Rights
<b>GoN</b>	Government of Nepal	<b>SCNHRC</b>	Strengthening Capacity of National Human Rights Commission
<b>HCC</b>	Humanitarian Country Coordinator	<b>SLAC</b>	Socio Legal Aid Centre
<b>HDI</b>	Human Development Index	<b>SDC</b>	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
<b>KMC</b>	Kathmandu Metropolitan City	<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>LAPA</b>	Local Adaptation Plan of Action	<b>SNPMC</b>	Strengthening National Planning and Monitoring Capacity
<b>LDTA</b>	Local Development Training Academy	<b>SPCBN</b>	Support to Participatory Constitution Building in Nepal
<b>LGCDP</b>	Local Governance and Community Development Programme	<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>LRP</b>	Livelihood Recovery for Peace	<b>UNDAF</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Development Goals	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>MEDEP</b>	Micro Enterprise Development Programme	<b>UNV</b>	United Nations Volunteers
		<b>VDC</b>	Village Development Committee
		<b>WCF</b>	Ward Citizen Forum



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