



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

# Annual Report 2014

**UNDP IN NEPAL**



↑ *COVER: A local woman picks wild paddy in the Jagadishpur reservoir area, an important wetland habitat for migratory birds and other endangered species. GEF through UNDP has been supporting the local community in conserving the precious wetland through small grants.*

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*INSIDE COVER:*

*Pottery entrepreneurs*

*Ram Laxman Laghu and*

*Udhyami Samuha of Dang*

*peering into their latest creation*

© CHANDRA SHEKHAR KHARKI

## FOREWORD

After successfully conducting elections for a second Constituent Assembly in late 2013, the New Year began in a positive note -- a new government was formed in February 2014, resuming the stalled constitution writing process. 2014 also witnessed improvements in social and development indicators and Nepal's overall business environment showed promises of recovery with significant new investment commitments from the private sector.

Nepal's prolonged bottlenecks in the power sector saw a breakthrough with a power trade agreement with India and two big power development agreements signed. Furthermore, in small scale energy production for the rural poor, UNDP's policy advocacy led to the adoption of agreed modalities for interconnecting mini grid, mini and micro hydro projects with the national grid, thereby ensuring increased access of rural poor households to clean energy.

During 2014, UNDP's support created over 16,000 jobs, of which 70 percent went to women. This year's engagement with interest groups promoting gender equality contributed to improvements in the policy environment, including the endorsement of the Sexual Harassment in the Workplace (Eradication) Bill, and fee exemptions for female businesses owners.

UNDP's engagement in the area of climate and disaster risk management has contributed to some important policy reform and their implementation, such as the "climate budget code", a new budgetary tool which has become an integral part of the national budget process, leading to increased public spending in climate change adaptation. UNDP's intervention has also helped make local governments gender-responsive in their disaster related plans and politics. In 2014 alone, at least 21 districts adopted gender-responsive disaster risk management plans.



The 2014 Nepal Human Development Report, launched in May provided a rigorous analytical backdrop to understanding the evolution of the country's development context. Disparities reported in the human development index (HDI) across social groups and geographic locations help shape informed policy decisions.

Building on the results achieved in 2014 and before, UNDP will continue supporting the country's efforts to reaching the Millennium Development Goals during 2015, which is the last year for their achievement. At the same time, Nepal will need to affirm its position on the post-2015 development agenda and the definition of the new Sustainable Development Goals. UNDP, together with other UN Agencies, will support the country in this important global process.

This 2014 Annual Report provides a snapshot of the results achieved by UNDP and its partners and selected human stories demonstrating the impact of its interventions on improving the lives of Nepali people. We wish to thank our many partners from Government, development community, civil society, local communities, the private sector and other UN agencies for their cooperation and support.

We remain committed to supporting efforts to ensure that the benefits of growth reach the poorest and most marginalized people across the country

Finally, our accomplishments would not have been possible without the hard work of our staff. We acknowledge and appreciate their dedication and commitment.

**RENAUD MEYER**  
UNDP Country Director

**JAMIE MCGOLDRICK**  
UNDP Resident Representative

## POVERTY REDUCTION

16,000+

jobs created  
of which



1,800 households

benefitted from 61 small water & sanitation

infrastructures, generating **3,000** person days  
of employment.

8,000

micro entrepreneurs  
benefitted from  
173 Common Facility Centres

constructed to operate group enterprises in 30 districts.

+  
**2 million**  
saplings were planted,  
to protect bio-diversity conserving  
over 1,900 hectares  
of land

**60,000**  
person days of work  
were created by  
implementing climate  
change adaptation  
actions

Archived  
**15,000**  
building permit  
files in the e-building  
permit system

SGP  
projects have installed

**1,600+**  
improved cook stoves,  
reducing firewood consumption  
by 50%

# RESULTS

In 2014,  
755 kW from 26 Micro  
Hydro Village Electrification  
Projects

benefitted  
**45,900**  
people from rural  
communities

## BUILDING RESILIENCE



vulnerable people  
and **conflict victims**  
**benefitted** from  
legal aid



**citizens were added**  
in the voter roll in 2014  
by the Election Commission  
of Nepal, with technical  
assistance from UNDP



individuals (including  
over 4,900 conflict victims)  
**received legal aid**  
**information**  
through mobile clinics,  
awareness campaigns



law, rights and justice  
sector actors/officials  
were trained on  
justice administration

## DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE



**persons participated** in  
community security planning  
in 24 VDCs in the Terai  
(38% women, 16% Dalit,  
19% Janajati, 33% Madhesi,  
and 4% Muslim)



**Local stakeholders** from more  
than 1,500 VDCs were **trained on**  
**bottom-up planning processes**,  
resulting in increased participation  
of communities in up to  
80% of Terai VDCs

# BY NUMBER\*

## DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION



Knowledge level of over

# 1,900

political leaders and  
CA members (**38% women**,  
**29% Dalit**, **39% Janajati**,  
**14% Madhesi**) enhanced on  
key constitutional issues  
through dialogues



Understanding level of over

# 8,600

(**35% women**, **24% Janajati**,  
**29% Madhesi**, **12% Dalits**)  
local leaders, civil society  
members, activists and the  
general public on constitutional  
issues enhanced through  
civic education programme



More than

# 1,000

government officials,  
civil society and  
political leaders equipped  
with collaborative leadership  
and dialogue skills,  
of which **37% were women**.



Capacity of more than

# 270

lawyers enhanced on  
constitutional issues  
including federalism,  
division of power among  
federal provinces

\* 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.





