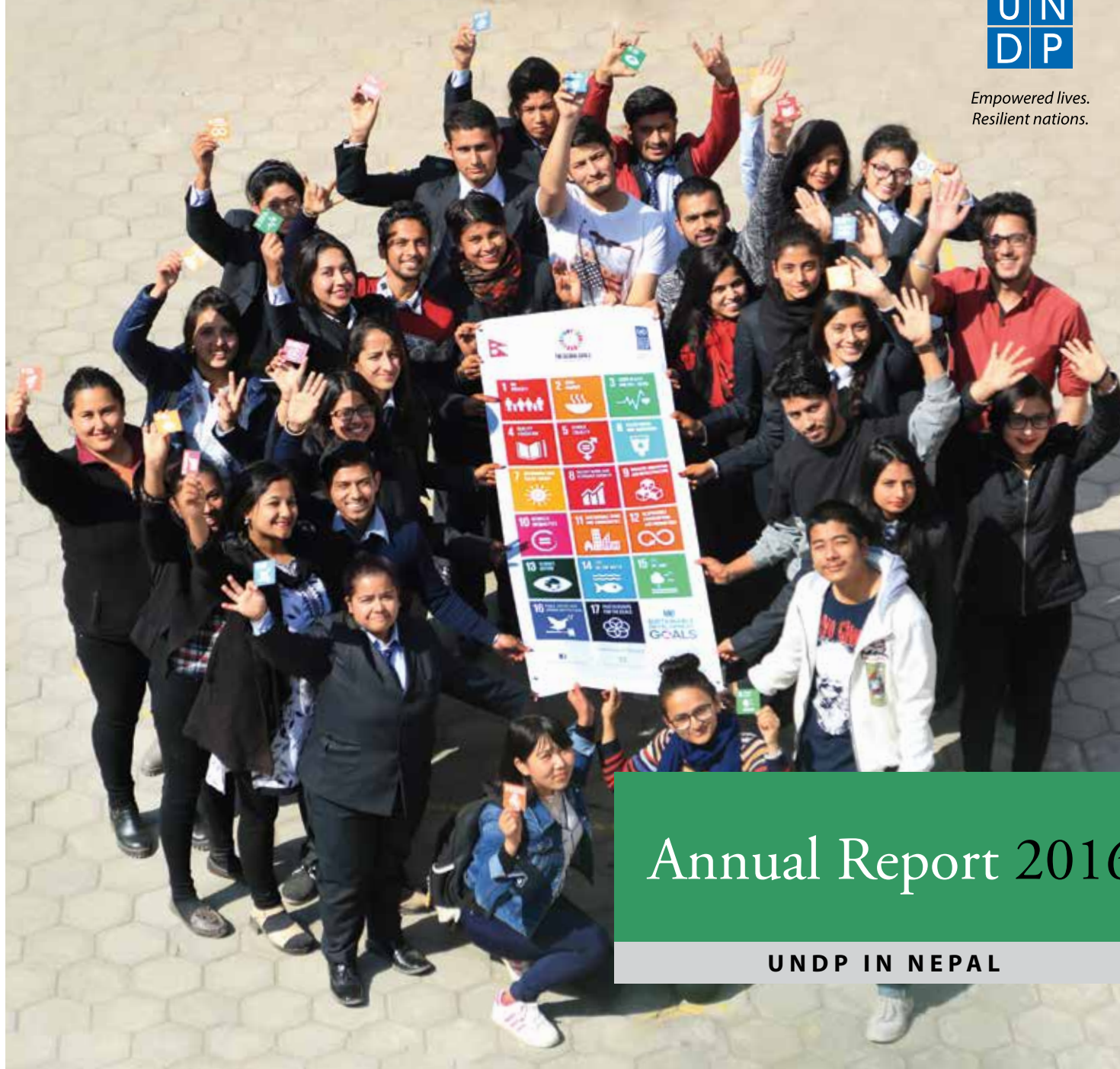


UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*



Annual Report 2016

UNDP IN NEPAL



↑ COVER: Youth take a leading role
to raise awareness and mobilize
stakeholders for the Sustainable
Development Goals
© LAXMI PRASAD NGAKHUSI / UNDP NEPAL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	05		
2016 Key Results by Number	06		
Introduction	08		
SDGs AND UNDP	10		
SECTION 1			
REDUCING POVERTY AND PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	12		
Feature: UNDP Goodwill Ambassador Michelle Yeoh	19		
SECTION 2			
PROMOTING INCLUSIVE AND EFFECTIVE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE	20		
Feature: Marking a decade of peace	27		
		SECTION 3	
		BUILDING RESILIENCE	30
		Special Feature: Building back better	37
		Feature: Climate-smart farming	39
		SECTION 4	
		PROMOTING GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION	40
		Feature: Integrating disability issues	43
		THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS PROGRAMME	46
		UNDP NEPAL AND THE UN SYSTEM	48
		FUNDING SOURCES AND PARTNERSHIPS	50
		Contributing partners	52
		UNDP Nepal field level presence	53
		List of acronyms	54



FOREWORD

2016 was a year of new beginnings in Nepal. After a tumultuous 2015 marked by two earthquakes in April and May, the country spent last year looking forward and setting the stage for significant changes. The National Reconstruction Authority was operationalized and rapidly scaled up the earthquake recovery; governance reforms took shape following the adoption of the new Constitution in September 2015; and the country laid the foundation for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The NRA started its operations in January 2016. By year's end, over 450,000 earthquake-affected people received cash payments to begin reconstructing their damaged or destroyed homes with a build back better approach. The Authority oversaw the formulation of new building codes and brought on board engineers to guide the safe reconstruction of earthquake-resilient structures. UNDP worked in support of the Authority to strengthen its capacities as it leads the reconstruction and the long-term recovery of earthquake-affected areas.

The new Constitution, promulgated in 2015, requires an ambitious and complex transition plan to transform Nepal from a unitary state into a federal state. The document lays a new foundation for Nepal's contract with its people and addresses issues related to public service delivery, devolution of powers and functions to sub-national level administrations while guaranteeing key human rights for the Nepali people. As a long-standing partner to Nepal, UNDP offers support to the many complex facets of the Constitution's implementation and towards a more inclusive nation Nepal endeavours to be.

With the global adoption of the SDGs, Nepal was one of the first UN member states to develop a country status report, putting the 15-year agenda on a strong footing. The report highlights Nepal's current standing in regards to the Goals, which will serve as a springboard for its SDG planning and implementation. UNDP assists Nepal under three pillars for the SDGs, namely: public information and awareness, localization and support to implementation, and monitoring and



reporting. While it's early days for Agenda 2030, Nepal has begun its public awareness efforts with a nationwide SDG campaign and roadshow with help from UNDP and the UN family. Together with its upcoming SDG plan, which Nepal will present to the UN Economic and Social Council in July 2017, and its 14th three-year plan, Nepal has identified its development goals and priorities, and is on the pathway to achieve them.

Against this momentum of change, the year was a turning point for UNDP. In 2016, UNDP celebrated its 50th anniversary worldwide. It was a time for reflection on our achievements and strengths. It was also a time for pushing forward, using our successes to inform our future. Every five years, the UN develops a framework that guides its goals and work plan in line with the country's priorities. In Nepal, 2017 marks the end of the current cycle. In preparation for the transition, UNDP and the UN conducted a thorough review, both to measure achievements but also to anticipate the new framework for 2018-2022. Linked to and in parallel with this, UNDP is readying its new country programme in consultation with all its national and international partners that will launch at the same time as the UN framework.

During this time of rapid progress and significant changes in Nepal, UNDP and the UN begin a new chapter facing the current priorities and challenges alongside its partner, Nepal. As we reflect on 2016, UNDP's results and achievements will contribute to Nepal's progress on its development agenda; its efforts to implement the new Constitution, the recovery following the 2015 earthquakes, and the full roll out of the SDGs. UNDP wishes to thank the government and people of Nepal, as well as the development partners in the country, and looks forward to continue working together.

RENAUD MEYER
UNDP Country Director

VALERIE JULLIAND
UN Resident Coordinator and
UNDP Resident Representative

POVERTY REDUCTION



Created

35,400

new jobs through 28,700 micro enterprises, 82% of which were led by women, 24% by Dalits and 35% by indigenous nationalities



151 community infrastructure rehabilitated benefiting over

100,000

people in five disaster-affected districts



14,600

people directly benefitted from various livelihoods support initiatives, such as distribution of mini tillers, water mills and other improved technology

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE



Over

531,500

citizens were added to the biometric voters' roll, bringing the total number of registered voters to 13.8 million



Over

1 million

people reached in raising awareness on the new constitution



73,000

people (60% women) received legal information and aid



Over

1.26 million

citizens, including women and people from disadvantaged groups, directly engaged in inclusive local development planning processes

RESULTS

BUILDING RESILIENCE



53,900

households gained access to renewable energy through micro-hydro and solar-power plants



83

government offices, health posts and schools, powered by solar energy

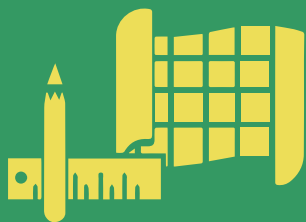


732 climate adaptation activities, such as rain-water harvesting and irrigation projects, implemented in 14 districts, benefitting

180,000

vulnerable people

BY NUMBER*



80%

of projects (117,095 out of 145,819) recommended by Ward Citizen Forums were incorporated in local bodies' annual plans



Over

8,300

vulnerable people (41% women) and 318 government officials (32% women) trained/oriented on glacier lake flood-risk management



**45,000
meters**

of irrigation canals constructed or maintained to water an additional 744.7 hectares of land



Over

**17,000
households**

from Surkhet, Chitwan, Sindhupalchowk and Dolakha benefitted from community-based disaster risk-reduction and livelihoods support initiatives

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



INTRODUCTION

As Nepal underwent significant changes in 2016, UNDP kept pace, adapting its current programmes and launching new ones to address emerging needs related to the post-disaster context, the introduction of the new Constitution, as well as the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals.

