

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

UNDP IN NEPAL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Foreword | 05 |
| UNDP AND THE SDGS | 07 |
| Results in Numbers | 08 |
| SECTION 1 | |
| PROMOTING INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH | 10 |
| Feature: Rebuilding a way of life and Reviving a Family's Fortunes | 19 |
| SECTION 2 | |
| FOSTERING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE | 20 |
| Feature: Climb Every Mountain | 29 |
| SECTION 3 | |
| BUILDING RESILIENCE | 30 |
| Feature: Dhyan Bahadur's Watermill is Revived | 39 |
| SECTION 4 | |
| PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION | 40 |
| Feature: Cracking the glass ceiling: Women in auto repair | 43 |
| INNOVATION | 44 |
| SDG LOCALIZATION | 48 |
| RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS | 50 |
| HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2019 | 52 |
| LAUNCH IN NEPAL | |
| THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS | 54 |
| UNDP NEPAL AND THE UN SYSTEM | 56 |
| FUNDING SOURCES AND PARTNERSHIPS | 58 |
| Contributing partners | 60 |
| UNDP Nepal: Where we work | 61 |
| Acronyms and Abbreviations | 62 |

FOREWORD



The Sustainable Development Goals have once more rightly taken centre stage in UNDP's work in Nepal during 2019. They are the lynchpin of UNDP's efforts worldwide, adopted by all United Nations Member States in a wide-ranging and determined endeavour to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

This report highlights our activities during another eventful year that focused on inclusive economic growth, democratic governance, rule of law and human rights and resilience, disaster risk reduction and climate change.

On inclusive economic growth, our work with the government has sought to improve access for economically vulnerable and unemployed people to sustainable livelihoods, safe and decent employment and income opportunities. The central focus was to ensure that the economic growth Nepal aims to achieve translates into improved lives and better choices.

In 2019, UNDP continued its work with the government and civil society in support of the federalization process. As that process continues to build momentum, UNDP was able to bring its unique expertise and experience to help strengthen democratic institutions for rule of law, social justice and human rights. The intention is that all people of Nepal, particularly including vulnerable communities, can enjoy the full benefits of the new system.

Nepal is a remarkable country in so many ways, not least in the breathtaking beauty of its uniquely varied environments. But that can be a fragile beauty, long at the mercy of climate and natural disasters. Building skills that can effectively address climate vulnerability helps to make Nepal safer and more resilient. UNDP continues to gear its efforts to helping the country prepare for disasters and recover quickly from them. Learning from experience and equipping the

country with the knowledge and skills to cope when disaster does strike, makes Nepal's people stronger and more resilient in the long term.

2019 saw the repositioning of the United Nations Development System begin, part of a set of exciting and far-reaching reforms in the organization, with the functions of the UNDP Resident Coordinator and Resident Representative of UNDP separated. That was a significant moment in UNDP's story and in Nepal, as with other Country Offices around the world, UNDP managed the interim challenges while remaining steadfastly focused on delivering its commitments as the 'UN System's development leader.'

As the first Resident Representative of a new UNDP in Nepal, I have been privileged to benefit from the bonds of trust that have been nurtured between UNDP and the Government of Nepal over many years. This certainly helped to smoothen the transition, for which I am deeply grateful. The results described in this report were made possible by that trust, along with the generous support of all our funding partners, the UN family, the Resident Coordinator and staff both in Nepal and beyond.

As we enter the decade of action in pursuit of sustainable human development – and particularly the Sustainable Development Goals – UNDP with UN Volunteers in Nepal looks forward to being ever more relevant and responsive to the evolving needs of the people of a federal Nepal.

AYSHANIE MEDAGANGODA-LABÉ
UNDP Resident Representative



The "SDG in Mithila" is a collaborative effort of United Nations Resident Coordinator Office and Janakpur Women Development Center to localize the Sustainable Development Goals icons into Mithila artform in Nepal. Paintings credit: Janakpur Women Development Center.

UNDP & the SDGs

UNDP has worked with and supported the Government of Nepal and Other National institutions to ensure that the SDG principles create a lens through which to address the country's complex development challenges.

One of UNDP's most significant tasks is to promote democratic governance. That includes supporting the country's new federal structures. We have worked with institutions, think-tanks and civil society to strengthen and boost governance, notably through the federal Parliament, the National Planning Commission, provincial government and municipalities. This work has helped to set up a range of SDG subplatforms on, for example, green financing, responsible supply, sustainable cities, resilient infrastructure, and policy coherence and research.

We accompanied provincial government to prepare their SDG baseline reports in 2019, which paved the way for their vision and development plans. The governments in two provinces – Gandaki and Province 5 – published their first baseline reports during the year, with the other provinces following suit.

At a national level, a UNDP project supported the National Planning Commission in preparing an approach paper for the 15th five-year plan and helped it to take part in the High Level Political Forum on the SDGs. UNDP assisted too as the Commission created a background paper designed to help local government integrate the SDGs into their own plans and budgets.

And UNDP co-invested with municipalities in all seven provinces in demonstration projects that helped

A universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030, the SDGs are a lynchpin of UNDP's work.

local government accelerate SDG achievement. The projects included:

- Skills training for sexual minorities and other vulnerable groups (Butwal)
- Youth entrepreneurship support (Palpa)
- A climate-smart village (Dhankuta)
- A multicultural park promoting wellbeing and social cohesion (Sunasari)
- A snake bite treatment centre (Dhanusha).

More than 17,000 people in 14 municipalities directly benefited from these projects.

UNDP's Parliament Support Project, co-funded by the Government of Norway, gave tailored support in championing the SDGs to more than 300 members of the Federal Parliament. The Parliament now also has an SDG Resource Centre, which gives its members easier access to SDG-related information. Access to reliable data is crucial in helping countries achieve the SDGs and to measure the progress they make along the way. With no integrated database in the new federal context, UNDP helped the Central Bureau of Statistics to design an SDG-responsive Online Data Portal. Once this is fully developed, it will support evidence-based planning and monitoring to help Nepal advance towards SDG achievement.

And UNDP launched its Accelerator Lab. This aims to help Nepal explore innovative solutions that accelerate progress towards the SDGs. The Lab has already demonstrated significant value by creating practical responses to the challenges of unemployment and urbanization.

FOSTERING INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Constructed Over **130** community infrastructures, such as irrigation canals and drinking water schemes, benefiting over 75,000 people (52% women) in quake-hit districts

Helped **5,000** farmers (40% women) improve their income through training in optimal farm practices, including sessions on high-value fruits and vegetables, compost fertilizers, and organic farming

Enhanced capacities of Over **300** representatives of 37 local governments (27% female) on effective programming & budgeting for agriculture development. Five municipalities started developing their agriculture plans

Supported the federal government in creating over **20,000** additional micro entrepreneurs (83% female) across the country. Nepal has created over 165,000 micro-entrepreneurs in the last two decades with UNDP support.

Implemented 17 SDG localization projects in partnership with various municipalities, benefiting **17,000** People (70% female)

RESULTS IN

PROMOTING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE



Helped over **600** people (253 women) benefit from free legal aid and representation through UNDP-trained lawyers across the country



Enhanced the capacities of Over **3,900** people, including Election Commission staff, political leaders, journalists, people with disabilities (49%) and other electoral stakeholders (42% female) on inclusive electoral processes and effective resolution of disputes through a series of trainings.



Supported the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs in formulating the Integrated Legal Aid Policy, which aims at standardizing legal aid services in Nepal, ensuring better access to justice for women and vulnerable groups



Provided capacity building support to over **600** Members of Parliament and provincial assemblies in reviewing laws and inclusive processes of lawmaking



SDG baseline reports were initiated or prepared by **6** provinces to provide information about their periodic plans

BUILDING RESILIENCE



Helped an additional **12,000+** people gain access to electricity. Over the last two decades, Over the past two decades UNDP has provided technical assistance to the Government of Nepal in generating over **10 MW power from micro hydro**.



Supported over **23,000 households in constructing resilient homes after the 2015 earthquake** through hands-on support, including in designing code-compliant house maps, acquiring building permits, accessing housing grants, and identifying resources.



Designed and implemented over

80

Climate Resilient Development Projects, **benefiting over 71,000 people (51% women)** in climate vulnerable districts. Over the last six years, **UNDP has implemented 2,500 such projects, directly benefiting over 600,000 people.**

NUMBERS



Supported

500

highly vulnerable households with livelihood recovery activities, such as rehabilitation of quake-damaged enterprises and training on construction-based enterprises.



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.

Trained over **2000** masons on resilient and affordable housing construction techniques (300 female).



SECTION 1

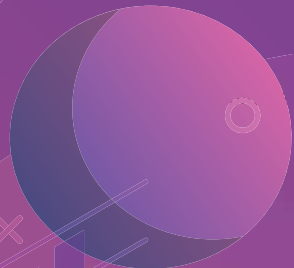
Promoting Inclusive Economic Growth

Working to ensure that economic growth translates into improved lives and better choices.

UNDP believes that countries and their citizens are best placed to understand and create their own sustainable development strategies. It is therefore committed to supporting the National institutions and the people of Nepal in their fight to eradicate poverty and address multidimensional inequality. UNDP strives to play a key role both in creating an enabling environment and in enhancing capacity, as well as by delivering support, such as through nurturing enterprises and creating jobs.

In 2019, UNDP supported the Government of Nepal's efforts to improve access for economically vulnerable and unemployed people to sustainable livelihoods, safe and decent employment and income opportunities. The central focus of our intervention was to ensure that the economic growth that Nepal aims to achieve translates into improved lives and better choices.





Interventions in micro-enterprise development, recovery of livelihoods and community infrastructure, renewable energy, support to cooperatives and development of value chains and market chains became accessible to more than 200,000 people during 2019.

On policy, UNDP supported the government in developing an information management system for the Technical and Vocational Education and Training sector reform, localizing the aid management system in line with the SDGs, localizing the micro-enterprise development model in the local government planning and budgeting, and integrating the SDGs into national planning, including the 15th national development plan.

PROMOTING MICRO-ENTERPRISES

Encouraging micro-entrepreneurship through training and policy initiatives has given more than 165,000 poor and marginalized people greater control over their lives, incomes and livelihoods.

Over the last two decades, a UNDP flagship projects – the Micro-Enterprise Development Programme (MEDEP) – has worked closely with the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies and local communities to help people take up entrepreneurship. Building on its success, and with an eye on the long-term sustainability of such interventions, UNDP closed MEDEP in 2019 and started a new phase.

The government and UNDP, with funding support from the Government of Australia, are now providing technical assistance to the Micro-Enterprise for Poverty Alleviation (MEDPA) programme at all



↑ *Women from Sindhuli producing and packaging turmeric under Model Women Entrepreneur Development, SDG localization project.*

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"Thank you MEDPA/ UNDP for making me an entrepreneur and changing my life. After receiving the training, I have sold 52 bee hives and 90 KG honey and earned Rs. 3,20,000. Additionally, as a trainer, I also earned Rs. 35,000"

Tika Awasthi
32 yrs - Navadurga
Gaupalika-5 Gajela

three levels of government. The programme was developed with UNDP's technical support, particularly in building on and adopting the two-decade long experience of MEDEP. The programme operates in all 77 districts with significant budgetary support from the national treasury. By December 2019, the MEDEP and the MEDPA programmes have created over 165,000 micro-entrepreneurs, most of them from the poor, most marginalized and disadvantaged groups. About three-quarters of these micro-entrepreneurs are women, one-quarter are Dalits, 39 percent are indigenous peoples, and 20 percent are Madhesis.

UNDP's technical assistance during 2019 included support to provincial government to run the MEDPA programme locally through District Cottage and Small Industries Development Board/Offices. That resulted in the creation of over 21,800 micro-entrepreneurs, 83 percent of whom are women.

Recognizing the MEDPA programme's contribution to economic development through poverty reduction and employment generation, the government has given it high priority and allocated 916,667 USD as a conditional grant for 2019/20.

A major reason for institutionalizing micro-enterprise development models locally is to ensure that local government has the required to provide livelihoods and employment opportunities to the people living far from the economic capital. In 2019 alone, over 6,000 leaders and 111 local government staff were trained in the micro-enterprise development model due to its effectiveness in reducing poverty and boosting local economies. Thanks to these inputs, 746 local governments have enhanced their capacity in micro-enterprise models. Consequently, 213 local governments allocated a total of US\$6.1 million for micro-enterprise development in their budgets for 2019/20.