*Ecoclub students of Shree Panchakoshi Higher Secondary School in Parbat planting seedlings to mitigate risk of soil erosion and landslides.*

© EBA/UNDP

## INTRODUCTION

Nepal has made significant progress in the past few years in poverty reduction. The country now aspires to meet new development goals: to graduate from 'least developed country' status to 'developing country' status by 2022. The benchmarks for graduation are high, including doubling Nepal's GDP per capita and further reducing the number of people living below the poverty line. UNDP continues to support the Government in meeting this graduation target. With support from UNDP, the Government, in 2014, prepared an Approach Paper to LDC Graduation, in line with the objectives set in the Thirteenth Plan. This is expected to guide the graduation process.

Despite promising progress on social and development indicators, Nepal's primary challenge over the last several years has been its inability to move out of the protracted transition period. An inclusive and consensual constitution still remains elusive, despite successfully holding elections to a second Constituent Assembly in November 2013. UNDP continues to provide support to the constitution drafting process by making available international expertise and experiences.

A flagship UNDP knowledge product, the Human Development Report, was prepared and launched in May last year. This report provides a rigorous analytical backdrop to understanding the evolution of the country's development context. Disparities reported in the human development index (HDI) across social groups and geographic locations help shape informed policy decisions.

A UNDP supported UN wide 2014 Perceptions Survey revealed that people's confidence in the justice system is very low. To help the Government close





that gap, UNDP continued efforts to extend access to justice for marginalized people in 2014. A pilot initiative to enhance access to justice for vulnerable groups in five districts saw success, extending remedial and preventive legal-aid services to over 23,000 people.

UNDP also continued to broaden and deepen its support for effective local governance this year, extending training on bottom-up planning processes to over 61,000 local stakeholders across more than 1,500 VDCs.

UNDP increased its efforts to protect vulnerable communities from the adverse impacts of climate change and ensured local people benefitted from the environment around them. UNDP expanded access to electricity through mini and micro hydro projects to over 8,300 households 2014.

While UNDP funding from development partners made significant contributions to poverty reduction, improving governance and the rule of law, protecting the environment and improving resilience

*Village environment, energy and climate change coordination committee holding regular meeting in Rolpa*

© RAJ KUMAR PURI

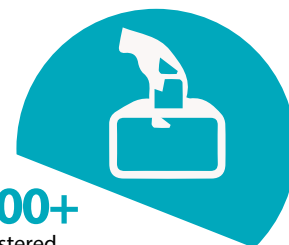
*In 2015, UNDP will continue to support Government efforts to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development.*

and promoting gender and social equality, much remains to be done. In 2015, UNDP will continue to support government efforts to reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and increasing efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals in this final year. It will also support the Government to help shape the post-2015 agenda through its various flagship projects.



**45,900+**

people gained access to electricity



**304,000+**

voters registered

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## SECTION 1

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# Reducing Poverty & Promoting Sustainable Development

**N**epal has tremendous potential for development and job creation through the rural enterprises that make sustainable use of natural resources. However, lack of awareness, education and skills to utilise existing resources continues to perpetuate underemployment and underdevelopment. Further compounding this issue is a growing youth population, struggling to find jobs at home. As a result, nearly 1,400 youth per day migrate abroad in search of gainful employment.

To help address challenges and tap opportunities, UNDP's work in Nepal on poverty and sustainable development has been designed around two broad pillars: employment creation and policy support in pro-poor development planning and monitoring.



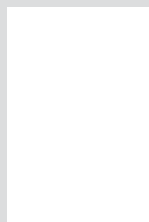
Entrepreneur Radheshyam Tharu  
Kumal, of Dang, creating pottery  
CHANDRA SHEKHAR KHARKI

## POVERTY IN NEPAL

### POVERTY RATE

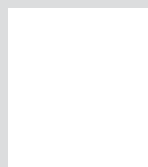
Percentage of Nepalis living  
below USD1.25/day

25.2%

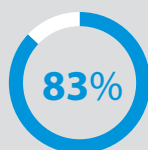


2011

23.8%



2013



of Nepal's  
27 million people  
live in  
rural areas



EVERY YEAR,  
**600,000**  
youths enter the  
labour market



Agriculture  
contributes to  
**33%**  
of GDP in Nepal  
and employs 70%  
of labour force



Per Capita  
income(PPP  
adjusted)



**\$1,400/day**  
Nepalis leave  
country for overseas  
jobs (Over 527,000 in  
2013/2014)

**28%**

share of  
remittances in GDP  
(\$5.5 billion in  
2013/2014)

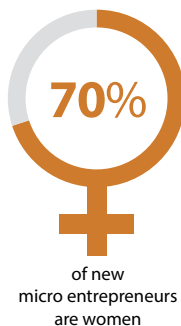
## EXPEDITING POVERTY ALLEVIATION THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

With funding from the Australian Government, the Micro Enterprise Development Programme (MEDEP) continues to support the Government of Nepal to implement its Micro-Enterprise Development for Poverty Alleviation (MEDPA) project in 50 districts, creating more than 6,600 micro entrepreneurs, while UNDP's direct intervention created an additional 4,700 in the same year. Over 70 percent of these new micro entrepreneurs are women, 25 percent are Dalits and 43 percent are from indigenous nationalities. A further 11,700 micro-entrepreneurs received support to expand or revive their enterprises, including in labeling, packaging, exposure visits, and market linkages. As a result of hiring by micro-entrepreneurs, a total of 16,000 jobs were created.

Over the 16 years of MEDEP implementation, the programme has created over 70,000 micro-entrepreneurs and over 86,600 employment opportunities for the rural poor and socially excluded groups.