↑ *UNDP visits Tribhuvan University campus in Rupandehi to discuss SDGs.*

📷 UNDP NEPAL

Over
35,400

new jobs were created through **28,700 new micro enterprises**

In 2016, UNDP helped Nepal in its efforts to reduce poverty, promote sustainable development and build resilient communities.

While the earthquakes in 2015 hindered efforts to reduce poverty in Nepal, rapid recovery of small business and associations limited the length of time people were without livelihoods. New opportunities were also seized. Almost 35,400 new jobs were created with 28,700 new micro enterprises, with almost all MEs seeing an increase in income. Furthermore, thousands of people saw the benefits of improved and new community infrastructure like water sources, markets, and irrigation systems improving not only income but quality of life in some of the poorest communities in Nepal.



UNDP assisted the Government to start implementing the new Constitution. By offering technical assistance to the Government at all levels, UNDP has contributed to better preparing the Government to adopt its new federal structure while ensuring inclusion and human rights lie at the foundation of this work.

The emerging needs of addressing climate change was of utmost priority for UNDP in Nepal as it is one of the most vulnerable countries to the negative impacts of the changing environment. Assisting Nepal to build back better following the earthquakes has been main focus of the resilience component of the programme. By delivering cross-sectoral support to the Government's National Reconstruction Authority, UNDP made available



SDGs are the thread running through all of UNDP's work

its global and post-crisis expertise in disaster risk reduction during recovery and reconstruction. One of the most fascinating and interesting achievements of the year was the high-altitude infrastructure project at Lake Imja, a glacial lake resting at 5,000 metres above sea level. By reducing the level of the lake by 3.5 metres through drainage, the project was able to minimize the risk of outburst and ensure more than 87,000 people are safer.

SDGs are the thread running through all of UNDP's work and to ensure Nepal starts the Agenda 2030 on a positive note, the year was spent spreading awareness of what the SDGs are, and how everyone can contribute to their achievement.



In 2015, the world adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a set of 17 goals tackling global development issues. The SDGs, part of Agenda 2030, address the complexities and interconnectedness of the world's challenges like poverty, equality and climate change. Nepal hit the ground running on the first full year of the SDGs, and with help from UNDP and the UN family, the foundation is strong to achieve the 15-year development agenda.

In 2016, the Government of Nepal was the first in the world to publish its SDG country report, detailing and taking stock of its current development context, the starting line for the SDGs. This report will guide the work plan and implementation of the SDGs going forward. Also in 2016, the UN established an SDG working group, led by UNDP, to work alongside Nepal as it develops and implements its plan.



The SDGs, part of Agenda 2030, address the complexities and interconnectedness of the world's challenges like poverty, equality and climate change.

One of the first steps towards achieving the Global Goals is to ensure everyone knows what they are. Public awareness is paramount to success. In 2016, UNDP's popular lecture series that tours the country engaging in public discussions about development issues, incorporated the SDGs into its agenda. Discussions focused on a wide range of topics, including the role of youth in advancing global goals, climate change and adaptation, gender equality, youth and volunteerism, innovation, technology and development. Along this vein, the UN, UNDP, and its partners kicked off the SDG roadshow, spreading public awareness of the SDGs across the country. The aim of the roadshow is to reach as many people with SDG messages, and to inspire every citizen to play their part in the Agenda 2030.

Visit www.SDGsinNepal.org or join us on Facebook (@SDGsinNepal) and Twitter (@SDGNepal) to find out more.



Religious leaders from different faiths meet with students in Nepalgunj to discuss the SDGs.

© GOPAL SHRESTHA / UNDP NEPAL

SECTION 1

Reducing Poverty and Promoting Sustainable Development

Poverty reduction lies at the core of UNDP's work around the world and is SDG 1: end poverty in all its forms everywhere. While in Nepal, significant strides have been made in this endeavour, poverty persists and requires a multi-faceted approach to eradicate it completely. Progress had been commendable, however, the 2015 earthquakes derailed development aims and undermined these achievements pushing many people further into poverty and disrupting the systems in place, such as programmes for livelihoods, training and education, and community infrastructure. The early recovery efforts of UNDP contributed to limiting the disaster's negative impact, and over the course of 2016, assisted the Government and communities get back on track. UNDP's projects have sought to bring about policies and institutional frameworks that are more pro-poor, benefitting tens of thousands of people through skills training, short-term employment and entrepreneurship development, improved local infrastructure and improved access to financial services.





THE ROLE OF MICRO-ENTERPRISES IN FOSTERING JOB CREATION AND SOCIAL STABILITY

Micro-enterprises have increasingly proven essential not just in creating employment and income opportunities—and thereby boosting economic growth—but also in enhancing social relations and reducing disparities within and between communities. The Micro Enterprise Development Programme (MEDEP), established by UNDP in partnership with the Government of Nepal in 1998, is currently in its fourth phase funded by UNDP and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. By 2018, the government will have fully taken ownership of the programme.

↑ Women in Dolakha learn to make high-value handicrafts out of Himalayan nettle fibre.

© UNDP NEPAL



In 2016, MEDEP created over 19,000 new jobs through 13,000 micro-entrepreneurs, bringing the total number of micro entrepreneurs to over

81,600

In 2016, MEDEP created over 19,000 new jobs through 13,000 micro-entrepreneurs, bringing the total number of micro-entrepreneurs to over 81,600. Around 70 percent of these entrepreneurs are women, and also include substantial numbers of Dalits and indigenous nationalities. The programme, in an attempt to facilitate better access to loans for entrepreneurs for the purpose of kick-starting and revitalizing their businesses, has also coordinated Micro Enterprise Associations (MEAs) to link with a number of banks and financial institutions. With funding support from the Danish Government and INTEL, MEDEP also designed and implemented rapid enterprise revival projects in four earthquake-affected districts, which altogether created 6,800 new micro-enterprises and rebuilt 41 Common Facility Centers providing safe workplace to earthquake affected micro-entrepreneurs.

Also under MEDEP, the Rapid Enterprise and Livelihoods Recovery Programme funded by the Government of Australia provided immediate support to recover or create an additional 8,500 micro enterprises, bringing the total number of entrepreneurs supported during the project cycle to 14,800. RELRP launched immediately after the 2015 earthquake closed in mid-2016.

Included among MEDEP's achievements has been its contribution to strengthening the capacity of the government—evident in the fact that the government has now integrated its Micro Enterprise Development for Poverty Alleviation (MEDPA) programme, which replicates the MEDEP model in the 14th National Three-Year Plan (FY 2016/17 to FY 2018/19). Additionally, with the programme's advocacy efforts, the Industrial Enterprise Act 2073 has been endorsed by Parliament. The Act formally recognizes micro-enterprises as an industrial component and provides tax-free business registration for MEs for five years, as well as exemption from VAT for select enterprises dealing in less than Rs. 5 million (USD 500) in transactions a year. Integrating innovation into its efforts, MEDPA launched a web-based MIS software to keep detailed record of micro-entrepreneurs & their enterprises, which is in operation in 64 out of 69 of MEDPA's working districts.

EXPEDITING LIVELIHOOD RECOVERY THROUGH RESTORING COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

The 2015 earthquakes exposed the vulnerability and criticality of community infrastructure for both the livelihoods and the quality of life for many of Nepal's



↑ UNDP helped reconstruct community infrastructure like irrigation ponds and canals across Nepal.

UNDP NEPAL



In 2016, UNDP restored or constructed 151 infrastructure, benefitting

18,640

households in five of the earthquake-affected districts

poorest people. The Community Infrastructure and Livelihood Recovery Programme (CILRP) thus comprised an early recovery initiative of UNDP to support people who—particularly those living in rural areas with already limited access to services—had lost their jobs and livelihood options in the disasters.

The programme, funded by the Government of Mauritius, International Medical Corps and the Bridge Head Foundation, has been working to rehabilitate community infrastructure, including irrigation canals, collection/market centres, drinking-water schemes and roads, among others, in close coordination and partnership with district-level line agencies. In 2016, CILRP restored or constructed 151 infrastructures, benefitting 18,640 households in five of the earthquake-affected districts: Dolakha, Kavrepalanchowk, Nuwakot, Rasuwa and Sindhupalchowk. Adding to this achievement was the 26,734 person days of direct employment that the programme additionally generated through a cash-for-work scheme.



In order to further expedite communities' livelihood recovery, CILRP has also implemented 106 initiatives for market access, skills development and production enhancement through improved technology in the same five districts, from which a total of 14,667 people directly benefitted.