UNDP also provided technical inputs to various federal and provincial government policies, including the 15th Five-Year Periodic Plan, the Local Government Operation Act, and Industrial Enterprise Regulation, 2076, to ensure that the micro-enterprise development model is incorporated. In one notable step to boosting efficiency and transparency, MEDPA successfully and for the first time switched to an e-bidding system. UNDP also extended aid in developing a software package for the evaluation of bids, and in building the capacity of over 643 provincial and district staff through exposure

A farmer with spinach from her farm. Farmers can substantially increase their production of fruits and vegetables in both quality and quantity if their role in value chains is strengthened'

© PRAKASH TIMILSINA,
UNDP NEPAL

visits, joint monitoring, procurement of business development services, and gender equality and social inclusion management information system training.

IMPROVING FARMERS' INCOME

Developing value chains, combined with targeted training, provision of agricultural inputs, development of cooperatives, and policy support, equips farmers with a command of new practices, improves their access to markets, and gives them a fairer price for their produce.

Nepal has long been an agrarian economy, with around 80 percent of the population directly and indirectly involved in agriculture. Yet the country still relies heavily on imported food. In 2018, for instance, Nepal had a food trade deficit of 71,400 tonnes. This was partly due to factors such as limited infrastructure (70 percent of Nepal's agriculture is rain-fed), small land size (two out of three farmers own land less than 0.25 ha in size), shortage of human resources, high post-harvest losses, and limited access to markets. UNDP is helping address these challenges through





the empowerment and engagement of cooperatives and the development of market value chains of particular fruits and vegetables.

UNDP's Value Chain Development of Fruit and Vegetables project, funded by KOICA, helps the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Nepal Government increase incomes for smallholders through targeted interventions on production maximization, post-harvest loss reduction, and better market creation.

In 2019, more than 5,000 farmers were trained in improved farming techniques and data keeping. They were also given seeds, fertilizers, and other tools. Over 280 farm demonstrations were conducted to allow farmers to experiment with what they had learned. Farmers now have enhanced access to

Farmers selling their vegetables. Equipped with knowledge on how to minimize post-harvest loss, farmers can increase their income.

© UNDP NEPAL

markets, with the project supporting the construction of 26 collection centres, they also have access to, for example, cold storage, computers, digital price boards, and pick-up trucks.

The project engaged with local government to ensure their ownership over the farmers' projects, so as to safeguard the initiatives' financial and social sustainability. More than 300 local government representatives (over a quarter of them female) were trained on their roles and responsibilities in agriculture development in line with the Local Government Operation Act 2074. UNDP's technical assistance helped to integrate the project's activities into those of the municipalities, and co-financed them. As a result, 37 local governments spent a total of \$315,000 on farmers' projects. The Value Chain Development of Fruit and Vegetables project's

activities align with the government's Agriculture Development Strategy, and it contributes to SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger).

UNDP is also empowering farmers' cooperatives into becoming key players, particularly in the value chain of fruits and vegetables. Organized under the principles of self-help, democracy, quality, and solidarity, cooperatives in Nepal have the potential to promote inclusive growth and sustainable development. Therefore, UNDP has joined forces with the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation to support the growth of these cooperatives through the Cooperative Market Development Programme.

In 2019, that programme trained and engaged 71 primary cooperatives working in 72 production pockets of fruits and vegetables in Bagmati Province. With these cooperatives actively engaged, the programme constructed 48 primary collection centres in districts adjoining Kathmandu, and one major market centre in Chahabil, Kathmandu. This is expected to benefit over 22,000 farmers by improving their access to the market chain and giving a fairer price for their produce.

UNDP also helped boost the capacity of over 1,100 cooperative members, more than half of them women, in the effective management of cooperatives, core principles and values, and cooperative rules and regulations through 38 tailored training programmes.

On the policy front, UNDP worked closely with the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation and gave technical inputs to several national policies and guidelines, including the Strategy to Achieve SDG 1 (No Poverty), the Stabilization Fund Operationalization Directive, and



In 2019, over
5,000

farmers (40% female, 15% from marginalized groups or Dalits) were trained in improved farming techniques and data keeping, and provided with seeds, fertilizers, and other tools.



"With the construction of two collection centres in Dhading, we are able to store vegetables and fruits for a longer time and have improved our productivity and income."

Hira Bahadur Thapaliya
Member of Shree Krishak
Sudhar Falful Tatha
Tarkari Sahakari Sanstha
Limited, Dhading

Cooperative Unification Directives. It also helped review the Cooperative Act.

RESTORING COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Through infrastructure reconstruction and the creation of employment, the homes and their livelihoods of people affected by the 2015 earthquake, particularly those living with disability, have been substantially boosted.

Introduced after the April 2015 earthquake, UNDP's Community Infrastructure and Livelihood Recovery Programme continues to support affected communities in their ongoing efforts to return to a more resilient normality. In 2019, the programme helped construct 130 community infrastructures, benefiting over 176,000 earthquake-affected people, including women, Dalits, Janajitis and people with disability, with financial support from the Royal Thai Government and Qatar Red Crescent. Local ownership of these reconstruction activities was high, with the municipalities and local communities sharing 39 percent and 16 percent of the total costs respectively.

Interlinked with livelihood interventions, the structures helped revive rural economies and gave new economic opportunities to communities. The infrastructures, which were constructed with the concept of Build Back Better, are resilient to earthquakes and other natural hazards. The Community Infrastructure and Livelihood Recovery Programme also promoted community ownership, social cohesion, and harmony by encouraging community members to work together and share benefits.

More than 200 livelihood activities were carried out during 2019, benefiting 38,465 people, half of them women. Activities focused on adding value to existing local products through processing and marketing facilities. Through cash-for-work schemes, more than 75,000 person-days of short-term employment were created for local communities, injecting \$458,461 into the local economy.

In collaboration with Humanity and Inclusion, the programme reached more 200 people with disabilities and their immediate families through livelihood interventions, giving them opportunities to improve their on- and off-farm livelihood options.

CREATING A MARKET-RESPONSIVE WORKFORCE ENVIRONMENT

Giving people the technical and vocational training they need to contribute appropriately and profitably to the economy raises the overall quality of the labour market.

Students undergo training in basic house-wiring at the Balaju School of Engineering & Technology. UNDP's SKILLS Project is helping improve access for women, marginalized and vulnerable groups to quality technical education and training opportunities.

ANAND GURUNG / UNDP NEPAL

Inclusive growth demands a policy environment that is conducive for creating a demand-driven skilled workforce, with special emphasis on reaching out to those left furthest behind. To ensure that the youth, particularly those in the margins, benefit from economic growth, UNDP is supporting the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in reforming the existing Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) policy. To that end, UNDP's SKILLS Programme played a leading role in 2017 in policy dialogue across the country, and extended support to a high-level taskforce in the ministry to review and redesign the TVET policy in line with the changed federal context. These exercises culminated in the formulation of the TVET component of the integrated National Education Policy 2019, which envisions 'technical education for all interested youths.'

In 2019, UNDP continued to support the ministry in establishing and operationalizing the web-based National TVET Management Information System with synchronized TVET-related data of four federal line ministries. This consolidated system shows uniform reports and information of around 288,000 trainees in a range of skill categories. This initiative has significantly contributed to managing the demand and supply sides of the labour market, increasing coordination between various TVET stakeholders, promoting evidenced-based TVET policy-making, and planning and avoiding programme duplication.

The SKILLS programme introduced a first-of-its-kind skill-mapping exercise in Sudurpaschim Province, in collaboration with the provincial Ministry of Social Development. It ascertains demand for and supply of skilled human resources in public and private establishments in the province. A geographical information system-based digital skill-mapping portal, which demonstrates disaggregated demand



and supply status of skilled human resources in Sudurpaschim, has been developed.

The programme trained more than 200 people, including gender and sexual minorities, in the inclusion of women and disadvantaged groups in TVET. And over a million viewers were reached through radio and TV programmes aimed at raising awareness of TVET provisions in the new National Education Policy 2019 and private sector engagement.

UNDP organized a series of consultations and interactions with officials in all three tiers of government to create an enabling environment for gender-responsive TVET policies and programmes based on the principle of social inclusion and equity. These initiatives were coupled with targeted communication activities, such as radio and TV programmes and documentaries, aimed at raising awareness among policy makers and planners on the plight of women, sexual minorities, and vulnerable groups, and how their economic statuses can be uplifted by giving them quality technical and vocational skills.

IMPROVING AID EFFECTIVENESS

A new aid management information system helps capture and ensure the transparency of aid data, which in turn supports SDG monitoring and reporting.

Effective management and use of foreign aid is key to advancing the SDGs in aid-recipient countries. This is particularly important for Nepal, where roughly one-fourth of the national budget in 2018/19 was financed by foreign aid. In 2019, UNDP continued to support

In 2019, UNDP continued to support the MoEST in establishing and operationalizing the web-based National TVET Management Information System with synchronized TVET-related data from four federal line ministries.

Nepal Government, Ministry of Finance in improving aid effectiveness through the Effective Development Financing and Coordination project, funded by DFID.

UNDP support to the government focused on adopting and operationalizing new sets of guidelines on foreign aid mobilization for provincial and local government. This led to the formulation and mobilization of the Procedural Guidelines of Development Cooperation. The project also supported the Ministry of Finance in preparing the new International Development Cooperation Policy 2019.

Capturing and ensuring transparency of aid data is another pillar of a strong aid management system. UNDP supported the Ministry of Finance through the year in its efforts to re-design and customize a new aid management information system, which was launched in September 2019. This upgraded system introduced new tools, such as SDG coding, which allows for accurate tracking and statistical analysis of the alignment of Nepal's foreign aid inflows with the SDGs, in turn supporting the country's broader SDG monitoring and reporting efforts. The system also includes a new comprehensive public portal, which helps enhance aid transparency and mutual accountability.

Data in the system also provides evidence for the Development Cooperation Report. The Ministry of Finance publishes this report annually, with UNDP support. The ninth annual report, for 2018/19, was drafted in December 2019, and has become a point of reference in the discourse around aid effectiveness. It has also helped enhance transparency and mutual accountability among development partners.



A solid harvest! Women farmers have been able to produce vegetables off-season after the construction of irrigation canals in Neelakantha Birtabeshi, Dhading

FEATURE

REBUILDING A WAY OF LIFE AND REVIVING A FAMILY'S FORTUNES

ASHMITA CHAULAGAIN TOOK HER 10-YEAR-OLD SON TO SEE THE DOCTOR, BECAUSE HE HAD A FEVER. ON THE WAY BACK, AS THEY NEARED THEIR HOME, THE GROUND SUDDENLY STARTED SHUDDERING.

"I stood in the middle of the road clutching my son and praying for our lives. In a few seconds, I could see the entire village covered in a cloud of dust," she says recalling the 2015 earthquake. "The road cracked down the middle. I saw many people die right in front of my eyes."

For Ashmita and her husband Dol Madhav Chaulagain – both dairy farmers – the earthquake caused immense emotional and economic turmoil. There were over 200 dairy farmers like this couple in the village and it was devastating for them all.

"I used to sell five cannisters of milk every day before the earthquake," says Dol Madhav. "But that went down to one-and-a-half after the quake, because people lost their homes, family members, barns, and livestock."

But with the reconstruction of the milk collection centre and other support to help rebuild their barns, their businesses are bouncing back again after nearly five years in the doldrums.



Ashmita and her fellow farmers are selling milk again © UNDP NEPAL

Several community buildings like this were constructed in Melamachi and across Sindhupalchok district with UNDP support and funding from the Royal Thai Government. Local government contributed 30% in co-financing.

Local leaders believe the new centre will be an economic boost for the area's dairy farmers.

"The refrigeration facilities will help local dairy farmers get a better price for their milk," said Melamchi Mayor Dambar Bahadur Aryal.

UNDP has been supporting Nepal in its efforts to recover livelihoods, particularly of vulnerable populations, since the earthquake. In these five years, over 500 community infrastructures, such as this milk collection centre,

have been rebuilt/restored, benefiting over 750,000 people in the hardest-hit districts.

SECTION 2

Fostering Democratic Governance

Identifying and effectively addressing capacity requirements helps the many aspects of governance become increasingly inclusive, participatory and transparent.

As Nepal's federal system gains momentum, a key priority for UNDP has been to strengthen democratic institutions for rule of law, social justice, and human rights. The intention is that vulnerable people can enjoy the full benefits of the new system. UNDP is uniquely placed to provide the necessary support for this transformation.

In 2019, UNDP continued to work with the Government of Nepal and civil society in supporting the federalization process, advocating and fostering civic space so that participation is increased and voices are heard, strengthening the electoral institutions, and enhancing service delivery and rule of law, particularly for the most vulnerable.