# 16,000+

jobs created through micro-enterprises



## ADVOCACY FOR PRO-POOR POLICIES AND RECOGNITION

- UNDP's continuous lobbying has resulted in micro-enterprise becoming a part of the industrial policy framework in Nepal, leading to 35 percent exemption for women in registration fees and a special fund for women.
- UNDP's success in riverbed farming and consistent advocacy, in collaboration with other organizations, has led to a draft Riverbed Farming Policy. Once approved, now wasted lands will be available for the poor for farming.
- To facilitate easier access to finance for micro entrepreneurs, UNDP brokered seven partnership agreements between banking and financial institutions and the Ministry of Industry.
- In 2014, Kesha Pariyar won Norway's prestigious global Business for Peace award for her leadership in promoting micro-enterprises. She is among the 70,000 micro-entrepreneurs who received support from UNDP.

Herbal soap entrepreneur Durga KC (left) packages soap with employees at her factory in Pyuthan

© CHANDRA SHEKHAR KHARKI





UP CLOSE

# SWEET ROAD TO SUCCESS

WITH LOW INITIAL INVESTMENTS AND IMMEDIATE RETURNS, BEEKEEPING HAS THE POTENTIAL TO TRANSFORM THOUSANDS OF LIVES IN NEPAL'S OFT-NEGLECTED FAR WEST

When Indra Dev Sharan Bhatt left his previous business venture some 12 years ago, he never thought that he would one day be able to earn a comfortable living as a beekeeper. Bhatt, a father of four, hails from Pipalkot in Kedar VDC of Baitadi district and has successfully managed to provide higher education to all of his children through income generated from the sale of beehives, bees and honey. Indra Dev easily makes up to half a million rupees annually. With his sweet honey finding buyers in urban towns such as Dhangadhi, and across the border in neighbouring India, Bhatt has his hands full producing, selling, and even providing training, taking him across different districts.

Bhatt is one of over 2,600 micro-entrepreneurs who, through the support of the Micro Enterprise Development Programme (MEDEP), is making a living out of beekeeping and ancillary enterprises such as making beehives, supplying bee colonies,



*Kamal Singh Bohara of Dadeldhura is a pioneer of the bee-keeping enterprise*  
© INDRA DHOJ KSHETRI

honey processing, trading honey and merchandise and tailoring goods required for the enterprise in four districts of the Far Western Region: Darchula, Baitadi, Dadeldhura, and Kailali.

"MEDEP has given people like me a skill that has changed our lives completely," Bhatt says. "Beekeeping has immense potential to transform thousands of lives."

The business of bees also brings in working women such as Gaumati Nepali of Alital, Dadeldhura, who creates essentials such as gloves, hats, and bags to be sold to the growing number of bee farmers. Gaumati, who is

supported by husband Karan Nepali in the tailoring business, sold over 1,200 sets this season (August to December) and earned over Rs 120,000.

UNDP's MEDEP has demonstrated a viable model of poverty alleviation and social inclusion through optimal use of natural resources, indigenous skills and collaboration for sustainable livelihoods, according to the Gender and Social Inclusion impact study of the project, conducted in 2014.

Beekeeping entrepreneurs in Alital are agog about the prospect of their enterprise, as they are successfully running in the second inspection

year for organic certification. They expect to receive the certification by the end of 2015, if not earlier. Chyuri honey is organic by default, as it is produced in the wild, far from pesticides and fertiliser penetration. According to a resource analysis carried out by MEDEP in 2011, Nepal's Far West alone has the capacity to produce 5,095 metric tonnes of honey annually, and create thousands of jobs.

Beekeeping is suitable for poor and low income groups, and is also women friendly. As Gaumati Bohara of Alital-1, Belbhadri puts it: "beekeeping is very appropriate for women as it can be started with low investment, yields immediate return and doesn't require carrying heavy loads. We can take care of up to 20 beehives along with our household chores."

Hailed as a sweet road to success, the business of honey has brought hope and prosperity to the lives of many Nepalis in the Far West.



## WORKING AMONG THE POOREST

Employment and income generation is one of the key areas of UNDP's work towards alleviating chronic poverty and creating peace dividends. In 2014, UNDP's support generated over 3,000 person days of employment (15 percent of which went to women), predominantly through the construction of 61 community infrastructures (51 hand pumps and 10 road drainage improvements) improving access to sanitation to more than 1800 households in ultra-poor communities. UNDP also provided micro-capital grants to over 6,400 individuals from 200 community groups to carry out income generating activities.

This support is part of an integrated community-based development initiative implemented under the Livelihood Recovery for Peace project (LRP) in three of Nepal's poorest districts: Mahottari, Sarlahi and Rautahat, where human development is among the lowest in the country. The project targets women, youth, conflict-affected people, ultra-poor and the socially excluded to strengthen the capacities of households, communities and local institutions to respond to livelihood recovery needs and contribute to peace building in the Central Tarai.

↑ LRP community group members meeting in Mahottari

© BRONWYN RUSSEL

→ Kesha Pariyar with her Business For Peace Award after the ceremony in Norway

© BUSINESS FOR PEACE FOUNDATION



**6,400+**

individuals recieved micro-capital grants for income generation activities

**1,800+**

households in ultra-poor communities gained access to sanitation



## ENHANCING PRO-POOR POLICY MAKING CAPACITY

UNDP is supporting the National Planning Commission (NPC) and the Central Bureau of Statistics' (CBS) to promote pro-poor and evidence-based monitoring and evaluation (M&E), planning and policy making by improving data collection and analysis. This also contributes to the monitoring of progress against MDGs.

UNDP supported the CBS in publishing the first Annual Household Survey with key data on labour and consumption, which contributes to enriching the estimate of national accounts.