ENABLING EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

As international aid commitments are met, Nepal is readying itself to better use and track the funds that come in to the country. Over the year, UNDP assisted the Government with the Effective Development Financing and Coordination project (EDFC), with funding support from DFID and UNDP.

↑ Goodwill Ambassador, Michelle Yeoh, helps out at a milk collection centre built by UNDP.
 @ LAXMI PRASAD NGAKHUSI/
 UNDP NEPAL

As international aid commitments are met, Nepal is readying itself to better use and track the funds that come in to the country.

Throughout 2016, over 220 government, donor and INGO officials were trained on Nepal's Aid Management Platform and the various aid literacy requirements to better facilitate the spending of international aid. The project also aided in the finalization of standard operating procedures within the International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division of the Ministry of Finance.

STRENGTHENING EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY MAKING

Effective plans and policies that are capable of addressing the many challenges impeding the country's development warrant an evidence-based approach to their formulation and implementation.

It was precisely to promote this kind of approach that the Strengthening National Planning and Monitoring Capacity (SNPMC) project, funded by UNDP and DFID, was launched. The project was tasked with supporting the National Planning Commission and the Central Bureau of Statistics to strengthen their capacity to promote pro-poor and evidence-based planning, establish a well-functioning national monitoring and evaluation system, and generate substantial knowledge products.

In the area of statistics, the project has contributed to the preparation of a master sample framework to harmonize survey systems and help determine sample sizes for national surveys. It published the Third Annual Household Survey report, proffering key

data on labour and consumption, now being used in national account estimates. A Reference Manual on the Official Statistical System in Nepal has additionally been prepared, and is expected to prove helpful in raising awareness among producers and users of official statistics in policymaking.

Since Nepal has adopted the SDGs as a framework that will guide all development programmes until 2030, it is important that the government puts in place a robust system to report on the progress made towards achieving the goals. To this end, UNDP supported the government to align their national plans and M&E frameworks to that of the SDGs and their targets.

↓ A woman thrashes beans in Jumla.
© UNDP NEPAL



SDG 9 – BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

UNDP is committed to finding new ways to tackle problems. In 2016, UNDP put innovation in the spotlight across all its pillars of work.

UNDP assisted in the development of a machine that extracts fibre from the allo (Himalayan nettle) plant, which will roll out nationwide in 2017. This new technology reduces resources and cost, and increases efficiency and profits. The Social Good Summit, a global event held in early 2016, brought 100 engineering students together to explore new ways to reconstruct Nepal post-earthquake like using recycled bricks and online home building permit systems. UNDP also spearheaded the Idea Factory in partnership with Microsoft holding several Ideathons throughout the year, blending technology and innovation, exploring the role of youth in reconstruction, and gender and women's security. In addressing climate change, UNDP also rolled out an innovative weather-reporting system in the Everest region, and a smart phone app for farmers to use to help improve yields and avoid disaster.



© LAXMI PRASAD NGAKHUSI / UNDP NEPAL



A technician installs a new allo processing machine in Parbat.

© UNDP NEPAL

FEATURE

MICHELLE YEOH, UNDP GOODWILL AMBASSADOR

PROMOTES ENDING POVERTY IN NEPAL

Award-winning global movie star and Nepal earthquake survivor Michelle Yeoh travelled back to Kathmandu in July 2016 as a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Goodwill Ambassador. She visited the capital and surrounding villages and exchanged stories with fellow survivors of overcoming fear and loss and gaining strength and hope.

"I am humbled and amazed by the tenacity of the Nepali people," said Yeoh during her visit to communities that have made progress in getting back on their feet with the help of UNDP's earthquake recovery efforts. "The sincerity of their smiles and the spirit of hard work that prevails is an inspiration for us all."

"Michelle often plays tough women in her movies. I am glad she was able to see how tough the Nepali women and all victims have been after last year's earthquake," said Renaud Meyer, Country Director for UNDP Nepal, which is focused on

restoring the local economy and livelihoods and strengthening affected communities.

Following her visit, Yeoh fundraised USD 180,000 with the Bridge Head Foundation for a specific UNDP livelihoods project that provided sustainable water systems helping over 5,000 most vulnerable people access potable water for day-to-day life and their livelihoods.

Yeoh also met with Nepalese government officials to emphasize the importance of preparedness and resilience building in order to minimize tragedy and loss in the future.

"My terrifying experience as the earth rattled made me realize the crucial importance of preparing for disaster long before it happens," said Yeoh, speaking before members of Parliament in Kathmandu. "The UN Development Programme is ensuring that communities throughout the country are prepared to withstand and recover from disasters."



Disaster risk reduction is vital for sustainable development in Nepal and is an integral part of the new 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which were adopted by world leaders and went into effect this year. Also known as Global Goals, they represent a shared vision for the future of humanity where poverty and inequality are a thing of the past.

Supporting the implementation of the Global Goals in Nepal and around the world, by tackling poverty, inequality and climate change, is a priority in UNDP's work. As UNDP Goodwill Ambassador, a key part of Yeoh's

role is to raise awareness of and build momentum and support for these Goals.

"Let's all join forces, share our strengths and make these Global Goals a reality for Nepal and every country in the world," said Yeoh. "Together we can create a future where every community, rich or poor, is better prepared to withstand disasters, to meet the challenges of the 21st century, to combat climate change, and to eliminate poverty and inequality."

SECTION 2

Promoting Inclusive And Effective Democratic Governance

Nepal is ushering in a new era of governance following its adoption of the 2015 constitution, transforming the existing institutions while enhancing its democratic governance and service-oriented public administration. UNDP is committed to helping the Government of Nepal create an enabling environment for this purpose, by fostering impartial spaces for dialogue, building consensus, strengthening social cohesion, promoting human rights, and building stronger institutions with the ultimate goal of bringing effective and equitable delivery of services to citizens and reinforcing the rule of law and citizen security.



INCREASED ACCESS TO LEGAL AID AND INFORMATION

Strengthening the rule of law, access to justice, peace, development and human rights in Nepal can only come of systematic changes in national legislative, policy and institutional frameworks and structures. This is where the Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights Protection System in Nepal (RoLHR) Programme finds its footing, in aiding the Government of Nepal in its bid to bring about such changes, and rendering the legal system more equitable and accessible to all.

Supported by the Governments of Denmark, Finland and Norway, along with UNDP, RoLHR has been providing vital technical and financial assistance to the Centre Legal Aid Committee under the Ministry of Law and Justice to establish Socio-Legal Aid Centres in 10 prioritized districts. Since 2014, 15,593 people (59 percent women) received remedial legal aid services, while 87,963 people (38 percent women) visited court information desks in 23 districts. The majority of visitors are women and from vulnerable communities.

Over 73,000 people received legal information and aid with UNDP's support

↓ *Chief Justice Sushila Karki and a panel of VIPs discuss anti-corruption with law students.*

📍 LAXMI PRASAD NGAKHUSI / UNDP NEPAL

In 2016, over 73,000 people received legal information and aid with UNDP's support, and case disposal rates in district courts across the country reached an impressive 62.36 percent. Thanks to the programme, 40 young lawyers from vulnerable groups—25 of whom were women—entered the legal profession.

RoLHR has additionally supported the Ministry of Law and Justice, Nepal Law Commission and different parliamentary committees and relevant institutions in reviewing and finalizing 10 legislations, including the Civil Code and Procedure and Criminal Code and Procedure, Penal Code and sentencing bill, as well as acts related to privacy, women and Dalits, among others, in line with the new Constitution and international standards.

BUILDING NATIONAL CAPACITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PROMOTION

UNDP and the National Human Rights Commission have a long-standing partnership.



Nepal has an independent national human rights institution, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), which, as a constitutional body, has a strong mandate to protect and promote human rights in the country. UNDP's Strategic Plan Support Project (SPSP), funded by Denmark and Switzerland, aims to strengthen capacities of NHRC to effectively fulfil its mandates to protect and promote human rights in Nepal and ensure the country's compliance to international human rights standards set by different conventions.

In 2016, UNDP supported the Commission strengthen its organizational capacity to carry out the tasks set out in its Strategic Plan 2015 – 2020 through planning support and needs-based trainings of staff. The training needs assessment was conducted and about 19 senior officials of the Commission were trained as trainers on different issues as well as skills training on human rights. Through a series of workshops, the national staff of the NHRC are now better equipped to address various human rights issues such as mental health, access to justice, handling cases and monitoring of human rights works throughout Nepal. Above all,



80%

of Ward Citizen Forum project suggestions, that were overwhelmingly inclusive, were incorporated in local bodies' annual plans

↓ Viewers attend the opening of the Human Rights Film Festival in Kathmandu.

© LAXMI PRASAD NGAKHUSI / UNDP NEPAL

Commission staff are now in a better position to hold Nepal government accountable for international human rights treaty obligations.

PROMOTING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Meaningful democratic engagement has vastly improved in Nepal over the last few years, in large part due to the Local Governance and Community Development Programme (LGCDP) II, a joint UN programme with UNDP, UNCDF and UNV, and funded by Denmark, DFID and Norway. It is the flagship programme of the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development that has successfully engaged local communities to identify their needs and work with the government to address these challenges.