VOTE



Most notably, UNDP in assistance from Swiss Development Cooperation, the Government of Norway and DFID, and World Bank helped Nepal Government, Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administrations conduct helped Nepal conduct a comprehensive study of capacity needs to ensure effective implementation of federalism in line with the country's Constitution. Central to that effort was the aim to help Nepal ensure that it can implement inclusive, participatory and transparent democratic processes. Over 600 MPs and provincial assemblies were given tailored capacity building support to review laws and ensure that inclusive processes are maintained. This included 273 women. Several key laws were reviewed with support from the Government of Norway at the federal and provincial levels.

UNDP supported provincial and local government to integrate the SDGs into their plans and budgets. That support included help in preparing SDG baseline reports for six provincial governments, and periodic plans for three provincial governments.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR CREDIBLE ELECTIONS

Enhanced skills and understanding makes elections freer, fairer and more credible.

UNDP has been the leading agency supporting the Election Commission in conducting free, fair, and credible elections. These include both the 2008 and 2013 Constituent Assembly elections, and the subsequent federal, provincial, and local elections in 2017.

In November 2019, the Commission successfully completed by-elections to fill 52 vacant positions

In November 2019, the ECN successfully completed the by-elections to fill 52 vacant positions with minimal external support.



"The civic and voter education programmes have not only helped us realize the importance of voting but also encouraged us to run as a candidate in the upcoming elections"

Ramesh Pokharel
Chairperson,
Nepal Association
of the Blind

with minimal external support. The voter turnout across 37 districts was 65.5 percent, while the invalid vote dropped to just 1.7 percent. This reflects the Commission's strengthened capacity that the the Electoral Support Project funded by the European Union worked for over time. Ahead of the by-elections, specific support was provided in voter education through community learning centres and social media.

UNDP strengthened the capacity of national institutions to create a conducive environment for inclusive elections, and to resolve disputes peacefully, effectively, and in a timely manner. Over 1,800 participants (of whom over one-third were women), including from the Election Commission, have developed their capacities in electoral justice, peaceful elections, gender equality, and inclusive participation. Evaluation of post-training data shows that, on average, 94 percent of participants enhanced their knowledge and skills in these areas.

National civil society organizations now have broader capacity to support the engagement, voice, and participation of women and people living with disabilities. Training and workshops conducted by two disability federations and one women's journalist organization reached 2,061 people, including 1,705 living with disabilities and 189 women, as well as one individual who identified as a gender and sexual minority.

STRENGTHENING CAPACITY OF THE LEGISLATURES

A varied range of practical initiatives improves knowledge, boosts practice, and brings Parliament and the people closer together.

Strengthening the capacity of the legislative bodies at the federal and provincial levels remained a major UNDP priority in 2019. The Parliament Support Project, co-funded by the Government of Norway, focused on building the capacity of parliamentarians and provincial assembly members. It also helped strengthen the institutional capabilities highlighted by a needs assessment carried out by that project in 2018.

Aided by the project, federal and provincial legislators adopted a package of global best practices on strengthening parliamentary procedures. These included thematic inductions on parliamentary affairs, orientations on communications skills, appreciative inquiry, and leadership excellency to newly elected legislators, especially focusing on members from disadvantaged communities. These activities were designed to help lawmakers increase their knowledge and understanding of parliamentary affairs and, not least, to boost their confidence in playing their roles effectively.

Over 600 legislators, 45 percent of whom were women, and 453 secretariat staff developed their capacities thanks to more than 100 interactive learning events. These included training in



"Installation of the video conferencing technology has helped connect the provincial assembly with the districts and local governments. I believe this will further support us in extending the provincial assembly's public outreach."

Maya Bhatt
Minister for Industry,
Tourism, Forest
and Environment,
Sudurpaschim Province

Getting SDG-related information might have been a challenge in the past, but the newly-established SDG Resource Centre is set to change all that.

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parliamentary practices and procedures, delegated legislation, law auditing, government assurance, Sustainable Development Goals and good governance, public accounts management, law and human rights, and gender and social issues. 200 MPs – most of them women from marginalized and disadvantaged communities – were mentored in an effort to help them undertake their jobs in an effective manner.

UNDP supported a series of meetings between parliamentarians and thematic experts, particularly in the making of new laws on, for example, radioactive substance disposal, sports development, and land management. These public consultations allowed lawmakers to review and amend 27 bills.

Parliamentary oversight was another area aimed at making the executive more accountable and responsive to Parliament. A total of 32 oversight (27 federal and five provincial) missions on important issues were conducted. Some yielded immediate results while others offered strategic guidance to the Government of Nepal in the form of committee directives. For instance, the Women and Social Committee was supported in an inquiry into a Chhaupadi issue in Bajura district; the Education and Health Committee was supported during the collection of opinions and evidence on hefty fees being reportedly collected by medical colleges; and the subcommittee of the Public Accounts Committee was supported in an inquiry into a dispute in connection with a cement factory in Dhading.

Ensuring civic engagement in public affairs, particularly in lawmaking and oversight, was another of the project's priorities. UNDP helped build the capacity of over 250 journalists in parliamentary reporting, mobilized over 300 FM radio stations and civil society organizations to boost parliamentary





communication, developed knowledge products and handbooks for lawmakers, undertook research to support law reviews, reached out to Dalit and youth communities, and supported the LGBTIQ community in directly engaging with lawmakers.

Initiatives such as the launch of the first-ever 'Meet the Speaker' programme in Karnali and Sudurpaschim provinces, taking draft laws to the public, public hearings, and the introduction of modern ICT facilities to Parliament have all contributed to increasing parliamentary openness and the interaction of Parliament with the public. In 2019, three provincial assemblies and their 30 constituent districts started live YouTube broadcasts and video conferencing, which demonstrated how technology can be a game changer in civic engagement.

UNDP is also aiding lawmakers to champion the SDGs. An SDG Resource Centre was established at the secretariat of the Sustainable Development and Good Governance Committee of the National Assembly. The Resource Centre is a one-stop knowledge hub providing integrated information, data, and statistics on the SDGs and good governance from a single platform, in both Nepali and English.

t *With a 65.5% voter turnout, the Election Commission successfully completed the November 2019 by-elections.*

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Over
700

judicial committee members (30% women) took part in meetings to strengthen coordination in the justice sector.

PROMOTING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Skills training and ICT initiatives improve access to justice, particularly for women and vulnerable groups.

As Nepal implements the new system of governance, a key priority has been to ensure that the new structures and institutions at all levels are equipped to promote rule of law, human rights, and access to justice. To that end, UNDP has been working with the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and other institutions to put in place effective policies. At the same time, the skills of new structures, such as the local judicial committees, are being strengthened so that they can deliver their mandates effectively.

In 2019, UNDP's Enhancing Access to Justice through Institutional Reform Project, co-funded by the Government of Norway, helped Nepal formulate and adopt the National (Integrated) Legal Aid Policy. Endorsed by the cabinet in December 2019, the policy provides a foundation for the comprehensive reform of the legal aid system, improving access to justice for women and other vulnerable groups. The project gave technical support to the ministry throughout the

drafting process and facilitated consultations between key stakeholders in the legal aid system.

The project continued its investment in capacity development of judicial committees locally and in strengthening coordination among justice sector actors. The committees are the new institutions mandated to handle community-level disputes. In its first year of implementation, the project supported more than 160 judicial committees in 12 districts in conducting coordination meetings. Over 700 judicial committee members participated in these meetings, which set up a standard coordination framework for the justice sector actors engaged at the community level. In partnership with the state-run Justice Sector Training Centre, a standard training manual for judicial committees was developed and over 680 judicial committee members (half of whom were women) were trained to effectively deliver on their mandates.

A major part of the support also included developing law drafting training for provincial government officials. UNDP gave technical support to the provincial governments of Karnali and Province 2 to help them draft 11 laws, including those related to the protection of the rights of the girl child, the establishment of the Provincial Civil Service Commission, and the promotion of the commerce and industries and tourism sector. In addition, over 280 government officials were trained in legislative drafting.

For the first time, Nepal's judicial sector engaged in a serious dialogue on business and human rights, leading to the incorporation of the concept in the National Human Rights Action Plan. A national partnership with the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industries was established with the aim of disseminating the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights through business and human rights dialogues. The

project supported the participation of over 1,400 government officials as well as business and civil society representatives, of whom around one-third were women, in a series of national, regional, and global dialogues.

With UNDP support, the ministry is developing a software and a mobile application that will provide easy public access to Nepal's legislation in digital form. By the end of 2019, over 160 laws had been digitized and archived into the new system, which will be launched in 2020.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING

Improving knowledge in government and the media improves understanding and communication of human rights.

NHRC and local deputies discuss human rights and business.

© UNDP NEPAL



Effective national human rights institutions offer an important link between government and civil society. They help bridge the protection gap between the rights of individuals and the responsibilities of the state. UNDP in Nepal supports the National Human Rights Commission by building its capacity to effectively protect and promote human rights in line with international human rights laws and treaties.

In 2019, UNDP helped build the capacity of the mid-level management of the Commission. This sought to link its strategic objectives with the SDGs, and to monitor human rights interventions from an SDG perspective. Thus the Commission started assessing its fifth Strategic Plan, which comes to a close in 2020, from the standpoint of the SDGs. It also kicked off initial discussions to formulate its sixth Strategic Plan, linking it with the SDGs. As part of efforts to build the Commission's capacity, Commission members visited human rights institutions in India on a learning visit, during which the team learned and exchanged experiences of monitoring and investigating human rights abuses and legislative procedures.

In line with the Commission's plan to raise knowledge in, and engage with, the media, over 140 journalists

The NHRC started assessing its fifth Strategic Plan from an SDG perspective.

and media persons were trained in human rights reporting and on the right to information. This helped strengthen interactions between the National Human Rights Commission and the media, and increased coverage of some of the human rights issues in Nepal today.

UNDP helped the Commission to extend the horizons of human rights discourse in Nepal and across the region through strategic dialogue on business and human rights, consumer rights, and the rights of migrant workers. The Conference on Protection of Rights of Migrant Workers, which took place in Kathmandu, brought the issue of migrant worker rights to the forefront. That led to the adoption of the 21-point Kathmandu Declaration on the protection of the rights of migrant workers and a 10-point plan of action to promote migrant worker rights in the region.

A national dialogue, organized in collaboration with the Commission and the Forum for Protection of Consumers' Rights Nepal, brought together over 300 representatives to discuss ways to protect consumer rights in Nepal.

Sensitizing locals on legal issues of caste discrimination and gender violence in Kalikot.

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PROMOTING SOCIAL COHESION AND CIVIL PARTICIPATION

Bringing civil society and leaders together in targeted dialogue helps build social cohesion and improves leadership and decision-making.

Throughout the year, UNDP continued to support new provincial and local government, along with other key stakeholders, in strengthening social

t Students get set to pedal in a cycle rally organized in Dhangadhi to mark the International Youth Day.

SCDP / UNDP NEPAL

cohesion and civic participation. This contributed to effective governance and service delivery in 38 local government units in Province 2, Bagmati, Province 5, and Sudurpaschim, all of which had experienced social cohesion and governance challenges.

UNDP collaborated with 65 organizations and loose alliances of communities and youth volunteers to bring more than 25,000 people from across the country together in campaigns to promote social cohesion, democratic participation, and accountability of public institutions. Information centres were established in 12 municipalities and supported over 5,600 service seekers, mostly from vulnerable social groups. The all-women Deputy Mayors Club in Banke and Parsa gave newly-elected women leaders an opportunity to share their experiences and advocate for women's rights and the SDGs.

Elected leaders, along with staff from eight municipalities in Banke and 14 in Parsa, took part in a two-day residential training to help them acquire skills with which to effectively execute their leadership and decision-making roles.

In Province 2, Bagmati, Province 5, and Sudurpaschim, eight civil society organizations were supported with micro-capital grants. The purpose was to give them an effective voice in subnational and local governance and decision-making processes.

UNDP also partnered with the Nepal Transition to Peace Institute in field-based research. This looked at how to identify the major challenges to credible and peaceful elections and the ways they could impact peace and social cohesion. Over 500 people were directly reached and consulted through a series of dialogue and interactions at provincial headquarters and municipalities across the country.



Young engineers testing a 3D printing technology that recycles plastic waste into valuable artefacts.

© VIVEK DHAR SHARMA, UNDP NEPAL

FEATURE

CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN

"I AM REALLY PLEASED TO WELCOME YOU ALL TO THIS VIDEOCONFERENCE," SAID HARKA BAHADUR KUNWAR, CHAIR OF FINANCE, DEVELOPMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE OF THE SUDURPASCHIM PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY, KICKING OFF THE FIRST-EVER PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON A DRAFT BILL USING VIDEOCONFERCING.

It was a new experiment and everyone was curious. In nine other districts connected by the videoconferencing system, participants carefully watched the screen that displayed the lawmakers.