In the area of policy advocacy, UNDP launched the Nepal Human Development Report 2014. This report explores spatial inequalities in productive abilities at the level of regions, households and individuals and presents a picture that is both sobering and encouraging. The report offers several policy recommendations on how to reduce social and geographic disparities.

# 7,900+

community group members gained membership in 64 cooperatives

*NPC Vice Chair Dr. Govind Raj Pokhrel and UNDP Assistant Secretary General Haoliang Xu jointly launch the Nepal Human Development Report 2014, together with UN Resident Coordinator Jamie McGoldrick and then UNDP Country Director Shoko Noda (left)*

© UNDP NEPAL

In light of Nepal's objective to graduate from LDC status by 2022, UNDP support has also enabled Nepal to draft an Approach Paper to LDC Graduation that captures Nepal's status on all three dimensions of graduation, with applicable policy recommendations. This served as a useful tool for Nepal's engagement in national, regional and global dialogue fora.

Under the statistical component, the development of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) has been a major priority, and important preparatory works, including an assessment of statistical needs of all ministries as well as regional and national consultations on NSDS, were completed this year.

Towards enhancing M&E systems and capacity of the government, more than 240 officials received training on M&E, two evaluations were successfully completed on national programmes of different ministries and a concrete results framework for the Thirteenth Plan was prepared in 2014.





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## SECTION 2

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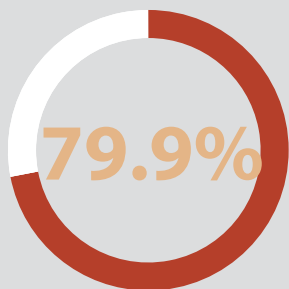
# Promoting Inclusive & Effective Democratic Governance

**E**ffective public institutions that are responsive to the public are a fundamental building block of any functioning democracy. Nepal is currently at a critical stage of its democratic transition, as it attempts to create a new constitution, as well as develop and strengthen important democratic institutions in line with its anticipated, new federal structure. UNDP Nepal promotes effective and inclusive democratic governance by supporting the promotion of the rule of law, improving protection of human rights, building the capacity of the electoral commission and supporting administrative reforms and local governance.



Women actively participating in  
focus group discussion in Dailekh for  
Voter Education Assessment  
© SACHIN KARMACHARYA

## GOVERNANCE IN NEPAL



**Voter turnout  
in 2013 elections**



Local elections  
have not taken  
place in Nepal  
in over  
**17 yrs**

**240**

cases of human rights  
violations registered at  
NHRC



Ranks  
**57th**  
globally in upholding  
rule of law, greatest  
improvement in  
South Asia in 2014  
(World Justice Project)



**12.73**  
million citizens  
registered in  
voters roll



Nepal ranks

**120 of 180**

countries in terms of  
freedom of the press  
(Reporters Without  
Borders 2014)



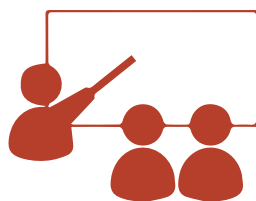
**22,602**

complaints of corruption  
registered at CIAA in 2014



## TRANSFORMING PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

As part of Nepal's transition to a federal state, the system of governance will naturally change, which will include transformations to the public administration. UNDP's Prepare the Public Administration for State Reforms (PREPARE) project foresees these changes and supports the Public Service Commission (PSC), Ministry of General Administration and the Prime Minister's Office, for public administration reform. This includes carrying out functional analysis, developing transition plans, promoting affirmative actions for enhancing inclusion in the civil service, and building capacity for reform.



Investigative capacities of

**190**

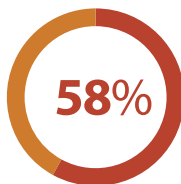
CIAA officials from central and regional offices were improved

↑ GoN Chief Secretary, Mr. Leelamani Paudyal (second from left), addressing the interaction programme on Functional Analysis of Government of Nepal 2014

📷 BHAWANI GYAWALI

➡ Mr. Hari Datta Pandey, Former Joint Secretary, conducting an orientation for Public Service Commission candidates in Kailali

📷 NIRMALA SUBBA



of over 700 disadvantaged people who received career counseling for PSC entrance exam are women



## STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS

■ UNDP worked with the Indian Institute of Public Administration to train senior officials from the Public Service Commission (PSC) on human resource management. These trainings contributed to developing knowledge and skills of PSC staffs, from senior to mid level managers, on recruitment, selection and operating technology-based selection techniques. These new skills are expected to improve the quality of the public service and ensure a smooth transition to a federal system.

■ As a result of UNDP support, the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) officials are now better equipped to investigate complex issues around public procurement, banking and finance and land management.

■ UNDP supported the replacement of the existing Civil Service Personnel Information System with an improved Government Enterprise Architecture (GEA) system, which will contribute to developing web-based personnel information that can be accessed and modified by multiple users, streamlining record access.



## SUPPORTING ELECTORAL PROCESSES

UNDP, through the Electoral Support Project (ESP), has continued its support to strengthen the institutional and professional capacities of the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) via an electoral cycle approach. Phase II of the ESP (2012-2016) aligns with the ECN's strategic plan and focuses on long-term capacity building, in addition to operational support.

In 2014 UNDP, with funding from Denmark, Norway, EU and UK supported the ECN in updating the voter list with photographs and biometric profiling, enhancing voter security and eliminating opportunities for proxy and multiple voting. UNDP also supported the ECN in institutionalising continuous voter registration with advance data security measures through the development of customised software.