The project has assisted local bodies to hold ward-level planning workshops in almost all areas in Nepal (98 percent coverage), where 1.26 million citizens, including women, children and people from vulnerable groups were actively involved. As a result, 80 percent of Ward Citizen Forum project suggestions, that were overwhelmingly inclusive, were incorporated in local bodies' annual plans. The project also promoted monitoring at the local level and the establishment of grievance systems in almost all district development committees (DDCs) to link the community with governing bodies.

By having the community decide what's important to them, more programmes were centred around disadvantaged people including women and children. A poverty mapping exercise in almost 11,000 citizen awareness centres (CAC) identified poverty-pocket areas and resulted in the mobilization of almost



SPOTLIGHT ON POST-CONFLICT TRUTHTELLING

In 2016, UNDP marked the commemoration of the 10th international Day on Right to Truth, with the re-launch of the Transitional Justice Resource Centre and an international conference on unofficial truth-telling. UNDP's Transitional Justice Project (TJP), in partnership with the Conflict Victims' Common Platform (CVCP), an umbrella organization composed of 17 different victims' organizations, organized the conference.

The conference was held at the request of the CVCP in order for conflict victims to participate in the truth process, which they believe has so far excluded them. By bringing together academic experts and practitioners from around the world, 150 members of Nepal's conflict-affected community could learn and share their truths from a post-conflict vantage. Panel discussions included traditional forms of truth telling, artistic approaches to truth telling; utilizing technology in unofficial truth telling; and lessons learned from international experiences.



300,000 women and vulnerable people to become CAC members. These CAC members are widely engaged in creating awareness on civil rights and duties, disseminating information about government services and facilities, resolving social problems, engaging in income-generation activities, building community infrastructure, protecting the environment and preserving social harmony, among other areas.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM IN THE CONTEXT OF A NEW CONSTITUTION

The Government of Nepal is now in the midst of a complex restructuring of administration at central, provincial and local levels. UNDP's project to Prepare the Public Administration for State Reform (PREPARE) supports the government in pre-empting and tackling the challenges that it encounters in the bid to meet the demands of the new Constitution.

↑ A conflict survivor shares his story.
 @ LAXMI PRASAD NGAKHUSI
 / UNDP NEPAL

The Government of Nepal is now in the midst of a complex restructuring of administration at central, provincial and local levels.

Part of the project's efforts in 2016 involved carrying out a functional analysis of nine sectors of administration, including education, law and justice, agriculture and health to figure out how the administration in these sectors could best be set up in line with the new Constitution. Already adopted by the Government, the report will guide Nepal's transition into a federal structure. The project works closely with relevant government partners—including the Ministry of General Administration, the Office of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers, among others.

Considerable attention was also extended to the development of conceptual/methodological bases for functional analysis, transition management, institutional arrangements and fiscal decentralization with national and international technical assistance.

PREPARE was additionally invested in promoting inclusiveness in Nepal's civil service via its contribution to the drafting of a gender equality and social

inclusion (GESI) friendly workplace policy, articulation of the design of the Civil Service Policy in the federal context, and orientation of women and excluded groups to participate in the Public Service Commission entrance examinations.

INCLUSIVE VOTING ENSURES ALL VOICES ARE HEARD

With help from UNDP's Electoral Support Project (ESP), eligible voters are preparing for elections, and the Government is building its capacity to deliver more transparent, efficient polling. To this end, in 2016, the Election Commission (ECN) registered an additional 531,546 citizens of 16 years and above on the biometric voters' roll with photographs, bringing the total number of registered voters to 13.8 million. The voters' roll with photographs will limit voter fraud and increase ECN's credibility with free and fair elections.

Similarly, in order to enhance meaningful participation of voters in the electoral processes, ECN with support from UNDP reached out to almost six million citizens this year through print and electronic media informing about elections, electoral provisions in the new Constitution and democracy. An additional 4,288 citizens, particularly youth and those from marginalized communities, were also sensitized through Electoral Education and Information Centers (EEIC), including the mobile EEIC piloted this year.

A STRONGER INTERFACE BETWEEN PEOPLE AND PARLIAMENT

A strong Parliament requires not only capacity, but inclusive direction and input from the people. UNDP's



↑ *Haoliang Xu, Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and The Pacific, addresses Nepal's Parliament.*

📷 LAXMI PRASAD NGAKHUSI / UNDP NEPAL



An additional

4,288

citizens, particularly youth and those from marginalized communities, sensitized through Electoral Education and Information Centers

Parliament Support Project (PSP) assists the Parliament in strengthening its various roles, while placing particular emphasis on promoting active participation of women, youth and marginalized groups in parliamentary affairs.

In 2016, PSP extended considerable support to parliamentary committees, to reinforce lawmaking and oversight functions. The project facilitated expert reviews of 13 bills, including six related to constitutional Commissions, which were sent for public consultation at the national and district levels. Dozens of submissions received are expected to inform the committees in their deliberations and usher in more people-centric laws. Parliamentary committees were also given a hand in overseeing the government's development activities in four districts, with marked impacts, such as a new Industrial Enterprises Act that is far friendlier to women entrepreneurs.

The project was also active in promoting the SDGs in the Parliament, as a result of which MPs formed

an informal SDG forum, forging a path for focused advocacy. Another initiative was PSP's push for Open Governance Partnership in the parliament.

Besides enhancing the capacity of 188 MPs and 76 secretariat staff members via a variety of trainings and workshops, PSP also provided continued support to internal broadcasting in the Parliament, enabling public access to information through the media and creating a valuable archive of parliamentary proceedings in their entirety, including that of the historic Constituent Assembly.

As part of parliamentary outreach, the project also launched a Mock Youth Parliament programme, reaching out to five locations with the objective of orienting youths in diverse areas on parliamentary processes and encouraging them to engage with and internalize the sustainable development agenda. A total of 600 youths were directly benefitted by the programme, and many others impacted by the live radio broadcasts of the same.

↓ Youth take part in the Mock Youth Parliament organised in Baglung.
UNDP NEPAL

MINIMIZING RISKS OF SOCIO-POLITICAL TENSIONS

Nepal marked 10 years since the signing of the Peace Accord 2006, and while society has overall sustained the peace, tensions can lie just below the surface with flare ups of varying degrees from time to time. These tensions are also exacerbated with the new Constitution and the transition into federalism. UNDP's Social Cohesion and Democratic Participation Programme works closely with at-risk communities and authorities to encourage a peaceful transition by bringing divided communities together.

In 2016, with SCDP's support, 12 local level civil society organizations brought together diverse social groups including women, youth and marginalized communities, as well as people of various faiths, which have histories of hostilities, to mutually beneficial collective actions. More than 2,000 key stakeholders learned to identify and mitigate risks of escalating inter-community tensions. Additionally, over 4,000 youth, women, civil society members, journalists and political leaders in the different programme districts were involved in the promotion of social cohesion.

Land issues are one of the largest causes of conflict in Nepal. As such, SCDP supported 10 key political parties to develop a 12-point common minimum understanding to formulate and implement gender-responsive land policies. They pledged to transform the conventional agricultural economic structures in the context of changing social, economic, demographic and political circumstances and implement the joint commitment to ensure increased access to land that prioritizes land ownership for women, vulnerable people and the landless.



A DECADE OF PEACE IN NEPAL

In 2016, Nepal marked 10 years since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The Agreement ended the decade-long insurgency and paved the way for a peaceful settlement of Nepal's political conflict that had strong socio-economic underpinnings in the form of a centralized administrative structure, inequality, exclusion and identity conflict.

Since then, commendable progress has been made which includes inclusive dialogues and integration of peace-fostering policy, two elections and the promulgation of the Constitution. These efforts go towards achieving **SDG 16: promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels**. While Nepal has taken necessary steps in the right direction, root causes of the initial conflict must be addressed, including by providing closure to families of the victims of

the conflict through the truth and reconciliation process, and implementation of the Constitution itself.

UNDP, as part of the UN response to ten years of sustainable peace building, contributed to several key areas:

Management of arms and

armies: UNDP helped to verify almost 20,000 Maoist combatants with the aim of integrating them back into Nepali society safely and successfully. This also included the support for discharge and rehabilitation of former combatants .

Elections: Over the 10 years since the accord was signed, UNDP has assisted Nepal in overhauling its elections systems with the help of biometric voter registrations, GIS mapping of polling centres and the advocacy of inclusion of women and socially-excluded groups in the voter rolls.

Constitution-making process:

UNDP has assisted Nepal in nation-wide public outreach campaigns both in person and online to increase citizen contribution to the process reaching two million people, compiled a wide variety of knowledge products regarding

the process, and enabled the participation of the Constituent Assembly and vulnerable people in the process.

Infrastructure for peace:

Building relationships and trust between communities is of utmost importance and UNDP has helped to integrate conflict sensitivity and do-no-harm principles into government and media policies. UNDP has also helped install early warning systems for instability and violence, helping communities at the front lines identify and resolve issues before they become unstable.







LAKE IMJA

UNDP assisted the Government of Nepal and the Army to conduct infrastructure work at one of the highest points in the world. Lake Imja sits in the Himalayas at 5010 metres above sea level. All that's holding back the millions of litres of water is an icy rocky bund that could crack and burst; highly likely in the seismically-active region. To protect thousands of people downstream, UNDP and the Government constructed sluices to reduce the lake through drainage, which minimized the risk of outburst and ensured more than 87,000 people are safer.