Sudurpaschim Province is home to some of the most remote mountain districts. Most are at the lower end of the Human Development Index and poverty index. Physically reaching those districts is always particularly challenging, costly and time-consuming for lawmakers. The videoconferencing facility was introduced with UNDP support and has given a valuable and cost-effective extension to the legislatures' public outreach.

"The technology has brought us closer together. We would like to hear from you," said the Chair, opening the consultation on the Partnership Business Registration Bill 2076 following a short presentation of the Bill.

The videoconference session had invited a wide range of



Development and Natural Resource Committee of the Sudurpaschim Provincial Assembly kicked off its first ever public consultation on a draft bill by using videoconferencing. © UNDP NEPAL

participants, including business communities, local community leaders, government staff and the general public from all the nine constituent districts, and now they were all connected through the videoconferencing system.

Bam Bahadur Rawal from Achham took the first opportunity to converse with lawmakers sitting some 267 km away in Dhangadhi, the provincial headquarters. Rawal, who represents the business community, proposed some amendments to the Partnership Business Registration Bill. "Can

we not have a one-door policy for business registration and tax deposit through this Bill? The Bill should ease the ways of doing business," he said.

Others, including local government representatives, entrepreneurs, and civil society representatives, also joined in. Speakers from the Assembly in Dhangadi noted their comments and assured them they would be incorporated into the Bill.

"Installation of the videoconferencing technology at the provincial assembly and the districts has helped us connect

with the districts and local governments. I believe this will further support us in extending the provincial assembly's public outreach," said Maya Bhatt, Minister for Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment.

The installation of the videoconferencing facility is a part of a package of UNDP support through its Parliament Support Programme. The programme, which is co-funded by Norway, has given parliaments a way to strengthen their oversight and lawmaking functions.

SECTION 3

Building Resilience

In a country as remarkable for its vulnerability to climate and disaster as its beauty, resilient infrastructure and communities are fundamental to safe, sustainable livelihoods.

UNDP has a long history of promoting sustainable development in Nepal. Capacity development is a key aspect of its approach.

Building skills that can effectively address climate vulnerability helps to make Nepal safer and more resilient. UNDP's gears its efforts to helping the country recover quickly from disasters, such as earthquakes and floods. Learning from those experiences, and equipping the country with the knowledge and skills to cope when disaster strikes, makes Nepal stronger and more resilient in the long term.





UNDP's focus in 2019 included

- boosting the provision and use of cleaner, more affordable energy in remote villages
- supporting post-earthquake recovery
- strengthening the institutional and legislative aspects of disaster risk management
- creating platforms for joint advocacy to ensure that resilience-building is an integral part of development
- building national capacity to mobilize and effectively use climate finance.

That work enabled Nepal to substantially expedite the post-earthquake reconstruction of houses and infrastructure. This means that Nepal could open new windows to access global resources, such as the Global Climate Fund, to deliver affordable energy to needy and remote communities.

On policy, UNDP supported all provincial governments and 10 municipalities as they began to formulate their own disaster risk reduction policies and action plans. This will help to reduce the number of lives and property lost to future disasters.

Our ongoing advocacy led to the Ministry of Home Affairs establishing the National Disaster Risk Management Authority and launching a disaster information system called Bipad. This means that Nepal can now maintain data on loss and damage by disasters that are disaggregated by sex and disability, which allows the disproportionate effects of a disaster on a range of social groups to be addressed more accurately and effectively. And with UNDP's training and communication, the private sector too is now better informed and able to understand the role and importance of a resilient infrastructure.



† Women masons in Gorkha helped in the reconstruction of houses after the 2015 earthquake.

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In 2019, in close coordination with the government, UNDP initiated the process of internalizing the DRRM priorities at the subnational level.

CAPACITY TO MANAGE DISASTER

The ability to effectively manage the risk and reality of disasters substantially reduces losses and protects people and communities.

After years of consultations, Nepal adopted the National Policy and Strategic Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (2018-2030) in 2018. This set out a long-term vision to promote disaster risk reduction and management. The next priority for 2019 was to localize the national policy into provincial and local government settings.

As the lead agency supporting the government through these policy formulation processes, UNDP played a crucial role. It collaborated with the Confederation of Nepalese Industries to organize the Nepal Infrastructure Summit with the theme of Resilient Infrastructure for Sustainable Development.

Coordinating closely with the government, UNDP started a process of internalizing those priorities at

the subnational level. All seven provinces began to draft their disaster risk reduction policy and strategic action plans.

UNDP also collaborated with four municipalities in Sindhupalchowk and Dolakha districts to develop 15 ward-level disaster risk reduction plans through an EU-funded project. It successfully mobilized local government resources as co-financing to help implement 30 risk mitigation measures: a major step in moving communities from reconstruction to long-term resilience.

UNDP's support to post-earthquake housing reconstruction and recovery continued during 2019. It emphasized support to the poorest and most vulnerable households.

By the end of 2019, over 23,000 households in Gorkha had been able to reconstruct their homes. The houses were built with hands-on support from UNDP's Nepal Housing Reconstruction Project, funded by the Government of India. After nearly two years of work, more than 86 percent of these households had completed reconstruction. The national average, in comparison, stands at 64 percent.

Special efforts were made, too, to reach some 2,400 vulnerable households. These included single women, the sick and the elderly, orphans, persons with disabilities, and the landless. They were given access to land for the reconstruction of their houses, and were supported through community mobilization and labour contribution, with administrative processes being expedited.

UNDP supported another 1,650 most vulnerable households in Sindhupalchowk and Dolakha



As of December
2019, over

23,000

households in Gorkha had been able to reconstruct their residences.

Local people take charge of greening major roads in Jaleswar as part of the municipality's greening programme, supported by UNDP.

© DHAN BAHADUR CHAND / UNDP NEPAL

districts, with EU- ECHO (European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations). Of those, 150 received in-kind support to help rebuild their homes. And with over 2,800 masons being trained and the capacities of government engineers developed, a pool of skilled human resources was generated that helped expedite the reconstruction process.

Airports are vital to transportation in a country of often highly challenging terrain. To strengthen the disaster response readiness of strategic domestic airports, UNDP conducted field exercises in disaster preparedness at Nepalgunj and Dhangadhi airports. The Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal led the Get Airports Ready for Disaster exercises, and Deutsche Post's DHL supported them.

The Get Airports Ready for Disaster initiative is part of a global partnership between UNDP and DHL. It works on emergency response preparedness with airports in 26 countries around the world. The exercises strengthened the capacities of these airports to offer effective humanitarian responses in post-disaster situations.





BETTER ACCESS TO CLEAN, AFFORDABLE ENERGY

Nepal has vast potential to harness renewable energy. The challenge is to turn potential into reality for more people.

UNDP works closely with the Government of Nepal to improve access to affordable, clean energy – a key step to achieving the SDGs. The work consists largely of supporting the development of responsive policies and tools. That is coupled with expanding alternative energy facilities, such as micro-hydro plants and solar energy.

In 2019, UNDP's Renewable Energy for Rural Livelihoods project gave technical guidance to the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation as they developed a roadmap to boost the use of electric cooking and enforce carbon tax on fossil fuels. The aim was to promote renewable energy and cut consumption of fossil fuels.

t *Explaining the Reconstruction Information Management System, which captures real-time data on the reconstruction status of each household.*

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"With the commercial operation of our micro-hydro plant, we are able to generate additional income. I get my salary on time and other incentives provisioned by the cooperatives."

Bhakti Thakulla
a meter reader of Darna

UNDP helped the government introduce new solutions for making micro-hydro projects commercially sustainable. And it supported the preparation of local and provincial energy plans through technical input to the Approach Paper for the 15th Five-Year National Plan.

UNDP has long prioritized the development of innovative solutions for sustainable micro-hydro projects. This included introducing concepts of renewable energy for enterprise promotion and renewable energy as enterprise. The idea was to look at renewable energy projects not just as social infrastructure, but profitable assets. A pilot initiative selected 25 micro-hydro plants that would be transformed into profit-making enterprises. This will be achieved by strengthening their institutional capacities and exploring opportunities for the optimum utilization of electricity, along with building positive incentives in management processes.

For instance, the 29kW Simli Khola Micro-Hydro Plant in Rukum District has been leased to a local entrepreneur for commercial operation under the Community Private Partnership model. Since the move, the plant increased

revenue collection three-fold to US\$750 per month while ensuring continuous electricity supply.

UNDP collaborates with partners, including the Global Alliance for Clean Cooking, People Energy and Environment Development Association, Kathmandu Power and Energy Group, Coventry University, and Bristol University, to promote electric cooking in settlements where mini-/micro-hydro power is the sole source of energy. Energy-efficient electric stoves are being field tested to analyse their impact on micro-hydro plants as well as to improve understanding of users' acceptability of electric cooking.

After laboratory testing, induction stoves were provided to 10 households in the Simli Khola micro-hydro project catchment area. Users reacted positively, particularly for the savings achieved in both time and fuel cost. Based on this first successful run, similar tests with other types of stoves will be conducted.

UNDP has actively supported the empowerment of women through their engagement in energy and



In 2019, a total of

280

women benefitted from various skills trainings.

📌 *A meeting of a users' group of a micro-hydro plant in Achham, with members discussing the management of the power plant.*

📍 UNDP NEPAL

non-energy enterprises. With UNDP's grants and subsidies, women were encouraged to run businesses and become involved in all stages of production and marketing. UNDP also provided a range of skills training for women during the year. Of the 28 electricity-based enterprises established in 2019, 10 are owned by women.

On institutional formation and strengthening, UNDP supported the establishment of eight rural cooperatives. These operated and managed mini-hydro, solar mini-grid, and micro-hydro energy projects. More than 150 savings and credit groups were formed consisting of over 4,000 members of whom 3,200 are women. By the end of the year, the groups had managed to save nearly \$140,000, while \$200,000 was invested as loans to its members – which generated an impressive profit of over \$23,000.

In 2019, in partnership with South Asia Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation, two mini-hydro projects were commissioned. A further seven such projects were being constructed by the year's end. UNDP also supported the government in the potential development of a pipeline of 36 solar mini-grid



projects, of which construction of three has already started.

TOWARDS CLIMATE-RESPONSIVE AGRICULTURE

Agriculture benefits when budgets consider climate.

In 2019, UNDP supported the Government of Nepal in accurately tracking climate-relevant budget and spending, particularly in the agriculture sector. This was made possible by the development of a new coding system, which ministries applied when they formulated their budgets.

For the first time, the tool was rolled out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development to track climate-relevant budgets at the activity level. UNDP supported the ministry in developing a guideline to operationalize the tool. It also organized special training for 40 officers responsible for planning and budgeting in the ministry and its federal departments.

The system's first results show that 68 percent of its budget allocation in 2019 (fiscal year 2076/2077 BS) was climate-relevant, an encouraging 16 percent rise over the previous year.

The tagging tool also helps planners to ensure that climate-related activities are gender-responsive. It uses climate vulnerability-related information, and helps to achieve the national climate change targets agreed under the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. Since 2012, UNDP has supported the government as it has integrated climate change and disaster risk reduction into its planning and budgeting process through the

Since 2012, UNDP has supported the government in integrating climate change and disaster risk reduction into its planning and budgeting process through the development and application of climate codes.

development and application of climate codes. This was the first time that climate coding was expanded into activities. It offered greater precision and accuracy as well as a focus on gender.

The government is set to expand climate coding to all its ministries. The ministries have started to incorporate the climate code in their programmes.

The government was awarded the South-South Triangular Cooperation Leadership Award 2013 for exemplary leadership and innovation in its climate public expenditure review. That led to the development and institutionalization of climate change budget coding.

HELPING NEPAL ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Working to ensure that Nepal's poorest and most vulnerable communities can cope with climate change.

The Nepal Climate Change Support programme is a joint initiative of UNDP and the government, and is supported by DFID. In 2019, it helped 14 local government units in Karnali, Sudurpaschim and Province 5 to embed climate-resilient strategies into their plans. This led to more than 80 climate-resilient development projects being introduced, which benefited over , climate-vulnerable people. Over half of those are women.

These projects seek to build the resilience of local communities with 33 irrigation schemes that cover 1,400 hectares of farmland, while 16 drinking water initiatives give safe water to nearly 1,500 households.

Roads too have been improved by the projects. Local



government has co-financed 43 climate-resilient projects and contributed 15 percent of the total investment cost. Communities provided 15 percent of the budget with in-kind contributions. Since 2013, the programme has implemented over 2,500 community-led adaptation projects. They benefit over 600,000 people in some of Nepal's most climate-vulnerable areas. The projects have also institutionalized local adaptation.

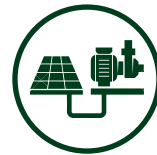
CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY TO PROMOTE LIVELIHOODS

Livelihoods can benefit when biodiversity is conserved.