### 304,000+

citizens added to voter roll

*Supported the ECN in updating the voter list with biometric profiling.*

▼ Voter registration in Lalitpur

© SACHIN KARMACHARYA

Training was provided at both the national level and in five districts for over 1,600 ECN staff in order to enhance understanding of gender equality and social inclusion, electoral procedures, electoral security and electoral systems, and to support regional and district voter registration and voter education.

Similarly, the nationwide Assessment of Voter Education during the 2013 Constituent Assembly elections was completed. Recognising a significant knowledge gap, 12 radio and television programmes aimed at enhancing the knowledge of voters on their electoral rights and responsibilities were commissioned.

Other knowledge products, designed and developed with ECN, including the Electoral Atlas 2013, Gender Book 'Her Voice-Her Choice' and Media Monitoring Report of CA Elections 2013, were launched for national and international stakeholders. These documents analyse and document lessons from the 2013 CA elections.



UNDP supported the ECN in the design, development and drafting of its second Strategic Plan (2015-2019) and Action Plan (2015-2016) through consultations and workshops with national and international stakeholders. Gender and social inclusion have been prioritised in all thematic areas. The effective implementation of ECN's new Strategic Plan will strengthen the technical capacity of the ECN to conduct credible, inclusive and well-organised elections.

The ECN, with UNDP's technical assistance, initiated the development of a 'Model Election Code of Conduct' for future elections. The Code will be designed in consultation with diverse stakeholders and based on international best practices and lessons learnt from past elections.

**1,000 +**

vulnerable people benefited from legal representation

**1,100**

women and vulnerable persons accessed mobile legal aid clinics and socio-legal aid centers in 5 districts

↓ *A student engages in voter education at the Electoral Education and Information Centre*

© ROCHAN KADARIYA

## INSTITUTIONALISING THE RULE OF LAW

While Nepal's post-conflict transition has been exemplary in many ways, institutionalising the rule of law remains a central priority for the establishment of a stable governance system. In 2014, UNDP's Rule of Law and Human Rights programme (RoLHR), in partnership with Denmark, Finland, Norway, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) and UN Peace Fund for Nepal, supported poor and vulnerable groups to increase their access to justice through legal aid services offered in five districts. Remedial legal aid services (legal representation) benefited over 1,600 people, while legal information and awareness activities reached more than 22,800.

Support provided to the Supreme Court's Judgment Execution Directorate has aided in the recovery of fines of over Rs. 93 million and enforcement of more than 1,000 years of prison sentences for over 2,800 absconding convicts. A comprehensive strategic plan for the judiciary was developed, which included access to justice, judicial outreach, and fast tracked court procedures as major strategic goals. Furthermore, training of prosecutors and legal aid lawyers has resulted in the adoption of a fast track process for cases of gender based violence, domestic violence and human trafficking in ten district courts.

As part of human rights promotion and protection initiatives, UNDP supported the National Dalit Commission to form a high-level joint monitoring group to reinforce the responsiveness of law enforcement agencies to cases of caste-based discrimination. This resulted in better coordination among those agencies at the district level.

UNDP supported the Ministry of Law and Justice, Constituent Assembly and Parliamentary Affairs





UP CLOSE

# IN PURSUIT OF JUSTICE

**SOCIO-LEGAL AID CENTRES ARE PROVIDING LEGAL AID, PSYCHO-SOCIAL COUNSELLING AND REFERRAL SERVICES TO THE INDIGENT IN FIVE DISTRICTS IN THE MID AND FAR WESTERN REGIONS OF NEPAL**

Sunita Chaudhary (name changed), 35, of Kailali district was a victim of domestic abuse. After being thrown out of her home, along with her son, Sunita sought help from the Socio-Legal Aid Centre (SLAC) mobile legal aid clinic that visited her village.

Devi Lal Chaudhary, SLAC legal aid lawyer, said, "We did not have any other option but to seek legal remedy from the courts considering the extent of her husband's abuse and his failure to abide by any of our suggestions." The Centre duly filed a partition case on Sunita and her child's behalf and the Kailali District Court took up the case.

After mediation provided by SLAC, Sunita and her husband resolved the case out of court by agreeing that he would cede one third of his land to her, and a further 18 *kattha* to their son. The Centre oversaw the legal transfer of the land title. Sunita's legal protection of her property rights ensured



that neither she, nor her son, will be made homeless.

Sunita is among 300 such beneficiaries in Kailali district alone. Redefining and broadening the scope of legal aid, such centres operate in five districts in the

mid and far western regions, providing legal aid, psycho-social counselling and referral services to the indigent, as well as funding for immediate medical expenses to victims of domestic violence.

Sunita is grateful for the SLAC

services, stating that she is "not worried anymore as I have a piece of costly land in my own name and my child is also secure in his property rights." She now recommends that other people in similar situations approach the SLAC for legal support.

to draft an integrated single national legal aid policy, which is expected to integrate the scattered channels of legal aid as well as suggest revisions to relevant laws.

UNDP supported the Nepal Bar Association to revise its existing Code of Conduct for law practitioners, covering new facets of law, crime, ethical concerns and technological advances. This is expected to make lawyers more accountable to social justice and to their role as social engineers.

UNDP supported the establishment of Justice Sector Coordination Committee (JSCC) secretariats at the central level and in 15 districts to address issues related to judgment execution, witness protection and implementation of the strategic plan. Similarly, in view of ensuring access to courts for all, a separate Information desk has been established in all 15 districts.

# 279

backlogged cases  
cleared at NHRC



30 NHRC staff members  
trained in monitoring and  
reporting

Human rights  
monitoring team  
during the investigation  
mission in Siraha.

© SCNHRC/UNDP

## IMPROVING HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION

UNDP supports the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in effectively fulfilling its mandate to promote and protect human rights.