© KAMAL RAJ SIGDEL/ UNDP NEPAL

SECTION 3

Building Resilience

The increasing severity of climate change is placing Nepal at the crux of vulnerability. From glacial lakes threatened by rising temperatures to farm land at risk of monsoon-triggered landslides, it is imperative to stem the tide of global warming. SDG 13: take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts is of high priority in Nepal. Building resilience is therefore an urgent need, particularly in rural areas where the majority of the population live, communities whose lives and livelihoods are easily affected by the slightest of fluctuations in climatic conditions. While enhancing resilience, however, it is equally important to improve living standards and access to energy so that people are better equipped to adapt to environmental changes, however dramatic.





SCALING UP RENEWABLE ENERGY IN RURAL NEPAL

With its vast natural resources, Nepal is well-poised to adopt renewable energy technology to bring power to its people, particularly those who are in rural areas. To support Nepal with this endeavor, the Renewable Energy for Rural Livelihoods Project (RERL) funded by UNDP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), active since 1996, has worked with the Government to scale up systems like mini-hydro, micro-hydro and solar power plants across the country.

↑ *Renewable energy gives remote communities life-changing electricity.*

📷 LAXMI PRASAD NGAKHUSI / UNDP NEPAL

In 2016, UNDP supported the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPCC) within the Ministry of Population and Environment to draft the Renewable Energy Subsidy Policy and Delivery Mechanism, which was promulgated in 2016. The new policy enables private-sector investment in renewable-energy projects, and creates opportunities to subsidize services rather than just equipment, which is expected to lead to greater efficiency and sustainability.

In 2016, the project also contributed significantly to AEPCC's earthquake relief and rehabilitation activities

—extending the benefits of different energy services to a total of 253,320 people across 53,898 households. Out of these, 17,688 households secured access to electricity via solar-PV or micro-hydropower plants. UNDP also provided technical assistance to AEPC's productive energy-use component to establish 443 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME), employing 1,100 people.

RERL also aided 46 households from the extremely marginalized Chepang community in Dhading to install a solar unit, equipped with a mini-grid, pump to extract water for drinking and irrigation, and a micro-industrial hub to run the grain mill and enable carpentry. In the same village, the project further supported the Energy for Education (E4E) initiative, providing computer and internet facilities for the modernization of teaching and learning methods.

HELPING LOCAL COMMUNITIES IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE WITH CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTION

Small upgrades to community infrastructure can make a vast difference when disaster strikes. In Nepal, more than 1.9 million people are vulnerable to the effects of climate change and 10 million more are increasingly at risk (NAPA, 2010). In a country of over 28 million people, this is a staggering vulnerability. In order to address this risk, UNDP, with support from DFID and EU, is working with the Government in 14 districts in the far-west and mid-western regions to limit these vulnerabilities.

In 2016, NCCSP undertook 732 projects ranging from toilets and potable water schemes to irrigation and clean cooking facilities benefitting over 180,000



extended the benefits of different energy services to a total of

253,320

people across 53,898 households

→ UNDP-funded water taps change lives in Surkhet.

UNDP NEPAL



In Nepal, more than

1.9 million

people are vulnerable to the effects of climate change and 10 million more are increasingly at risk (NAPA, 2010)



people (45 percent women). Through these actions, UNDP noted an increase in adaptive capacity among climate-vulnerable people, increased productivity and income, and more importantly, the feeling of security due to climate resilient infrastructures.

Among its achievements in 2016, the project helped maintain community sanitation through elevated water taps, improved food and water security through water tanks, irrigation canals and rainwater harvesting ponds, and improved women's health by providing clean cooking solutions, which also have a positive impact on air quality.



GREENING NEPAL THROUGH SMALL GRANT PROGRAMMES

Climate change impacts everyone, but it's felt most acutely in small remote communities of Nepal. With the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme, UNDP selects innovative projects tackling biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, land degradation prevention, and the management of hazardous chemicals.

Brick kilns are one of the most damaging sources of pollution in Nepal, harming health and the environment. This year, the GEF programme succeeded in reducing the emissions from a kiln in Lalitpur by replacing 20 percent of coal fuel with charcoal, which cut emissions by 92 percent without sacrificing quality or increasing costs.

Mountain communities are safer with new glacial lake infrastructure.

KAMAL RAJ SIGDEL
/ UNDP NEPAL



In 2016, UNDP supported a major infrastructure work at

5,010 metres

above sea level at Lake Imja

The grants programme also carved out two wetland conservations in Kapilvastu and Salyan. The effort not only supported in restoring water for irrigation downstream, but also helped develop ecotourism in both wetlands.

In recognition of their work in climate change adaption, DFID awarded four SGP grantees the Impact Protsahan Puraskar (Award for Encouragement): Manahari Development Institute, Centre for Rural Technology, National Disaster Reduction Centre and Machhapuchhre Development Organisation. Former grantee, Ram Charitra Sah, Team Leader of Centre for Public Health and Environment Development won the Environment Conservation Award 2016 for his work in hospital waste and chemicals.

REDUCING RISK AT HIGH ALTITUDE

UNDP, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology and the Nepal Army, with funding from UNDP and the Global Environment Facility, made a global achievement near the highest point on earth. In 2016, UNDP supported a major infrastructure work at 5,010 metres above sea level at Lake Imja in the Everest region. This glacial lake was vulnerable to overflow due to rising temperatures, and to banks bursting during an earthquake which would have a devastating impact on tens of thousands of people downstream. By installing a sluice and supporting the icy bunds of the lake, 3.4 metres were siphoned off the lake. Coupled with automated community-based early warning systems, 87,000 people are now better protected in the face of rising risks. The project also built nine kilometres of embankments along four Churia originating river systems in the Terai region, safeguarding flood affected vulnerable communities.

BUILDING BACK RESILIENT, BETTER AND SAFER COMMUNITIES

One of the key gaps to building resilient communities is government budgeting and mainstreaming across line ministries. In 2016, UNDP's Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Programme (CDRMP), with funding from DFID, ECHO, the World Bank, Republic of Korea and UNDP, assisted Government of Nepal at the national level to develop the Disaster Risk Management Policy and Strategic Action Plan, in line with the Sendai Framework for DRR. Furthermore, in September 2016 the National Planning Commission and UNDP developed a guideline for mainstreaming disaster and climate change risk reduction. With the Risk Informed Development Planning study also conducted in 2016, the NPC has introduced both into the 14th three-year plan of Nepal, and is expected to increase DRR budget allocations for the upcoming years across relevant line ministries.

Following the 2015 earthquakes, reconstruction and recovery took centre stage for the project in 2016. In order to rebuild safely and better than before, CDRMP trained 600 local masons and engineers in order to ensure owner-driven reconstruction is in line with government policy. By the end of 2016, 20,000 people from four hardest-hit districts gained vital knowledge regarding national building codes and safer construction practices. To further the reach of safe reconstruction practices, UNDP is building eight technology demonstration centres in the hard hit areas, which will be valuable resource centres for homeowners as they rebuild. Three of these municipalities have begun issuing permits through the code-compliant building permit system, and with help from CDRMP, Chautara has adopted the Risk Sensitive Land Use Plan to ensure the reconstruction has long-lasting resilience in a vulnerable area.

The Emergency Operation Centre system played a vital role in the early days following the disaster

People in Rukum are more resilient in the face of climate change.

KAMAL RAJ SIGDEL
/ UNDP NEPAL

The Emergency Operation Centre system played a vital role in the early days following the disaster. To enhance this successful system, UNDP helped establish four new district level EOCs in Gorkha, Nuwakot, Rasuwa and Solukhumbu. In addition to this, UNDP helped the Government prepare the National Early Recovery Framework, which set out guidelines and response procedures when disaster strikes. Complementing the EOCs, with funding from the Government of the Republic of Korea and UNDP, 20,000 families benefited from community-based disaster risk management initiatives like livelihoods promotion and restoration of small infrastructure. This initiative also saw the development of early warning systems in high risk areas in the plains, hills and mountain regions in Nepal, linking them together to improve response time during disasters.



ENHANCING CAPACITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL (SE4ALL) IN NEPAL

In an effort to achieve SDG 7: access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, UNDP with funding from the Government of Norway, has been assisting Nepal with the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) project. The aim of the project is to assist the government in identifying opportunities for renewable access to energy across the country, a goal that, in its earliest stages, requires a thorough analysis and practical steps forward. With technical assistance



The aim of the project is to assist the Government in identifying opportunities for renewable access to energy across the country

In the efforts to achieve SDG 7: access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, UNDP with funding from the Government of Norway, has been assisting Nepal with the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) project

from UNDP, the National Planning Commission (NPC) produced the SE4ALL rapid assessment and gap analysis, which will highlight areas within the Government to strengthen and refine.

Furthermore, in 2016, the project assisted the Government in finalizing a country action plan that includes details on energy access, efficiency and renewability. The country action agenda is a strategically driven and holistic document that provides long term agenda on energy development linked to national development, ensuring program coherence and synergy of multi-stakeholders involved. To enhance outreach and understanding of SEE4ALL to civil society, the project hosted four workshops across the country.

READYING NEPAL FOR THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND

In 2016, UNDP and the Ministry of Finance launched the Green Climate Fund Readiness Programme for Nepal, funded by Germany. This project, in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), will support the Government of Nepal in strengthening its national capacities to access, manage, deploy and monitor climate finance received from the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

The project will enable Nepal to effectively access funds from the GCF, the largest global climate financing mechanism. Developing countries like Nepal are eligible to access the Fund to finance climate-related projects and initiatives. However, this requires recipient countries to build strong institutional capacity to properly utilize the resources available.