Giving continuity to community initiatives to improve livelihoods through biodiversity conservation, UNDP awarded 12 projects under the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme. These included community-led conservation schemes, such as the sustainable management of a Himalayan herb called Yarsha Gumba, a traditional remedy, conservation of wetlands, promotion of climate-smart agriculture, and the development of eco-villages.

† *Conservation efforts at the Satyawati Lake in Palpa have been gaining ground with support from the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme, implemented by UNDP, with a focus on boosting tourism therein.*

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In Sarlahi district, UNDP's solar pump schemes benefited over

100 people

The Small Grants Programme was instrumental in supporting the Government of Nepal formally adopt Mercury Free Health Care Services and Mercury Free Dentistry. On 21 August 2019, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Health and Population decided to ban the use of mercury dental amalgam in children as well as pregnant and breast-feeding mothers. The government plans to prohibit the use of mercury in the entire health sector within the next five years.

UNDP successfully conserved four wetlands covering 10 hectares: Rhino Lake in Chitwan; Shirsha Thakur water hole in Bara; Satyawati Lake in Palpa; and Banda Tal in Kanchanpur. Led by the local community, a masterplan for the conservation of Satyawati Lake has been prepared. These conservation initiatives have brought positive changes to those areas. For instance, the great slaty woodpecker was recorded for the first time in Banda Tal, Kanchanpur, which lies outside Nepal's protected zones.

In Sarlahi district, UNDP's solar pump schemes benefited over 100 people. The pumps irrigate over 4 hectares of agricultural land that once had to rely on rain water, and save around 7,000 litres of diesel fuel annually. And with hands-on support from a small

Tika Maya Thapa Magar and his five-member family now have a safe new home. Theirs is one of 26,912 households in Gorkha that were able to build earthquake-resilient houses.

© NHRP / UNDP NEPAL



FEATURE

DHYAN BAHADUR'S WATER MILL IS REVIVED

IN LAKURIDADA, DOLAKHA, THE SOUND OF GRINDING STONES BREAKS THROUGH THE DEAFENING RUSH OF THE CHARAUNDI RIVER. IN A SMALL CABIN-LIKE WATER MILL LOCATED NEAR THE RIVER, DHYAN BAHADUR KARKI IS CAREFULLY GRINDING MAIZE BEANS.

"There's no choice. I have this disability and that makes it tough, but it's what I do every day. I have to," says Dhyan Bahadur.

He bends down, clearly struggling, and pours another sack of maize into the grinder.

Dhyan Bahadur injured his spine 10 years ago. He'd been collecting leaves to feed his cattle and fell off a tree. The injury took away his sensation in both legs, as he failed to find timely medical care in the village. He is his family's only breadwinner and it has been a long struggle to look after his wife (who is also physically disabled) and two school-going children.

Then four years ago, the earthquake badly damaged Dhyan Bahadur's mill and brought the grinders to a complete halt. He lost his house, too, and the family was forced to live in a temporary shed for nearly two years. Getting a roof above their head became the immediate priority.



Dhyan Bahadur with his newly built water mill which enabled him to revive his livelihood. © UNDP NEPAL

"I somehow managed to rebuild the house. But that has only added more financial burden. There are still loans to be repaid. And I can't do that without my water mill."

With support from European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid, UNDP helped Dhyan Bahadur to renovate his water mill using GI wire containment

reinforcement technology and bring it back to life. Within a few months, Dhyan Bahadur was back in business. His water mill currently serves around 80 households in Lakuridanda.

He now wants to add another grinder to his mill and expand his supply to the nearby market. More than 30 small enterprises like Dhyan Bahadur's are currently supported by

this project in Dolakha and Sindhupalchowk districts. Despite the crippling circumstances, Dhyan Bahadur is energetic and speaks confidently and with admirable optimism.

"I am doing this for my kids. I want to give them proper education so that they don't have to struggle the way I do every day."

SECTION 4

Promoting Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

Advancing access to justice, empowering women, developing enterprises, broadening civic outreach, and promoting resilience particularly benefits women, persons with disabilities, sexual minorities, and other marginalized groups.

Nepal is a multilingual, multi-ethnic, multicultural and multi-religious nation. The poverty and vulnerability in Nepal correlate with geography, caste, gender and ethnicity. And the development challenge has a strong gender and inclusion dimension. A key UNDP priority in 2019 was to support the state and non-state actors in building the capacity of women leaders, particularly elected representatives and those representing marginalized social groups.

UNDP partnered with various actors during 2019, including from the three tiers of government, justice sector institutions, UN agencies, security forces, and civil society organizations to help them integrate gender, inclusion, and disability into their programmes and activities.



An illustration featuring a woman on the left and a man on the right, both smiling and holding up a large banner. The banner is yellow and orange with the word 'HUMANS' written in white capital letters. The woman is wearing an orange long-sleeved shirt and blue pants. The man is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and red pants. The background is a vibrant, abstract composition of warm colors (orange, red, yellow) with various geometric shapes like circles, triangles, and lines, creating a celebratory and positive atmosphere.

HUMANS

SHE

THEY

HE

With gender equality and social inclusion a major priority of its programming in Nepal, UNDP's projects across all the portfolios made significant progress in advancing access to justice, empowering women, developing enterprises, broadening civic outreach, and promoting resilience. This particularly benefits women, persons with disabilities, sexual minorities, and other marginalized groups. UNDP reached out to and oriented over 700 judicial committee members on the application of a human rights-based approach to handling cases. More than 600 MPs, nearly half of whom were women, were engaged in knowledge-sharing sessions aimed at enhancing their capacity on localizing the SDGs, good governance, law-making, and oversight functions. UNDP supported the government in transforming over 21,800 individuals – more than four out of five are women and people from most vulnerable groups – become micro-entrepreneurs through skills training and technical support.

UNDP extended some of its engagements around violence-prevention to the security forces during the year. A special joint campaign was organized with the Armed Police Force on the prevention of gender-based violence, reaching over 1,100 APF officials and students, 38 percent of whom are women. This has helped the force's Gender Unit build its capacity to handle and curb cases of violence within the institution and increase its adherence to relevant international treaties and conventions.

UNDP worked together with UN Women and other UN agencies and provided technical support to the Ministry of Home Affairs to finalize the National Action Plan-Phase II on UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 and subsequent resolutions. That technical support is instrumental for the Ministry of Home Affairs to finalize the Action Plan, which focuses on the concerns and priorities of conflict victims, particularly conflict-related sexual violence victims/survivors, former women combatants, children born out of rape during the conflict, and disappeared families. The process was fully participatory, with over 1,200 people directly

UNDP and UN Women jointly worked with the Ministry of Home Affairs to increase the capacity of participants to integrate gender into humanitarian preparedness and response.

participating in a series of consultations organized at federal, provincial, and local levels.

UNDP and UN Women worked with the Ministry of Home Affairs to increase the capacity of participants to integrate gender into humanitarian preparedness and response. The national disaster response framework and five cluster contingency plans (Health, Shelter, Food, WASH, and Nutrition) were revised to incorporate the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion perspective. More than 78 humanitarian actors (including 45 women and four people from the LGBTIQ community) increased their ability to integrate gender into humanitarian programmes. This has helped strengthen collaboration between the government and humanitarian partners to promote collective responsibility for gender equality in humanitarian action.

UNDP in partnership with National Federation of the Disabled Nepal (NFDN) is working with the provincial and local government in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities through the integration of relevant legal and constitutional provisions and international conventions including the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into its plans and budgets. As part of this effort, Sudurpaschim's Ministry of Social Development has established the inclusive disability coordination committee which aims to support the provincial government in adopting disability inclusive laws, policies and programmes.

UNDP conducted a study on Situation and Identity of Badi Community in Nepal in partnership with COMMIT Nepal and Nepalgunj Sub-Metropolitan City. The study attempts to unearth the current socioeconomic reality of Badi community in relation to its historical identity. The study takes into account the community's long-running struggle for access to land entitlements and self-respect, their ordeal of historic sexual abuse, the issues related to present identity and social, cultural, educational, health and political representation.

FEATURE

CRACKING THE GLASS CEILING: WOMEN IN AUTO REPAIR

WOMEN IN HETAUDA ARE STEERING INTO A PROFESSION TRADITIONALLY DOMINATED BY MEN: AUTO REPAIR.

Anuja Praja doesn't remember ever seeing a motor vehicle as a child. But a lot has changed between then and now. Since September 2019, Anuja, who belongs to the indigenous Chepang community, has been working as a motorcycle mechanic.

Along with nine of her friends, Anuja started a workshop in Hetauda after taking part in an auto mechanic training course. This initiative, involving only women, is the first of its kind in the area. "We are proud to be working in a profession that has been dominated by men," she says. Niru Sunuwar, who is also employed in the same workshop, mentions how they were only given lighter tasks initially. "But lately, people have started to trust us more. I'm sure we'll be busier in the days to come," she says.

Another group in Hetauda recently completed an auto rickshaw mechanic training, after which they set up a workshop. Both groups were supported by



Hetauda Sub-Metropolitan City and UNDP's SDG Localization Project, who gave them tools and other equipment. They are also being supported locally by the Women Empowerment

and Poverty Alleviation Group Nepal and the Integrated Village Development Society.

Under the SDG Localization Project, 17,000 individuals, of

whom 70 percent are women, have directly benefited from a variety of initiatives. The project covers 14 districts in all seven provinces.

UNDP NEPAL'S INNOVATION TEN SOLUTIONS

E-BUILDING PERMIT

Obtaining building permits has never been easy, with homeowners having to follow a lengthy and complicated process spanning months. However, a software package called the electronic building permit system (eBPS), developed with the support of UNDP, is gaining traction among municipalities. The eBPS is an online software application that eases the process of obtaining building permits and improves compliance to building codes. Introduced in 2015, the software solution has been adopted by over a dozen municipalities, including Kathmandu Metropolitan City. In 2019, UNDP supported two more municipalities in adopting the eBPS: Birgunj and Changu Narayan. Given the success rate and the level of efficiency it is bringing to its users, the software has the potential to benefit all 753 local governments.

- The eBPS has led to direct gains in transparency and efficiency in the provision of public services. This technology allows municipal governments and citizens to better track the statuses of permit applications. Furthermore, it eases the monitoring of building code compliance, an important element of disaster risk reduction.

DATA AND DISASTER

Reliable data can help to enhance disaster management. In a bid to make data accessible to key actors, especially those in the three tiers of government, the Ministry of Home Affairs introduced a new Disaster Information Management System. Found online at bipad.gov.np, it is a one-stop window for integrated data and information on disasters. UNDP provided technical support in the overall development process, including the development of its back-end system. Additional support was mobilized from UNDP's regional initiative under the Global Centre for Disaster Statistics Japan, Fujitsu Japan and Tohoku University Japan, in designing an inbuilt damage and loss database system in the DIMS.

- The system has resulted in enhanced access to current and reliable information on incidents, damages, and losses. Risk profiles generated from the system have helped enhance the ability to make time-sensitive decisions to reduce risks and protect citizens.

DIGITAL LAW ARCHIVE

Access to justice and the effective implementation of laws demands effective solutions. Concurrently, it is essential to raise awareness among the general public and concerned law enforcement agencies about existing laws and regulations. To this end, with UNDP's support, the Ministry of Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, is developing a software package and a mobile application that will provide the general public easy access to the legislations of Nepal in digital form. As of December 2019, over 160 laws had been digitized and archived into the new system, which is slated to be launched in 2020.



Women using induction cooker run by 29KW simli micro-hydro power plant in the remote village Simli of Rukum.

UNDP NEPAL

HYDRAULIC PUMP REACHES BHUTAN

Life in the mountains offers unique challenges that require custom solutions. With traditional sources of water drying up rapidly, many of the villages in Nepal's remote mountains and hills are facing acute water shortages. At the same time, the cost of harnessing the power potential of Himalayan rivers for the population living higher can be prohibitive. However, a solution was identified in 2017: a hydraulic pump that runs on water. With the support of UNDP's Small Grants Programme, four such pumps were successfully developed and installed in Kavre, giving more than 600 people easy access to water. In 2019, the pump was replicated in Bhutan, with the support of UNDP offices in Nepal and Bhutan. This solution has the capacity to solve water constraints faced by people in remote and mountainous areas.

SDG RESOURCE CENTER

Designing and introducing SDG-friendly legislation requires lawmakers to be well-versed in the SDGs, with easy access to information, data, and relevant resources. In 2019, UNDP supported the establishment of an SDG Resource Centre at the Parliament Secretariat. Led and managed by the Sustainable Development and Good Governance Committee of the National Assembly, the centre is a one-stop knowledge hub for integrated information, data, and statistics on the SDGs and good governance, in both Nepali and English.