In 2014, with funding support from Denmark, Finland, Switzerland, UK, UNDP and OHCHR, the Strengthening the Capacity of the National Human Rights Commission (SCNHRC) project helped build NHRC's capacity to monitor the compliance with various human rights treaties to which Nepal is a party. To that end, the project supported the rights body in organising interactions with government and civil society organizations, preparing reports to treaty bodies, including for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and improving the National Human Rights Action Plan.





Human rights monitoring and reporting capacity of thirty NHRC staffs improved, enabling the Commission to increase its monitoring missions to various situations of concern.

Capacity building support to manage case backlogs resulted in a reduction of 280 out of some 3,300 backlogged cases concerning disappearances, abduction, torture, and domestic violence, among others.

## STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNANCE

UNDP has been providing technical support to the Government of Nepal in the implementation of governance reform, service delivery and capacity development, citizens' empowerment and socioeconomic and infrastructure development.

UNDP supported the establishment of a media center in the NHRC to enable it to efficiently and effectively organise its external communications. Twenty NHRC staffs were trained on media and communication skills to sensitise them on mass media operations and enable them to proactively engage with media in the promotion of human rights.

© NHRC

**61,300+**

Local stakeholders from 1505 VDCs trained on bottom-up planning processes

In 2014, UNDP's component in the multi-donor Local Governance and Community Development Programme (LGCDP) phase II provided technical and financial assistance for policy field-testing, and capacity development.

This year, the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD), with financial support from UNDP, delivered training on bottom-up planning processes to over 61,300 local stakeholders from more than 1,500 VDCs, including members of VDC, Ward Citizen Forums (WCFs), Community Awareness Centers and local level political party representatives. This resulted in increased participation of local communities in planning. After the training, it was recorded that more than 80 percent of VDCs in Tarai districts held council meetings on time.

UNDP supported MoFALD in the formulation and implementation of a nation-wide Capacity Development Strategy for local governments, to



be overseen and implemented through training institutions, private consultants, and other development partners. The Strategy is expected to promote an enabling environment for effective, transparent and accountable local governance.

UNDP also supported MoFALD in more effectively mobilizing WCFs through a revision of the Social Mobilization Guidelines to clarify the mandate of WCFs including selection/election provisions, and the development of an action plan to implement these guidelines.

Operational guidelines and modalities of Local Governance Accountability Facility (LGAF) were also revised to ensure transparency and accountability in local level procurements.

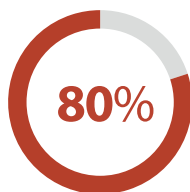
UNDP further supported the strengthening of local institutions through:

- Providing 179 thematic experts to MoFALD to policy advice in: governance, gender and social inclusion, environmental and disaster resilience, monitoring, reporting, social mobilization and livelihood.
- In partnership with GIZ, conducting comprehensive training for 225 local masons on low cost, earthquake resistant construction, resulting in nine seismic safe Ward offices.
- Conducting ICT needs assessments of all districts and municipalities, based on which training packages were designed.

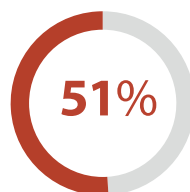


**2,500 +**

persons participated  
in community security  
planning process



of Tarai VDCs able to  
follow planning timeline



of local capital budgets  
captured by WCF  
members

**6**

District level community  
security action plans  
finalized as of  
December 2014

*Aid  
Management  
Platform  
(AMP) has  
improved  
transparency  
and  
accountability  
of aid  
information  
in Nepal.*



## SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE AID MANAGEMENT

UNDP continued working with the government to institutionalize an aid management information system to effectively manage and coordinate international development cooperation. To that end, the Developing Capacities for Effective Aid Management and Coordination (DCEAMC) project was established in partnership with Denmark, UK and USA.

As a result of the Aid Management Platform (AMP), developed with UNDP support, transparency and accountability of aid information in Nepal has improved in recent years. Training provided to more than 160 (58% women) civil servants, journalists, and donor focal points in aid management led to a greater use of the AMP portal that received more than 96000 viewers in 2014 and a significantly more coverage of aid management issues in the national media.

As testimony to the effectiveness of the intervention, the analytical information generated through the AMP contributed to the preparation and production of a fourth, evidence-based Development Cooperation Report (DCR). The analysis of aid data through the DCR reports has been useful in influencing policy makers to develop a new aid management policy, detailing the threshold value of aid, division of labour of development partners and preference of aid modality.

## STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SECURITY

In 2014, Armed Violence Reduction and Strengthening Community Security (AVRSCS) project was successful in engaging over 2800 people (38 percent women) in developing community security action plans for six clusters, comprising of 24 VDCs in six Tarai districts through consultations and workshops. As the action plans were developed in a gender responsive and conflict sensitive manner, gender-based violence is now recognized as a key community security issue, rather than a personal matter, as traditionally accepted.

The project also developed a Community Security Training Manual and a total of 20 facilitators were trained. Interactions between security agencies and citizens, also supported by the project, helped improve trust between police and the public.

### 24

VDC consultations on community security planning process

### 2800+

people (38 percent women) consulted in developing community security action plans in six Tarai districts

↓ *Local women in Kailali putting down their ideas to share with the group at a community security consultation meeting*

© PRAKASH TIMILSINA

In 2014, UNDP supported infrastructure establishment and IT firm selection for the Nepal Crime Observation Center (NCOC) as part of a multi-year activity to aid Nepal Police to centralize, collect and analyze crime and violence data to inform security policy and programming.

On 2014 Nepal Police Day, UNDP presented Nepal Police with 26 motorcycles, 508 bicycles and 307 mobile hand sets, which have resulted in increased police patrolling and rapid response.