HELPING NEPAL BUILD BACK BETTER



Following the deadly earthquakes in 2015, UNDP has supported the Government and people of Nepal to bounce back better and safer than before. Aligning existing programmes with the emerging needs and reprogramming millions of dollars in funds, UNDP was able to respond within a short time and continues to provide ongoing earthquake recovery support.

Since the establishment of the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA), which became fully operational in early 2016, UNDP has provided technical assistance to help the NRA develop recovery policy, and to strengthen planning, coordination and implementation.

In 2016, UNDP provided technical experts to the NRA to build its capacity in communications, media management and safer housing reconstruction techniques. This helps the NRA better roll out its

Community members work to remove rubble at a health facility in Nuwakot.

© UNDP NEPAL

mandate and serve the public in building back better.

UNDP was a key partner to the NRA along with the World Bank and other development partners in preparing the Post-Disaster Recovery Framework (PDRF), a five-year road map for recovery and reconstruction. It is the guiding document for implementation priorities and budgeting. In partnership with DFID and JICA, UNDP has helped 14 severely affected districts plan and budget for their recovery efforts, while ensuring disaster risk reduction and build back better approaches are mainstreamed throughout.

UNDP supported the NRA to deliver effective coordination by operationalizing the national level recovery coordination mechanism and supporting district level coordination in Dolakha, Gorkha, Kavrepalanchowk, and Sindhupalchowk. This helps to identify and mitigate reconstruction implementation issues and avoid duplication of work by stakeholders.

UNDP, in partnership with KOICA, completed safe demolition, debris management and sites preparation to facilitate re-construction of 10 disaster resilient health care facilities in Nuwakot district. In partnership with UNICEF, UNDP provided technical oversight and quality assurance in the reconstruction of 650 temporary learning centres in nine districts.

Isabella Lövin, Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation observes UNDP's debris management app in Bhaktapur.

© LAXMI PRASAD NGAKHUSI / UNDP NEPAL



A man views photographs of UNDP's post-earthquake safer reconstruction and recovery exhibition in Bhaktapur.

© LAXMI PRASAD NGAKHUSI / UNDP NEPAL

FEATURE

CLIMATE-SMART FARMING: ADAPTING TO A CHANGING REALITY

When no rain fell for the second year in a row, Jiwan Mahato blamed the rain god. A subsistence farmer from Madi, in the south of Nepal, Mahato's paddy crops had failed again.

Like most subsistence farmers in Nepal, Mahato had no other source of income to feed his six-member family. A new approach to farming was needed: drought-resistant crops.

Mahato planted 107 samplings of an improved variety of lemon and in just few months, despite a harsh dry spell, he saw his orchard bloom, as well as the prospects of his income.

Like Mahato, Lokraj Pokhrel is another farmer from Chitwan who switched to drought-resistant crops last year.

"Everybody was looking for options, as the future of agriculture appeared very bleak," said Pokhrel. "I got in touch with our agriculture office and received a new variety of wheat called gautam, which

has doubled the yields, despite sporadic rains."

Mahato and Pokhrel are among the first 3,000 farmers who were trained and provided necessary support to adapt to changed climatic conditions and to switch to drought-resistant crops with support from UNDP and KOICA, the Korea International Cooperation Agency.

For farmers like Mahato and Pokhrel in Nepal, the impact of climate change has been very real. Erratic rains and extreme weather conditions causing either flash floods or longer dry season every year meant that the traditional methods of farming were no longer effective. Government records show that in the first decade of the new millennium alone, droughts caused a loss of crops worth US \$750 million, badly affecting over 12 million Nepalis, mostly the poor and the vulnerable.

"I have visited many parts of Nepal from the top of the Himalayas to the plains. While



I see the snow is depleting in the Himalayas, many houses in the south plains have very little water to drink or they have floods every monsoon," said Ilryoung Lee, Deputy Country Director, KOICA Nepal. "Given these natural dynamics of Nepal's climate, I urge Nepal to be better prepared."

In the face of such complex realities of climate change, the UNDP-KOICA MDG Trust Fund has played an important role to help Nepali communities demonstrate some innovative and sustainable ways to adapt and prepare for the changing conditions.

SECTION 4

Gender and Social Inclusion

Nepal underwent significant changes during 2016, including institutional improvements to its commitment to gender equality and social inclusion (GESI). The new Constitution reinforced several principles regarding women and vulnerable people such as equal rights, rights against untouchability and discrimination, access to justice and democratic inclusion.

UNDP provided technical support to the Government to amend, draft and review several key laws that address issues of inequality or justice. With this support, Parliament reviewed and finalized more than 10 laws relating to access to justice for poor and marginalized communities, elections, constitutional commissions and disability rights.



2016 saw an increase in access to legal aid. Over half of the 8,164 people who accessed services by Socio-Legal Aid Centres, supported by UNDP, are women (61.46 percent), 23 percent are Dalits, and 44 percent are poor people.

UNDP provided technical and financial support to the National Dalit Commission to review the Caste-Based Discrimination and Untouchability Act, resulting in proposed revisions that bring it closer in line with Nepal's Constitution, and in line with international human rights obligations. In partnership with the Conflict Victims' Common Platform, UNDP organized awareness campaigns, workshops and trained 150 women on conflict-related sexual violence issues. At the district level, many women leaders trained by UNDP are active in grassroots behaviour change regarding gender and inclusion issues.

Mainstreaming gender and social inclusion issues throughout the Government and its related bodies made major inroads in 2016 including a GESI workplace policy for the civil service, which will enhance gender-friendly service delivery, undertaken by the Ministry of General Administration. UNDP also provided expert support to the National Women Commission to develop gender-responsive monitoring guidelines, supported the National Judicial Academy in developing a training manual on gender-based violence, a bench book on gender-sensitive justice and court proceedings, as well as support to enhancing gender and socially inclusive law school admittance.

In 2016, UNDP built the capacity of women parliamentarians and undertook activities to ensure women, youth and vulnerable people are included in the electoral process. A three-year GESI Action Plan was endorsed by the Election Commission of Nepal

*UNDP
provided its
expertise to the
Government
to amend,
draft and
review several
key laws that
address issues
of inequality or
justice*

that outlines the specific interventions to empower women in the electoral cycle.

With the 2015 earthquakes, women and vulnerable communities were hard hit requiring a concerted effort on the part of the Government to ensure they are represented in the recovery. As such, the Post-Disaster Recovery Framework, developed with assistance by UNDP with other stakeholders, has mainstreamed GESI throughout its road map. Furthermore, UNDP's earthquake recovery programmes target vulnerable people for their livelihood support and disaster risk reduction activities.

UNDP together with UNFPA supported four young delegates from Nepal participate in the Asia Pacific Youth Exchange Programme II held in Manila in 2016. This was organised to enhance capacity of emerging youth leader from the Asia Pacific countries to work on SDGs.

Each year, UNDP awards women and men throughout Asia for their work to promote peace. Since its inception in 2011, several Nepalis have won the N-Peace Award. This year, Basanti Chaudhary, a young leader from the Tharu community, took home the N-Peace Award for her exemplary leadership in advancing the rights of women and girls. Coming from an ex-bonded-laborer family, Basanti is now leading a group of social activists advocating for the rights of former Kamaiyas (bonded labourers) in Nepal. "This award has given me new energy and motivation to work for the rights of my community. I feel I have bigger responsibilities now," Chaudhary said. Managed by UNDP's Bangkok Regional Hub, N-Peace is a multi-country network of peace advocates in Asia seeking to advance Women, Peace & Security (WPS) issues.

FEATURE

INTEGRATING DISABILITY ISSUES INTO DISASTER RESPONSE

During the 2015 earthquakes, people with disabilities faced exceptional challenges and, at times, were overlooked in the disaster response. Findings from a UNDP report conducted in 2016 showed a tremendous gap in services aimed squarely at people with disabilities (PWDs) and provided ways to address these issues.

The report assessed the contemporary landscape of disabilities in Nepal, with a focus on unique challenges PWDs face in the post-disaster context, and provided policy recommendations on their meaningful inclusion within both disaster risk reduction activities and the broader development agenda.

Published by UNDP in collaboration with Social Science Baha and the National Federation of the Disabled Nepal, "Disaster, Disability and Difference: A Study of the Challenges Faced by Persons with Disabilities in Post-Earthquake Nepal" is a toolkit to operationalize the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the

Sustainable Development Goals, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Nepal. The report guides stakeholders, including local governments, to integrate issues of disability into official disaster response strategies and disaster management plans.

The study recommends increased awareness among all institutional responders about disability issues, providing longer-term support for their recovery, and for filling the gaps in the response to ensure equal coverage of persons with disabilities during the immediate disaster response phase. The report also recommends using SDGs as the framework for Nepal to integrate disability issues in all sectors of development. The SDGs, unlike the earlier Millennium Development Goals, recognizes the needs and capacity of people with disabilities and clearly state that they must be included in shaping the global development agenda. Some other recommendations include:



Access to Health Care: Fill the gaps in geographic coverage given that primary healthcare services in Nepal are highly centralized and largely inaccessible to persons with disabilities living in remote areas.

Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology: Build greater capacity in rehabilitation services across Nepal, ensuring that these facilities are decentralized and accessible to all before, during, and after a disaster.

Providing Long-Term Support for Recovery: In the wake of

disaster, it is critical to provide ongoing medical treatment, rehabilitation, counseling, and other kinds of services that support the long-term recovery of persons with disabilities

Addressing Mental Health Issues: Ensure that psychosocial services and counseling are included as part of the response and that these services are accessible to persons with disabilities that limit their mobility or ability to communicate.



Hearing impaired people are included in a voter education programme organized by UNDP.

© ROCHAN KADARIYA / UNDP NEPAL



Basanti Chaudhary wins UNDP managed N-Peace Award 2016. © N-PEACE NETWORK



All gender bathroom opens at UN House.

© UNDP NEPAL

*Patan Durbar Square lights up in the
Orange the World campaign to end
violence against women and girls.*

© LAXMI PRASAD NGAKHUSI / UNDP NEPAL





THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS



© LAXMI PRASAD NGAKHUSI / UNDP NEPAL

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme has been contributing to peace and development through volunteerism in Nepal since 1974. Today, UNV has 103 UN Volunteers in Nepal working in partnership with UNDP and other UN agencies including UNFPA, UNICEF, IOM, WFP and the UN Resident Coordinator Office (RCO).

In 2016, UNV's partnership with UNDP focused its efforts on post-earthquake reconstruction, particularly on connecting youth with the large-scale recovery and reconstruction. UNVs were also instrumental in UNDP's local governance support blending expertise with information, and communications technology with administration.

➡ *UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson interacts with UN volunteers during his visit to Nepal in April 2016.*

📷 UNDP NEPAL

SUPPORT TO DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION

Immediately following the 2015 earthquakes, UNDP and UNV mobilized hundreds of national volunteers, mostly engineers, to assist in the wide-scale debris management programme under UNDP. As relief moved to recovery, UNVs under UNDP's Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Programme (CDRMP), assisted the affected communities by raising awareness on building codes and safer housing reconstruction, helping the government's efforts to build back better.

These post-earthquake efforts, among others, were captured in the report "Rebuilding with

the Community after a Disaster: Volunteer Engagement in the 2015 Nepal Earthquake" chronicling the work of UN Volunteers and the spirit of volunteerism.

SUPPORT TO VOLUNTEER LEARNING AND ADVOCACY

The Nepal field unit of UNV is constantly supporting learning and has brought all UN Volunteers in Nepal to be trained on results-based management, and monitoring and evaluation with financial support from UNDP. This cross-cutting issue occurs in all volunteer placements and the newly gained knowledge helps projects, teams and the volunteers themselves to track progress and monitor how volunteer contributions can make a difference.



UNDP NEPAL & THE UN SYSTEM



50
YEARS

Empowered lives. Resilient nations.



Nepal celebrates the 50th
anniversary of UNDP.

📍 LAXMI PRASAD NGAKHUSI /
UNDP NEPAL



In 2016, UNDP marked its 50th anniversary. It was a time for celebration and reflection on our history. UNDP opened its first office in Nepal in 1963, just a few years before UNDP's official establishment, and has been working every year since then to assist Nepal achieve its development goals. Over the years, UNDP support has helped government agencies, civil society and community groups to improve the lives of Nepalis and together with development partners, UNDP continues to design and implement successful development projects.



Today, 203 staff and service contract holders, 32 percent of whom are women, work with Nepal to meet the objectives of the agency as set out by the Country Programme Action Plan, in collaboration with the Government of Nepal.

UNDP, as part of the UN family, works jointly with several agencies to tackle issues in Nepal that span different agency mandates. UNDP works with FAO, ILO, IOM, UNCDF, UNEP, UNFPA, UNHabitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNV and UNWomen. Joint programmes include migration development, gender equality and women's rights, human rights, land tenure issues, environmental sustainability, and more.

In 2016, UNDP led and co-chaired several UN working groups on special areas to promote a One-UN approach; namely: Gender, Youth, Communications, HIV, and the SDGs. The efforts of these groups culminated in several key outputs, including a unified public awareness campaign of 16 Days to End Violence Against Women and Girls; the SDG

roadshow bringing SDG awareness to communities across the country; the formulation of the 2020 vision to end HIV in Nepal; among other achievements.

To do our part in combatting the effects of climate change, UNDP undertook small, but powerful, changes to its offices. All lighting was changed to LED (light-emitting diode) bulbs, a cost-cutting and environmentally friendly upgrade. Furthermore, the UN House was outfitted with solar power panels. All these initiatives contributed to US\$ 4,000 reduction in cost and removing the dependency on diesel-fueled generators.

UNDP's work is coordinated with 15 other UN agencies in Nepal through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which is set to expire in 2017. In preparation of a new UN country framework, and UNDP's new country programme, a thorough review was conducted in 2016 to assess the impact of the plan and to inform the direction of the new five-year plan set to begin in 2018.



FUNDING SOURCES & PARTNERSHIPS

In 2016, UNDP implemented a wide range of projects in Nepal with total expenditure of US \$37.75 million, which came from its core fund, and from partners, bilateral and multilateral agencies, and thematic and vertical trust funds. The expenditure was over 90 percent of the total approved budget for 2016.

While the UNDP core fund contributed to 18.49 percent of the total expenditures, the remaining 81.51 percent was mobilized from bilateral and multilateral agencies, and others.

Almost one third of programme expenditure (41%) in 2016 went towards reducing poverty and creating jobs, followed by governance and rule of law (31%), and energy, environment, climate change, recovery and disaster risk reduction (28%).

For every dollar provided by UNDP's own funding, it raised US\$5 from funding partners, including International Medical Corps, Bridgehead Foundation and others.

In 2016, the Government of Nepal contributed more than US\$ 1 million of domestic resources to its partnership with UNDP.

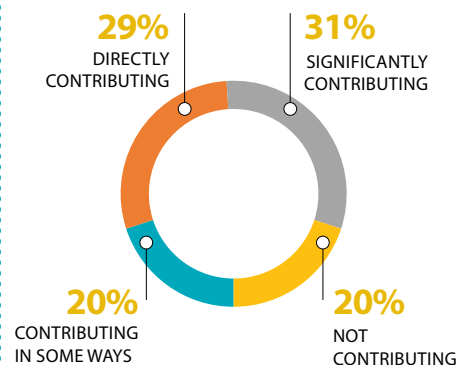
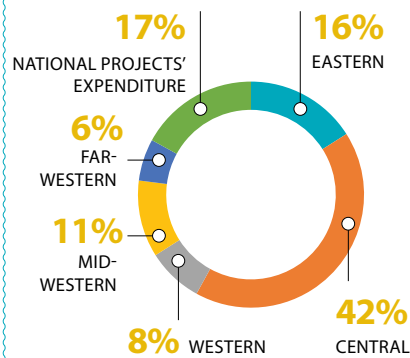
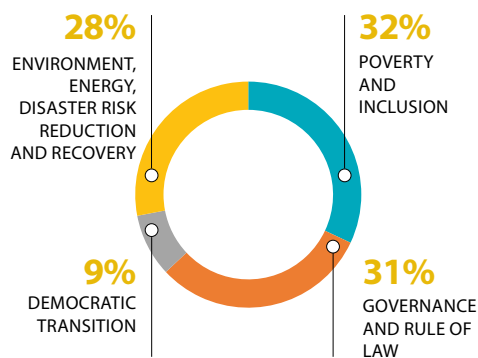
Geographically, 17 percent of the expenditures were targeted to the far west and mid west regions, which have low HDI. Over 60 percent of UNDP's total expenditure in 2016 directly or significantly

contributed to promote gender equality and social inclusion.

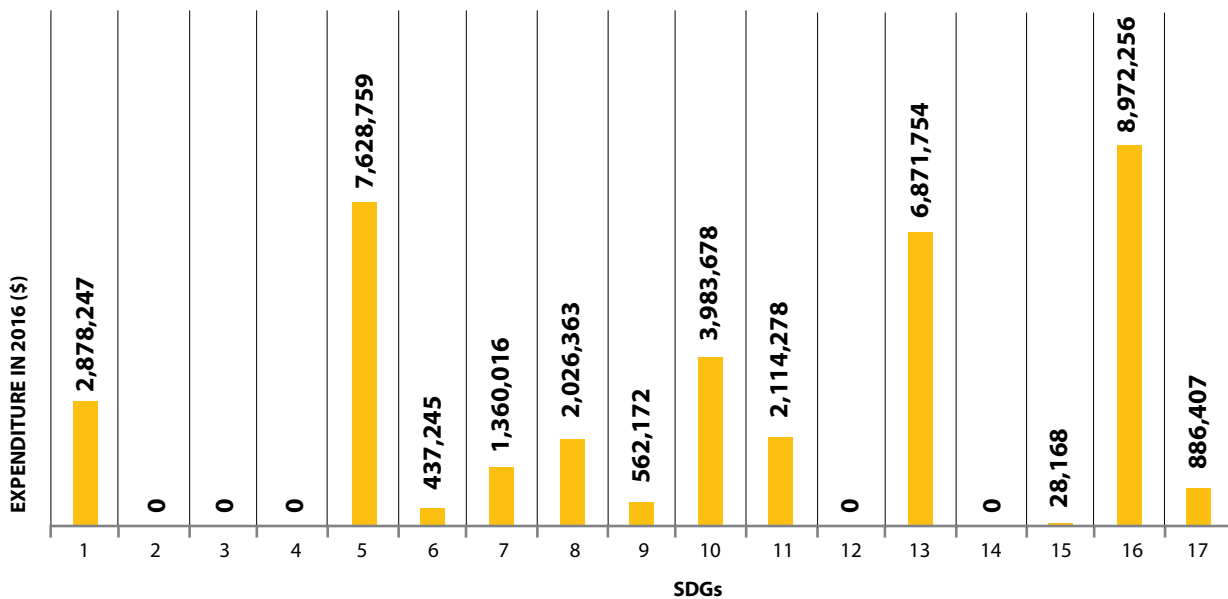
With the first full year of SDG implementation, UNDP spent the most funding on SDG 16 (24 %), SDG 5 (20 %), and SDG 13 (18 %).