E-PROCUREMENT

A major milestone was achieved in promoting efficiency and transparency in the provincial governments through the introduction of an electronic procurement tool; this particularly affected the procurement process of service providers for the implementation of the Micro-Enterprise Development Programme for Poverty Alleviation. For the first time, all seven provincial governments adopted and operationalized the electronic tool, awarding contracts worth over US\$10 million to selected service providers of the programme. The system allows potential service providers to submit their bids online, while government authorities can evaluate the submissions in a more accurate and efficient manner. The system has opened the potential for automation leading to enhanced efficiency and transparency in the government procurement system.



"Farmers taking care of vegetable seed plants in Dhankuta. The farmers were supported with tunnel farming as part of the climate smart village project, a joint collaboration under SDG localization project implemented by Dhankuta Municipality and UNDP. © UNDP NEPAL

GREEN PARKS

The lack of green public spaces is a matter of concern for most city dwellers in Nepal. While most cities have public spaces, they are often either neglected or encroached upon. Lalitpur City has 59 open public spaces, the areas ranging from 74 square metres to 44,000 square metres, but over 90 percent of them have been misused in the form of illegal parking lots to waste dumping sites. In 2019, UNDP's Accelerator Lab joined hands with Lalitpur Metropolitan City, Vriksha Foundation, and the local community to start a movement to transform these spaces into 'Green Pocket Parks.' A small experiment has been conducted in Jawalakhel. The parks are expected to reignite the sense of community that the city is slowly losing due to haphazard and unplanned urbanization.

RESILIENCE FUND

UNDP piloted and upscaled a new mechanism called the Resilience Fund to provide vulnerable house owners access to finance in order to reconstruct their houses. The fund provides interest-free loans of up to around US\$500 to complete the key stages of reconstruction so that house owners can be eligible for the government grant to repay and complete their houses. Once the loan is repaid, it is revolved by providing support to another needy household and, ultimately, invested in risk mitigation measures upon completion of reconstruction. This mechanism has supported 322 house owners in seven municipalities in Gorkha, Sindhupalchowk, and Dolakha.

ELECTRIC COOKING

Indoor air pollution is a major health hazard for millions, especially women and girls. In 2019, UNDP introduced electric cooking in settlements where mini-/micro-hydro is the sole source of energy, with the idea of providing people in rural areas with a cleaner, safer, and more efficient cooking solution. Energy-efficient electric induction stoves were field-tested to analyse their compatibility with the micro-hydropower supply, and to understand users' acceptability of electric cooking as opposed to traditional fire-wood. The results were positive; the micro-hydro plant performed well, and users were satisfied with the performance of the induction cookers as they saved time and fuel costs. This switch to cleaner electric cooking is expected to improve rural lifestyles and savings.



The Accelerator Lab in Nepal was launched on 1 August 2019. The event was hosted in Staff College with 400+ participants including official state delegates, representatives from the development communities, students and innovators. The Nepal Lab is part of a network of 60 Accelerator Labs across the world, making it world's largest and fastest learning network around development challenges. @ UNDP NEPAL

PARLIAMENT-PEOPLE CONNECTION

A major challenge for Nepal's legislators is reaching out to constituencies in remote geographic areas, particularly for regular public consultations on bills and other development issues. In 2019, UNDP helped the provincial assemblies in Sudurpaschim, Karnali, and Gandaki address the challenge by installing video conferencing facilities in all 30 districts of the three provinces. These facilities connect the assemblies with the public through a centre installed at each of the selected District Coordination Committees. With this modern information and communication technology facility, lawmakers can now speak with multiple groups simultaneously. Karnali Provincial Assembly successfully conducted its first public consultation on its Food Security Bill with the people of Mugu district using the system. The technology has not just helped provincial legislators save time and money, but also enabled them to reach out to a larger mass of people. Such facilities are expected to contribute to promoting openness, transparency, and accountability of the parliaments.

CLIMATE SMART VILLAGE

With Nepal ranked among the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, there is a need for smart solutions to help people and communities build resilience and cope with the changing climate. In 2019, UNDP joined hands with Dhankuta Municipality to introduce the concept of 'smart villages.'

As part of this initiative, over 600 heads of households (one-third of them women) were trained in organic vegetable and tunnel farming, cowshed improvement, and improved waste management. Many residents have started organic farming, making the best use of biodegradable waste, including household refuse, cattle manure, and urine. Farmers were provided with power tillers, climate-compatible vegetable seeds, and materials for the construction of tunnel houses and other infrastructure. The municipality has also integrated climate-smart solutions in its annual development plans. This includes the installation of solar lamps, construction of plastic ponds, and the design and operation of the Dhankuta Smart Krishi mobile application, which connects and informs local farmers about smart agriculture.

SDG LOCALIZATION

As part of our efforts to help the local governments accelerate the achievements of the SDGs in practice, UNDP co-invested with municipalities across the seven provinces in demonstration projects that directly benefited over 17,000 people in 14 municipalities. A snapshot of this SDG Localization Project is presented.

SDG localization: Single women trained with different skills for their economic empowerment. Dhangadhi submetropolitan city in collaboration with UNDP's SDG Localization project provided three months training on fibre making, dhaka garment production, woollen weaving etc to around 300 women. © UNDP NEPAL





DISCLAIMERS: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used in this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

1. Climate Smart Village, Dhankuta

PARTNER: *Dhankuta UM, PRADEP Nepal*

2. Greening the Jaleshwar Municipality, Mahottari,

PARTNER: *Jaleshwar UM, CDAFN*

3. Women Model Entrepreneur Development, Sindhuli (two projects under same theme implemented by two partners)

PARTNER: *Sindhuli UM, D-MEGA and SIDS*

4. Leaving no one behind through Entrepreneurs Development, Makwanpur

(two projects under same theme implemented by two partners)
PARTNER: *Makwanpur SMC, WEPAG & IVDS*

5. Economic Empowerment through Skills Training and Agro Entrepreneurs, Syangja

PARTNER: *Syangja UM & DIYALO*

6. Enterprise Development for Youth, Palpa

PARTNER: *Palpa UM & REDA*

7. Women Economic Empowerment through Enterprise Development, Butwal

PARTNER: *Butwal SMC & BTI*

8. Snake bite treatment Hospital, Kshireswarnath

PARTNER: *Kshireswarnath UM & CIC*

9. Multicultural Park with clean Energy, Inaruwa

PARTNER: *Inaruwa UM & CDO*

10. Community Infrastructure Development, Jumla & Surkhet

PARTNER: *Birendranagr UM & ISS*

11. Tourist Information Center, Janakpur

PARTNER: *Janakpur SMC & Adhunik Nepal*

12. Social and Economic Empowerment of Single Women, Dhangadhi

PARTNER: *Dhangadhi SMC & SEEWAC*

13. Prevention of violence against women, Kanchanpur

PARTNER: *Bedkot UM & SWEET Nepal*

14. Inclusive Governance and Livelihood Support, Dadeldhura

PARTNER: *Dadeldhura RM & SEEDS Nepal*

15. Accelerating Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Implementation through Community Radio Network, Association of Community Radio Broadcasters

PARTNER: *ACORAB*

16. Enhancing Elected Women Representatives' Meaningful Participation in Local Government, Centre for Dalit Women Nepal

PARTNER: *CDWN*

17. Strengthening Municipal Governance & Localizing SDGs in Nepal, Municipal Association of Nepal

PARTNER: *MUAN*

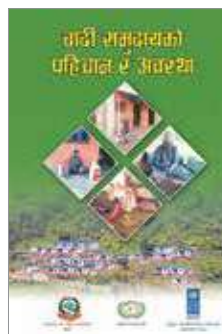
RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS 2019

For a complete library of UNDP's research and publications, visit np.undp.org



Provincial SDG Baseline Reports

The governments of Province 5 and Gandaki have formulated their first five-year plans around a vision of 'Prosperous Province, Happy People.' In line with the federal government's commitment to meet the SDGs, the provinces took their first steps towards that end by publishing their SDG baseline reports. The reports reveal the provinces' current status for each Global Goal, and set out the milestones to be achieved in each major development sector.



Identity and Situation of Badi Community

Published jointly by UNDP, Nepalgunj Sub-Metropolitan City, and COMMIT Nepal, this book is a comprehensive account of the socio-economic challenges faced by the Badis, one of Nepal's most excluded and least developed communities. The report is based on surveys conducted in 10 districts in Banke, home to sizable Badi populations. The research was followed by a 10-year Strategic Plan for the Badi community.



Open Government Open Parliament

Open Government and Open Parliament is a handy booklet that offers useful information on the concepts, practices and trends on openness in governance and parliament. It contains ideas and approaches to promote participation, collaboration and co-creation, inclusion and diversity, open data, accessibility, transparency, and accountability that shape the overall functioning of democracy. It also offers a comparative picture to show how Nepal has performed against the parameters of Open Government Partnership.



Nepal Climate Citizen Budget

As well as presenting the 2018/19 climate budget, the Nepal Citizens Climate Budget describes steps the government has taken to manage climate-related financial resources. This document is designed to help citizens, civil society organizations, journalists, parliamentarians, and policymakers understand how the government uses public finance to address climate change.



Nepal's 6th National Report to The Convention on Biological Diversity

This report takes stock of what Nepal has done to meet its commitments to the Convention on Biological Diversity in, for example, conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the utilization of genetic resources. The report is structured to provide a realistic appraisal of information on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets being pursued at the national level, among others.



Electoral Justice Resource Book

The Electoral Justice Resource Book examines the concept of electoral justice and ways to address and prevent electoral disputes. The book also highlights the existing national laws, policies, processes and procedures for dealing with electoral violence. It aims to identify areas for coordination and collaboration among diverse electoral justice actors so that electoral disputes are settled effectively.



Development Advocate

This edition of the Development Advocate unpacks the way Nepal is readying itself to achieve the Global Goals, including an understanding that fully realizing the SDGs will require concerted efforts from everyone. In line with the SDGs' mantra of leaving no one behind, this publication also brings to the fore the many representative voices that need to be heard.



Civic and Voter Education Booklets

The Election Commission, Nepal's Civic and Voter Education Booklets are a set of 17 booklets designed to deliver civic and voter education for community-level institutions. They serve to aid the Commission in ensuring that civic and voter education reaches the grassroots and ultimately results in the reduction of invalid votes. These booklets were supported by the Educational Resource and Development Centre Nepal, UNESCO, and UNDP's Electoral Support Project.



Roadmap for Adaptation in Agriculture

The roadmap provides clear areas of further work needed to fully integrate climate change adaptation concerns in the agriculture sector, focusing on the implementation of the Ministry of Agriculture's Agriculture Development Strategy. This document is intended to gradually integrate those adaptation concerns into planning and budgeting processes and contribute to the National Agriculture Policy formulation process led by the Ministry of Forests and Environment.



TVET Factsheet

The Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) Factsheet 2076, prepared and published with the technical assistance of UNDP's SKILLS programme, presents detailed information of the technical and vocational education training data of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, including the departments and agencies it manages. The database is expected to help inform decision-makers in designing TVET-related policies and programmes.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2019 LAUNCH IN NEPAL

PROVINCE 1



PROVINCE 2



Beyond Income, Beyond Averages, Beyond today: Inequalities in human development in the 21st century UNDP's Human Development Report 2019 indicates that people are living longer, are more educated and have greater incomes. The report, which places Nepal on 147th position in the global ranking with HDI value of 0.579, confirms that there has been marked progress in the overall human development. However, despite these improvements, the report also alarms Nepal and countries across the world about the rising inequalities. The report calls for massive policy reforms to address a host of "new generation of inequalities" that are emerging due to an unequal access to new technologies. The costs of ignoring these are projected even higher.

The report was launched in Nepal from across all seven provinces and Kathmandu simultaneously, bringing together over 70 speakers and 1000 participants, including policy makers, researchers, development partners, students and the media.

The report, which places Nepal on 147th position in the global ranking with HDI value of 0.579, confirms that there has been marked progress in the overall human development.

The Report launch and discussions conveyed a clear message that, in many respects, the concept of human development resonates with the very essence of "inclusive and socialism-oriented" development envisioned by the Constitution of Nepal. One of the key learning from the discussions was that development is just not about making roads and infrastructure, the actual meaning of development is about addressing inequalities pervading the society. The launches also helped familiarize the policy makers working under the new federal structure with the concept of human development as an appropriate lens to understand and navigate their future development pathways. Representatives of federal as well as provincial governments took note of key policy recommendations of the report as useful and underscored on the need for increased investment in health, education, skills and social security to drive people out of poverty and discrimination. As a result, UNDP has seen increased interests and call from provincial and local governments to engage with UNDP on key development issues.