An assessment of the stock of available weapons, and their management, was carried out in nine districts which helped to identify gaps in stockpile management requirements to be addressed in compliance with International Small Arms Control Standard (ISACS).



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## SECTION 3

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# Building Resilience

**N**epal ranks amongst the most vulnerable countries in the world to natural disaster and the effects of climate change. Exacerbating this situation is the fact that nearly 70 percent of Nepal's population depends on agriculture and even slight changes in climatic conditions can have a major impact on their lives and livelihoods.

Such far-reaching consequences of climatic changes can undermine progress and reverse development gains. Addressing current and future risks requires a comprehensive risk management approach, including integration of risk reduction and preparedness in development programming—as well as a solid repository of disaster knowledge and trained human resources. UNDP has been working with the Government of Nepal to address the myriad risks faced as a result of climate change and frequent disaster events, and support vulnerable communities to enhance their resilience.



Experts measuring water depth at  
Imja Glacial Lake in Solukhumbu  
© JAS BAHADUR RAI / UNDP NEPAL



## ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS AND RESILIENCE IN NEPAL



Kathmandu

**No.1 city at risk**  
to earthquake hazards  
on a per capita basis



80%  
of the population  
at risk from  
multiple  
hazards



**4th**  
most vulnerable  
country in the  
world to climate  
change



10%  
of the world's  
potentially  
dangerous  
glacial lakes  
in Nepal



**24%**  
of population  
has no access to  
electricity

**\$ 170 million**

direct losses as a result  
of disasters in 2014



Average of  
deaths per day due to  
natural disasters

Renovated Dadapokhari pond  
in Bange Phatke, Syangja

EBA/UNDP



## PROMOTING ECOSYSTEM BASED ADAPTATION SOLUTIONS

Global climate change is imposing a serious threat to mountain ecosystems and their services, putting the lives and livelihoods of mountain communities of Nepal at risk.

In 2014, interventions in water conservation, land and ecosystem restoration, such as gully control, riverbank and soil conservation, water source renovation, and green belt establishment benefitted over 2,000 vulnerable people, and conserved over 50 hectares of land.

The Ecosystem based Adaptation project (EbA) funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF) carried out various capacity enhancement activities,



60+  
hectares of land  
conserved across 23 sites  
to stabilize slopes



17  
water sources conserved  
for irrigation, drinking  
and water recharge

including training and awareness workshops for stakeholders and community user groups on improved grass and livestock rearing, forest and rangeland management. Training was also provided to technical staff of district line-agencies on adopting ecosystem-based approaches and identifying most suitable adaptation options.

With an aim to increase awareness among local people and students about environmental conservation, UNDP supported eco clubs and other groups to celebrate Soil Conservation and Environment Days by organizing activities such as tree plantation.

UNDP also supported the Western Regional Forest Directorate to draft working guidelines for Panchase protection forest.



## SUPPORTING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Vulnerability to adverse impacts of climate change, especially in remote and mountainous communities, is a major detractor from the achievement of long-term development objectives.

In 2014, the Nepal Climate Change Support Programme (NCCSP), in partnership with Government of Nepal and UK Aid supported the development of plans for vulnerable community people to adapt to climate change and access adaptation services through the implementation of over 700 types of priority actions, benefitting over 40,000 individuals. Sixty-three percent of these beneficiaries belong to 'most vulnerable' and 'highly vulnerable' groups. Implementation of Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPA) has generated more than 60,000 person days of employment for climate vulnerable community people.

**60,000+**

person days of work generated by LAPA implementation

**40,000+**

people benefited from NCCSP activities in 14 rural districts in western Nepal

**178,000+**

litres conserved by ponds and water tanks

## ENHANCING DISASTER AND CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT

Nepal is one of the 20 most disaster-prone countries in the world, significantly contributing to the vulnerability of its population.

In 2014, UNDP with funding from Korea, UK and UNDP/BCPR continued supporting the Government of Nepal to ensure effective implementation of the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management (NSDRM). Advocacy has led to concerned ministries allocating an average 4.85 percent of their annual budgets to disaster/climate risk management issues.

*Ms. Bhadri Oli at improved water mill in Rukum*

© CHANDRA SHEKHAR KARKI





Developed with the support of UNDP, the Electronic Building Permit System (e-BPS) promotes earthquake safe construction practices, through a simplified online system compliant to National Building Code for Nepal. UNDP support for building code implementation now covers six VDCs and five municipalities of Kathmandu Valley.

In 2014, UNDP has extended its programme through two initiatives, funded by Republic of Korea and UNDP/BCPR respectively, linking livelihood and CRM in order to further improve community resilience in Chitwan and Sindhupalchok.

UNDP also promoted synergy among programmes, resulting in the integration of a disaster risk assessment and training programme into enterprise development, and providing entrepreneurship training to improve the sustainability of cardamom and broom grass farmers in Dolakha. These fast-growing and high yield crops act as soil erosion controlling measures, reducing landslide risks to the communities.

# 1,000

government officials  
trained on disaster/  
climate risk management

# 15,000

building permits in  
Kathmandu and Lalitpur  
archived in e-building  
permit system (e-BPS)

# 370

Engineers and architects  
trained on National  
Building Code and e-BPS

↓ *'Disaster Proof Your  
Business' training-of-  
trainers for enterprise  
development  
facilitators and District  
Soil Conservation Office  
officials.*

© BRONWYN RUSSEL

Disaster sensitive policy development was also supported through:

- Aiding the National Planning Commission (NPC) to integrate DRM into the current Three Year Plan (2013/14 to 2015/16) and review its mainstreaming into sub-national level planning.
- Supporting MoSTE and MoHA efforts to mainstream CRM through a C/DRM system.
- Supporting MoHA efforts to enhance coordination among DRM stakeholders in the preparation of a ten-year (2005-2014) progress report on the Hyogo Framework for Action.
- Completing a study on fire risk management existing mechanisms, effectiveness and future needs in Nepal.