EXPENDITURES IN 2016

DONORS	IN USD	PERCENT
AUSTRALIA	8,547,943	22.64%
UNDP CORE FUND	6,981,469	18.49%
GEF	4,788,763	12.69%
EUROPEAN UNION	3,564,945	9.44%
DENMARK	2,627,360	6.96%
UNITED KINGDOM	2,554,129	6.77%
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	1,731,731	4.59%
NORWAY	1,662,109	4.40%
FINLAND	1,012,822	2.68%
NEPAL	1,011,633	2.68%
MPTF	949,871	2.52%
MAURITIUS	680,887	1.80%
INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS	242,804	0.64%
JAPAN	400,357	1.06%
BRIDGEHEAD FOUNDATION	173,910	0.46%
UNEP	197,819	0.52%
INTEL FOUNDATION	154,263	0.41%
SWEDEN	134,090	0.36%
UNWOMEN	102,799	0.27%
SWITZERLAND	35,395	0.09%
OTHER DONORS	194,086	0.53%
TOTAL	37,749,185	100.00%



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 | | | |

UNDP

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



DENMARK



EUROPEAN UNION



FINLAND



GERMANY



JAPAN



MAURITIUS



NEPAL



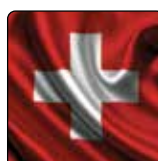
NORWAY



REPUBLIC OF KOREA



SWEDEN



SWITZERLAND

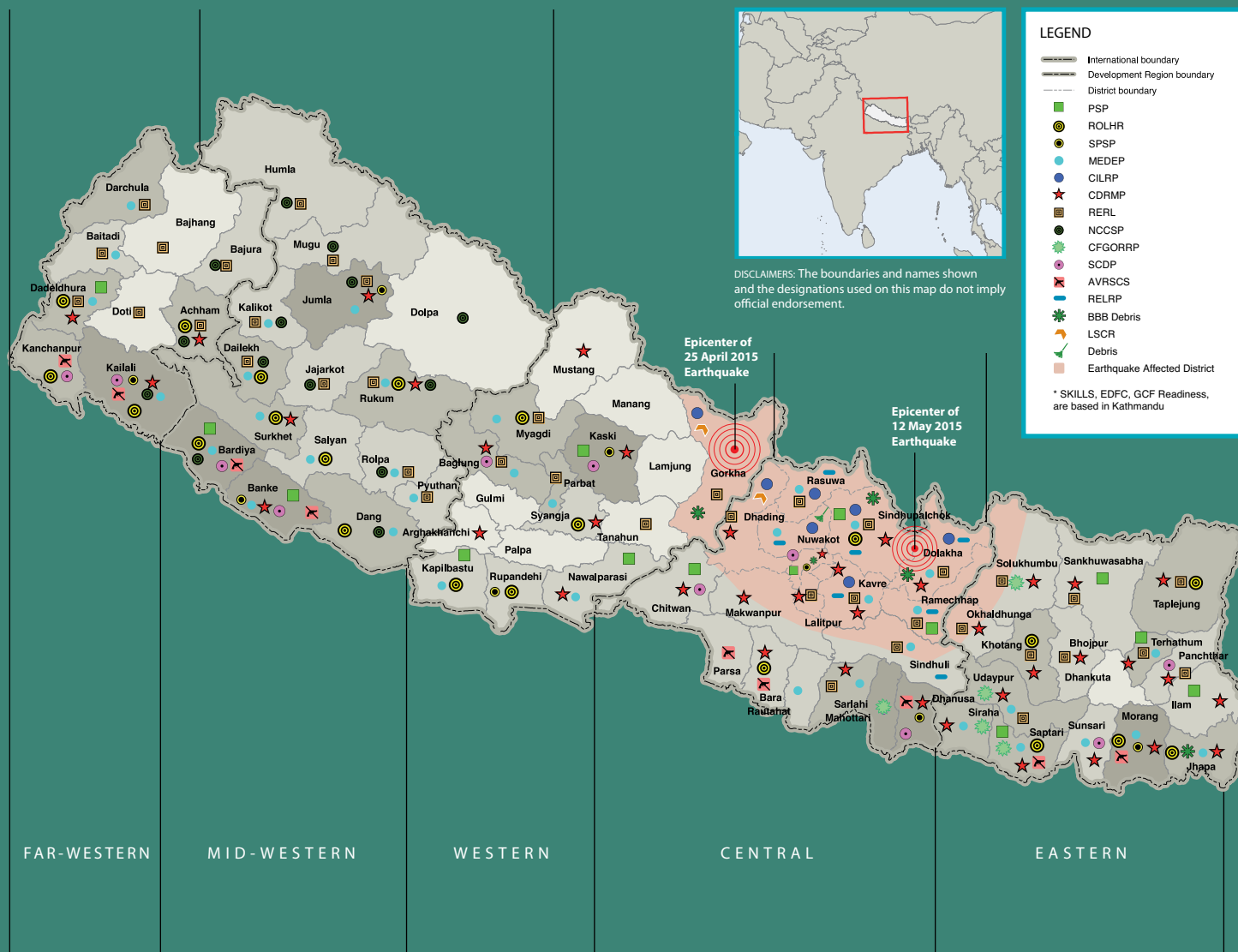


UNITED KINGDOM

UNDP NEPAL

FIELD LEVEL PRESENCE

AS OF JANUARY 2017



LIST OF ACRONYMS

AEPC	Alternative Energy Promotion Center	MoGA	Ministry of General Administration
AMP	Aid Management Platform	MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
CDRMP	Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Programme	MoI	Ministry of Industry
CFGORRP	Community Based Flood and Glacial Lake Outburst Risk Reduction Project	MoPR	Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction
CILRP	Community Infrastructure and Livelihoods Recovery Programme	MoSTE	Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment
CPA	Comprehensive Peace Agreement	MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
CPP	Conflict Prevention Programme	NCCSP	Nepal Climate Change Support Programme
DFID	Department for International Development	NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
ECN	Election Commission of Nepal	NPC	National Planning Commission
EDFC	Effective Development Financing and Cooperation	NRA	National Reconstruction Authority
ESP	Electoral Support Project	PDNA	Post Disaster Needs Assessment
GCF	Green Climate Fund	PDRF	Post Disaster Recovery Framework
GEF	Global Environment Facility	PREPARE	Project to Prepare the Public Administration for State Reforms
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion	PSP	Parliament Support Project
GoN	Government of Nepal	RERL	Renewable Energy for Rural Livelihood
HDI	Human Development Index	RoLHR	Rule of Law and Human Rights
IMC	International Medical Corps	SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency	SCDP	Social Cohesion and Democratic Participation
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
KMC	Kathmandu Metropolitan City	SLAC	Socio Legal Aid Centre
LAPA	Local Adaptation Plan of Action	SNPMC	Strengthening National Planning and Monitoring Capacity
LGCDP	Local Governance and Community Development Programme	UN	United Nations
LSER	Livelihood Stabilization and Enterprise Recovery	UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Fund
MEs	Micro Entrepreneurs	UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
MDG	Millennium Development Goals	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
MEDEP	Micro Enterprise Development Programme	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
MEDPA	Micro Enterprise Development for Poverty Alleviation	UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
MoFALD	Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
		UNV	United Nations Volunteers
		VDC	Village Development Committee
		WCF	Ward Citizen Forum



Valerie Julliand Resident Representative

Renaud Meyer Country Director

Sophie Kemkhadze Deputy Country Director

Krishna Raj Adhikari Head of Operations

Kamal Raj Sigdel Head of Communications

Lesley Wright Communications Advisor

Richa Ranjitkar Communications Analyst

Preena Shrestha UN Volunteer

This report has been prepared with inputs from
Team Leaders, Programme Officers and Project Communication Officers.

DESIGN & PRINT PROCESS: **TheSquare Design Communication Pvt. Ltd.**

Jwagal, Kupondole, Lalitpur, Nepal

Tel. +977 1 5260 963 / 5531 063

business@thesquare.com.np

www.thesquare.agency

PRINTED IN NEPAL

© **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

UN House, Pulchowk, Lalitpur

G.P.O. Box: 107, Kathmandu, Nepal

TEL: (977-1) 5523200

FAX: (977-1) 5523991 / 5523986



Empowered lives. Resilient nations.

www.np.undp.org



www.facebook.com/undpnepal



www.twitter.com/undpnepal



www.youtube.com/undpnepal