BAGMATI PROVINCE (KATHMANDU)



BAGMATI PROVINCE (HETAUDA)



GANDAKI PROVINCE



PROVINCE 5



KARNALI PROVINCE




SUDURPASCHIM PROVINCE





THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS



UN Nepal volunteers celebrate Volunteer Day in Nepal under the banner of Volunteers for an Inclusive Future. The theme focuses on equality, including inclusion through volunteerism.  UNV NEPAL

In 2019, 55 United Nations Volunteers (UNVs) were deployed to different UN agencies where they focused on disaster risk management, youth mobilization, local governance and community development.

UNVs IN COMPREHENSIVE DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

The UNVs continued their technical support to the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC), under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), in developing the Disaster Information Management System (DIMS). The DIMS, with its robust disaster-related data, will provide statistical evidence to better inform policy- and decision-making processes in the long run.

A YEAR OF PARTNERSHIPS

2019 saw UNVs supporting UNDP in fostering partnerships with young people from civil society, the private sector, academia and tech-based institutions, as well as with government institutions working for the youth.

For instance, UNDP collaborated with the Robotics Association of Nepal for Yantra Festival to highlight the importance of automation and robotics for the implementation of the SDGs. At the event, UNVs

facilitated sessions on SDG 9 – Innovation, Infrastructure and Industry. In terms of youth and civic engagement, UNDP supported a youth-led organization YUWA in sensitizing the young people about corruption, accountability and transparency through 'Jimmewari' initiative. The project reached more than 500 youths of all seven provinces.

Regarding the involvement of the private sector and academia, UNDP collaborated with King's College to organize the 3rd Youth Co:Lab in order to encourage young people in social entrepreneurship and innovation. Entrepreneurial ideas were pitched by 200+ youths, with 10 social enterprises reaching the final session. For Youth Co:Lab, UNVs provided expertise on linking business to the different SDGs.

A major milestone for UNDP's youth programme in 2019 was the partnership with the National Youth Council (NYC) of the Ministry of Youth and Sports. UNDP collaborated with the NYC in celebrating International Youth Day, under the theme of 'Transforming Education.' More than 500 youths from different institutions participated in the event.

Additionally, UNVs along with the NYC reached 700 youths in provinces 1, 2 and 3, as well as in Karnali and Sudurpaschim Pradesh, to create inclusive volunteerism while celebrating International Volunteer Day.

Other notable events conducted by UNDP's youth programme were Actions for SDGs, which created a platform for young people to create change in society through their SDG-focused ideas, products and services, and the UNV conference on 'Challenges and Opportunities,' which promoted volunteerism.



UN VOLUNTEER VOICE: ARUN POUDEL

Since 2016, as a national volunteer, I have contributed to the effective development and operation of the Disaster Information Management System (DIMS) in the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) by institutionalizing the latest technological innovations. The DIMS aims to form a collaborative platform across the various ministries and agencies that are directly involved in the disaster sector.

Nepal is one of the most hazard prone countries in the world, therefore the need for an effective DIMS is a must. I have been supporting the operationalization of DIMS to meet the short- and long-term needs of the NEOC in the context of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. This includes responding to incidents, monitoring alerts, mobilizing resources, assessing disaster data for better risk informed planning and policymaking, among others.

By deploying 10 UNV ICT Experts across all seven provinces, UNVs supported the Local Governance and Community Development Programme II, under the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, to digitize a wide range of government procedures, as well as to strengthen and maintain the ICT infrastructure of local governments as part of the transition to federalism.



UNDP NEPAL & THE UN SYSTEM



As part of commemorating 16 days of activism to combat violence against women and girls, UN in Nepal organized a cycle rally where over 200 riders embarked on a journey to promote safe spaces for everyone, regardless of their gender or age. © UNDP NEPAL



UNDP functions as an integral member of the UN Country Team lead by the UN Resident Coordinator. UNDP has supported UN system in the principle of "Delivering as One" engaging in the implementation of eight joint programmes under the broader framework of Sustainable Development Goals and in line with the UN Development Framework (UNDAF) agreed with the government. The joint activities focused on key areas, including women's empowerment, migration, democratic governance, economic and development policy and climate change adaptation in agriculture. UNDP also actively collaborated with UN Country Team on joint communications and advocacy programmes around Leave No One Behind, harmful practices, DRR and climate change and migration.

Along with RCO, UNDP facilitated the discussion and knowledge sharing to support the implementation of the joint work plan of SDG Working Group. The key results from the combined efforts of the UN agencies included the strategy, data and statistical support to the Government and provincial SDGs baseline reports. The National Planning Commission (NPC) published and disseminated the "Needs Assessment, Costing and Financing Strategy for Sustainable Development Goals" with support from the UNDP in 2019.

Along with SDG Working Group, UNDP actively led and participated in UN Communication Group, and Gender Theme Group.



To mark 16 days of activism, the UN agencies including UNDP, joined hands with the British Council in organizing the Women of the World (WOW) event in Janakpur. Hundreds of people across genders joined the march shouting slogans demanding for a safe and violence-free Janakpur for all women. The UN supported 10 women cyclists to take part in the Kathmandu-Sindhuli-Janakpur Cycle rally between 22-24 November. They spread the message of violence-free public spaces and the importance of harassment-free sports events. A photo exhibition was organized jointly by UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA and RCO highlighting women achievers/leaders in non-traditional roles in Kathmandu. Visited by hundreds, the exhibition helped break the stereotypes around conventional gender roles.

In 2019, the UN supported Ministry of Home Affairs in conducting a series of provincial and national consultations on the National Action Plan II on UNSCRC 1325, 1820 and subsequent resolutions. UNRCO, UNDP, IOM, UN Women, UNODC, UNFPA have supported technically to draft NAP II via organizing consultations in the province, local and national levels.

UNDP and UNICEF in partnership with Nepalese Youth for Climate Action (NYCA) jointly organized UN Youth Climate Summit mock exercise in Kathmandu where the students took on the role of provincial and national leaders to bring attention to the climate crisis.

In 2019, UNDP and FAO supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) to integrate

climate change risk management into the planning and budgeting process within the agriculture sector. Based on evidence generated from pilot three districts (Bardiya, Dailekh and Mugu) of Nepal, the project advised MoALD on climate sensitive agriculture sector planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation using some of the tested tools and methods, including agriculture sector applied vulnerability assessment risk assessment, economic valuation, cost benefit analysis, budget coding and M&E framework.

Two UN agencies, UN Women and UNDP have deepened their cooperation to boost gender equality and women's empowerment in Nepal. Through the agreement, the two agencies committed to advancing the security, choice and voice of women and girls in Nepal.

UNDP also joined forces with WHO, UNFPA and UN Women to launch a joint project, Aawaaz - Inclusion for and by persons with disabilities. The programme aims to particularly promote the realization of the right to health, right to participation in public and political life, and right to information for persons with disabilities. In 2019, laws and policies were reviewed from disability inclusion lens, conducted series of sensitization programme for the UN and other concerned stakeholders on disability right.

In 2019, UNDP's Electoral Support Project, aided by UNESCO and the EU, helped to build the capacities of 22 community learning centres in Bhaktapur.

FUNDING SOURCES & PARTNERSHIPS

In 2019, UNDP implemented a wide range of projects in Nepal with total expenditure of \$24.52 million, which came from its core fund, and from partners, bilateral and multilateral agencies, and thematic and vertical trust funds. The expenditure was over 92 percent of the total approved budget for 2019.

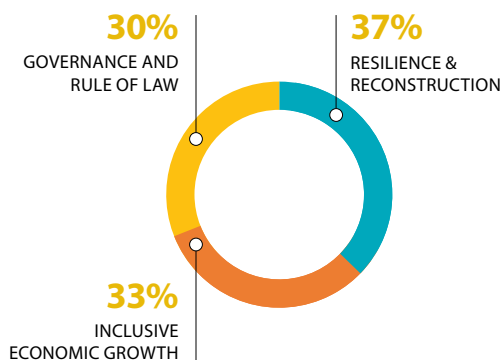
While the UNDP core fund contributed to 31.82 percent of the total expenditures, the remaining 68.18 percent was entrusted to UNDP by the bilateral and multilateral agencies, among others.

When considering UNDP's 2019 expenditure by committed outcome area, almost one-third of the programme expenditure went towards resilience and reconstruction (37 percent); followed by inclusive economic growth at 33 percent and rule of law at 30 percent.

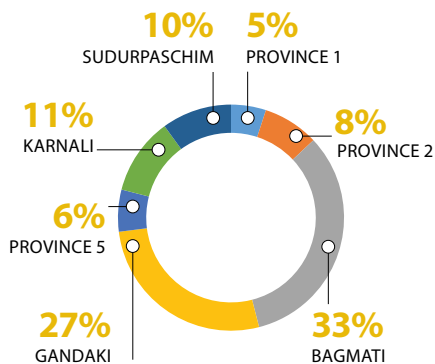
In 2019, the Government of Nepal contributed \$1.65 million of domestic resources to its partnership with UNDP.

EXPENDITURES IN 2019

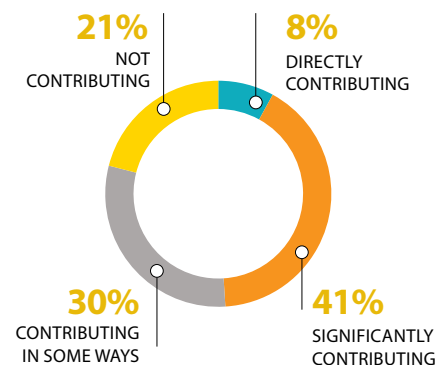
| DONORS | IN USD | PERCENT |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| UNDP | 7,801,293 | 31.82 |
| DFID | 3,743,906 | 15.27 |
| NORWAY | 3,265,075 | 13.32 |
| INDIA | 2,634,880 | 10.75 |
| NEPAL | 1,652,137 | 6.74 |
| EUROPEAN UNION | 2,267,636 | 9.25 |
| KOREA | 1,197,417 | 4.88 |
| THAILAND | 897,945 | 3.66 |
| AUSTRALIA | 284,595 | 1.16 |
| GCF | 260,735 | 1.06 |
| GEF | 141,897 | 0.58 |
| BELHI GROUP | 99,360 | 0.41 |
| GERMANY | 89,691 | 0.37 |
| QATAR | 64,472 | 0.26 |
| SWITZERLAND | 50,576 | 0.21 |
| OTHERS | 68,762 | 0.28 |
| TOTAL | 24,520,378 | 100.00 |



EXPENDITURE BY OUTCOME AREAS

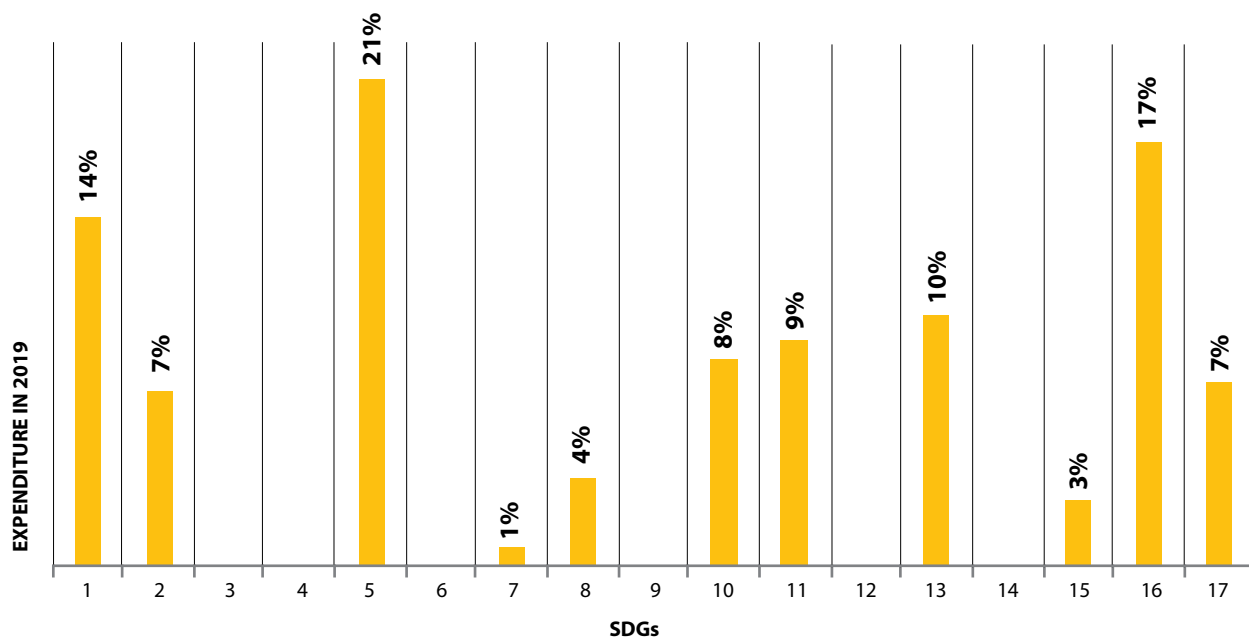


EXPENDITURE BY PROVINCE



EXPENDITURE CONTRIBUTING TO GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

UNDP EXPENDITURE BY SDGs



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| 1. No Poverty | 6. Clean Water & Sanitation | 10. Reduced Inequalities | 14. Life Below Water |
| 2. Zero Hunger | 7. Affordable & Clean Energy | 11. Sustainable Cities & Communities | 15. Life on Land |
| 3. Good Health & Well Being | 8. Decent Work & Economic Growth | 12. Sustainable Consumption & Production | 16. Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions |
| 4. Quality Education | 9. Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure | 13. Climate Action | 17. Partnerships for the Goals |
| 5. Gender Equality | | | |

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

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



AUSTRALIA



CHINA



DENMARK



EUROPEAN UNION



FINLAND



GERMANY



INDIA



NEPAL



NORWAY



QATAR



REPUBLIC OF KOREA



SWITZERLAND



THAILAND

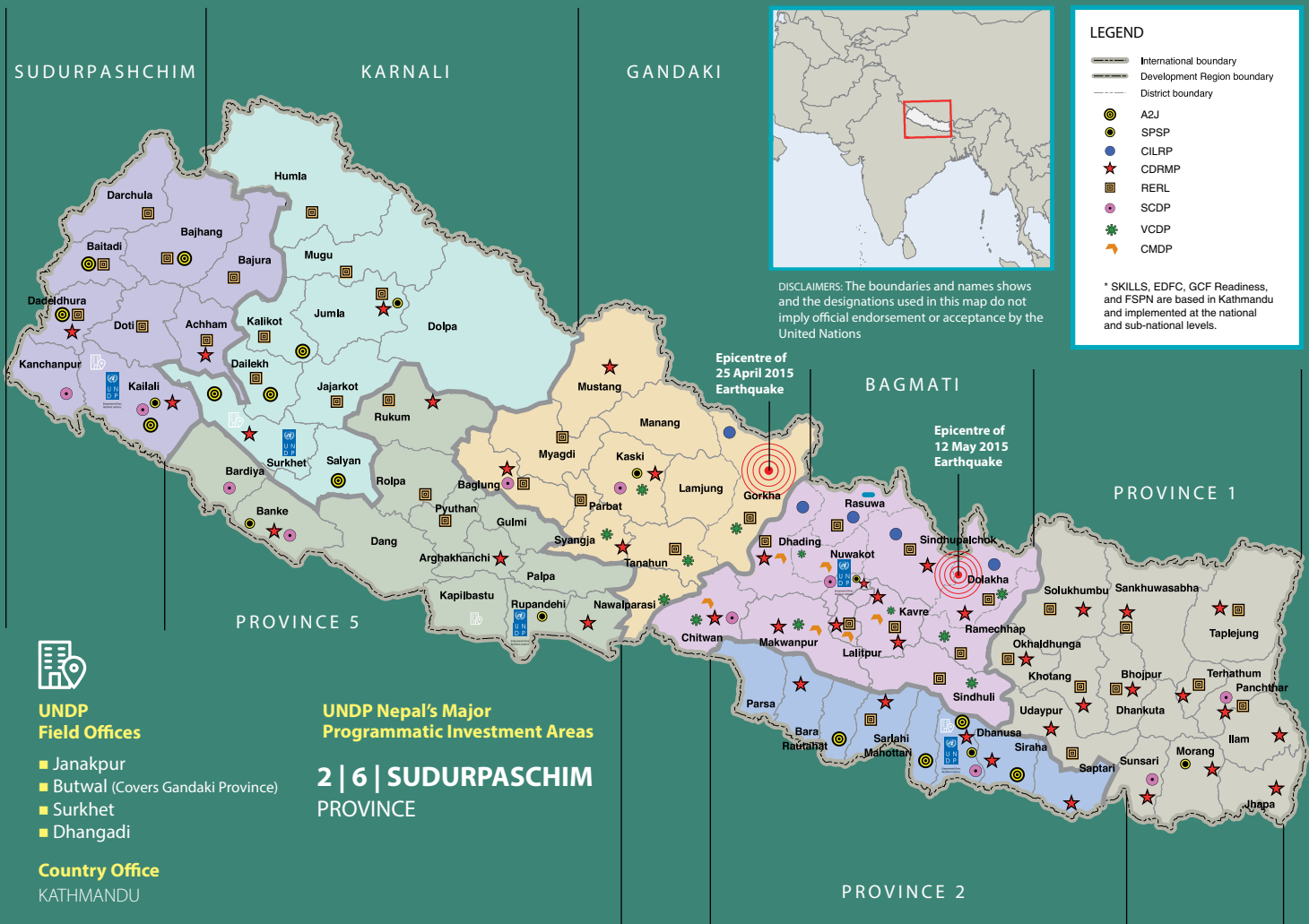


UNITED KINGDOM

UNDP is thankful to all our core donors who have long been providing crucial funding to UNDP at the global level. Many of our core donors are also providing direct funding to UNDP Nepal in addition to their support at the global level. Core donors are those that provide UNDP with regular resources and that is the pillar of UNDP's support to the world's poorest countries to eradicate poverty and inequality, attain sustainable development, and strengthen resilience to crisis. Core resources allow UNDP to enable coordinated, flexible, and rapid responses to development needs and emergencies; provide capability for multi-sectoral and integrated solutions; support countries to leverage financing for the SDGs; and enhance thought leadership, innovation, and quality assurance. The top ten core donors include: United Kingdom, Japan, Sweden, the United States of America, Norway, Germany, Switzerland, Netherlands, Canada and Denmark.

UNDP NEPAL: WHERE WE WORK

AS OF JANUARY 2019



ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| | | | |
|---------------|--|-----------------|--|
| A2J | Access to Justice | MEDEP | Micro Enterprise Development Programme |
| ADS | Agriculture Development Strategy | MEDPA | Micro Enterprise Development for Poverty Alleviation |
| AEPC | Alternative Energy Promotion Center | MoALD | Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development |
| AMIS | Aid Management Information System | MHP | Micro Hydro Plant |
| APF | Armed Police Force | MoE | Ministry of Education |
| CAAN | Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal | MoEWRI | Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation |
| CBS | Central Bureau of Statistics | MOEST | Ministry of Education, Science & Technology |
| CDRMP | Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Programme | MoHA | Ministry of Home Affairs |
| CDO | Chief District Officer | MoLJPA | Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs |
| CEDAW | Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women | MP | Member of Parliament |
| CER | Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination | MUAN | Municipal Association of Nepal |
| CILRP | Community Infrastructure and Livelihoods Recovery Programme | NAP | National Action Plan |
| CLCs | Community Learning Centres | NEOC | National Emergency Operation Center |
| CMDP | Coperative Market Development Programme | NHRC | National Human Rights Commission |
| CNI | Confederation of Nepalese Industries | NHRIs | National Human Rights Institutions |
| CRPD | Convention on Right of Person with Disabilities | NHRP | Nepal Housing Reconstruction Project |
| CSO | Civil Society Organization | NPC | National Planning Commission |
| DFAT | Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia) | NYC | National Youth Council |
| DFID | Department for International Development (United Kingdom) | NYCA | Nepalese Youth for Climate Action |
| DIFS | Disaster Information Management System | OGP | Open Government Partnership |
| DIMS | Disaster Information Management System | ONDP | Online National Data Profile |
| DP | Deutsche Post | PEEDA | People Energy and Environment Development Association |
| DRR | Disaster Risk Reduction | PSP | Parliament Support Project |
| DRRM | Disaster Risk Reduction and Management | RCO | Resident Coordinator Office |
| eBPS | Electronic Building Permit System | RERL | Renewable Energy for Rural Livelihood |
| ECN | Election Commission of Nepal | RIMS | Reconstruction Information Management System |
| EDFC | Effective Development Financing and Cooperation | SASEC | South Asia Sub Regional Economic Cooperation Programme |
| EU | European Union | SCDP | Social Cohesion and Democratic Participation |
| ESP | Electoral Support Project | SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| FSPN | Facilitating the Pursuit of SDGs in Nepal | SKILLS | Support to Knowledge and Lifelong Learning Skills |
| GACC | Global Alliance for Clean Cooking | TVET | Technical and Vocational Education and Training |
| GARD | Get Airports Ready for Disaster | UN | United Nations |
| GCF | Green Climate Fund | UNICEF | United Nations International Children's Fund |
| GEF | Global Environment Facility | UNDAF | United Nations Development Assistance Framework |
| GESI | Gender Equality and Social Inclusion | UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| GoI | Government of India | UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| GoN | Government of Nepal | UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| HDI | Human Development Index | UNODC | United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime |
| HLPF | High Level Political Forum | UNRCO | United Nation Resident Coordinator Office |
| ICT | Information and communication technology | UNSCRC | United Nation Security Council Resolutions |
| IOM | International Organization for Migration | UNV | United Nations Volunteers |
| ISS | International Space Station | UN Women | United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women |
| KAPEG | Kathmandu Power and Energy Group | VCDP | Value Chain Development Programme |
| KOICA | Korea International Cooperation Agency | VCF | Video conferencing facilities |
| LGBTIQ | Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer | WOW | Women of the World |



This report is a snapshot of the results achieved in 2019. This was possible with the dedication of the entire team including the country office and project team. Here is the UNDP Nepal team in 2019:

Ayshanie Medagangoda-Labé, UNDP Resident Representative

Bernardo Cocco, Deputy Resident Representative

Adhikari Chiranjibi
Adhikari Shiva Prasad
Amatya Ambika
Ale Shailja
Aryal Sudip
Bajracharya Aliska
Bajracharya Purnima
Basnyat Vijendra
Bhattarai Madhusudhan
Bhattarai Raju
Bista Aarati
Bista Dinesh
B.K. Laxmi

Chand Dhan Bahadur
Chandrika Anil
Chaudhary Sajani
Chhetri Rina
Chhetri Sheila
DA CRUZ, Vincent
Dhakal Narayan
Dongol Macha
Dongol Moti Kaji
Gautam Satish
Gautam Sudeep
Gautam Sushil
Gharti Nitu
Gurung Umesh Kumar
Gyawali Bisam
Jha Bipul Kumar
Kafle Bhasker
Karanjit Shanti

Karmacharya Bandana
KC Anil
Kesari Vijay
Khanal Mukunda Mani
Khatri Birochan
Khawas Laxman
Kim Giun
Kim Kiyeeon
Lakhe Rajendra
Lama Eden
Limbu Bir Bahadur
Limbu Srijana
Luitel Indra Kumar
Magar Binda
Maharjan Bal Krishna
Maharjan Suresh
Manandhar Suman Shekhar
Maskey Soujanya
Murray Sushma Chhetri
Narashimhan Ramraj
Nepal Dambar Prasad
Neupane Ramji Prasad
Palmer Ashley
Paudel Balram
Poudyal Govind
Rai Geetanjali
Rai Amrita
Rai Neeharika
Rai Prayajan Yalamber
Rai Sagun
Rajbhandari Shailendra

Ranjitkar Richa
Rijal Hom Bahadur
Sarkar Kalpana
Shakya Basundhara
Sharma Sheela
Sherpa Gomba
Shrestha Beena Laxmi
Shrestha Bijendra Kumar
Shrestha Dadhi Ram
Shrestha Deepak
Shrestha Ishwor
Shrestha Jyoti
Shrestha Laxman Raja
Shrestha Manik Lal
Shrestha Nabina
Shrestha Niraj
Shrestha Purna Bahadur
Shrestha Raj Bahadur
Shrestha Rasendra Man
Shrestha Sudhira
Sharma Yamnath
Siddiqui Rafeeque Ahmad
Sigdel Kamal Raj
Sigdel Santosh
Singh Bajjanti Giri
Singh Vijaya
Skenderi Petrit
Sob Surendra
Sthapit Leela
Subba Santa
Swarnakar Dharna

Tamang Kamala
Tamata Tek
Tamrakar Nirajan
Tharu Ram Bahadur
Thapa Govinda
Tripathi Pramila
Tuladhar Pushpa
Yang Yunchao

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www.thesquare.agency

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Tom Woodhatch

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© **United Nations Development Programme**

UN House, Pulchowk, Lalitpur
G.P.O. Box: 107, Kathmandu, Nepal
TEL: (977-1) 5523200
FAX: (977-1) 5523991 / 5523986



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