UNDP has also supported the GoN in institutionalising D/CRM training and educational programmes into formal training curricula. Public national training institutions, such as Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC) and Local Training Development Academy (LDTA), have developed courses to be integrated into existing training for new government officials, and trained over 100 this year.

UNDP has supported the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) to initiate the installation of an early warning system (EWS) in the downstream of Tsho Rolpa glacial lake in Dolakha and mobilised private sector to support this initiative.



# 230+

women trained on safe  
building practices

UP CLOSE

# FOUNDATIONS OF RESILIENCE

**INTRODUCTION OF AN ELECTRONIC PERMIT SYSTEM IS PROMOTING SAFER CONSTRUCTION AND ALSO LEADING TO AN IMPROVED BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT IN THE KATHMANDU VALLEY.**

UNDP, with funding from the UK's Department for International Development (DfID), has been supporting the Government of Nepal in the implementation of an Electronic-Building Permit System (e-BPS), to ensure effective implementation of Nepal's National Building Code (NBC) to ensure safer construction practices.

Effective implementation of the building code is expected to help reduce potential losses from future earthquakes in the Kathmandu Valley – the most seismically vulnerable city in the world on a per capita basis (GeoHazards International 2002 Report).

Piloted in Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) and Lalitpur Sub-Metropolitan City (LSMC), the e-BPS has proven effective in increasing safety through compliance checking, which ensures that only building applications with designs meeting NBC standards receive permits.



The new system has also improved efficiency of government offices, allowing municipal authorities to expedite the issuance of construction permits.

"With this electronic system, the public has been able to receive quick and reliable service when they apply for new construction permits," said Ravindra Kumar Paudyal, head of e-BPS at KMC. The digitized system, said Paudyal, has relieved staff of managing and manually processing stacks of files.

The system was initially tested in KMC and LSMC by archiving old building permit files and creating a database

of over 15,000 approved buildings, contributing to increased accountability and transparency. Currently, e-BPS is operational in 14 KMC wards and the government plans to gradually extend it to major cities across the country as it gains wider acceptance from those seeking construction permits.

"The new system has made the building permit application process quick and easy. We can monitor the progress of our application from home. So it is better than before," said Bhakta Maya Budhathoki of Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC), who received his construction permit online.

Interestingly, the system has not only made it easier for citizens to apply and receive building permits, but also unwittingly improved Nepal's business environment. The World Bank's Report on business index mentions the e-BPS system as substantially contributing to improving Nepal's ranking.

Acknowledging that building code compliance and enforcement is not only a technical issue, UNDP, with support from partners, is working on related policy, social and financial issues. For instance, advocacy with the Nepal Rastra Bank has led to a directive to all banking and financial institutions to ensure that all loans and investments are code compliant. However, in order to ensure sustainability of this system, an appropriate institutional set up, supported by political and policy commitments, needs to be priorities for national as well as local bodies, once support from UNDP and other development partners is gradually withdrawn.

## PLANTING SMALL SEEDS OF BIG CHANGE

Environmental degradation, such as the destruction of ecosystems, loss of biodiversity and accumulation of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere, are life-threatening challenges that endanger all. However, poor and vulnerable communities are most at risk because they depend on access to natural resources and ecosystem services for their livelihoods.

In 2014, UNDP, through the GEF funded Small Grants Programme, supported local communities to implement 18 new projects and continued support to 25 ongoing projects. UNDP's support was instrumental in mobilizing local communities for conservation of Jagadishpur reservoir and Charinge Daha Lake in Dang district. Bhoj Raj Shrestha of Dolphin Conservation Centre, recipient of UNDP's small grants in 2008, won the NAST Scientist Award 2014 for his continued effort in dolphin conservation in Kailali.

With the support of UNDP, a 5-kilowatt solar panel, with a thermal water heater, was installed in Great Compassion Sakyapa School, in Lo-Manthang, benefitting 120 people, and reducing firewood and dung consumption by 60 percent and 50 percent respectively.

As part of policy support to ban mercury in hospitals, UNDP's small grants projects have supported two hospitals in Kathmandu and Lalitpur, and three health posts in Chitwan to become mercury free through training of staff and management on harmful effects of mercury, and providing examples of alternatives. Likewise, another UNDP project supported the development of guidelines to standardise the provision of water and sanitation to students of a school in Bhaktapur.



↑ Discussion on participatory conservation of wetland resources  
© AID NEPAL

➡ Migratory birds in Jagadishpur reservoir area  
© VIVEK SHARMA



**200+**

biogas plants mounted





## SUPPORTING RENEWABLE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

Access to energy in Nepal remains a critical barrier to long-term development. Today, 24 percent of Nepali households do not have access to electricity.

In 2014, the Renewable Energy for Rural Livelihoods project was able to provide access to electricity to over 8,300 households (45,900 people), through installation of 26 micro-hydro plants, producing 766 kW of energy in total. To date, an estimated 286,300 people have access to improved energy as a result of UNDP supported interventions. It also supported 500 local level entrepreneurs to engage in business activities in coordination with Cottage and Small Industry Development Board for rural energy based medium small and micro enterprise promotion. It also supported various community initiatives, such as installation and operation of a tea dryer and pilot water lifting project.

UNDP also contributed to the revision of the Government's current Subsidy Policy to include specific support to private sector and larger renewable energy systems. This is expected to boost private sector contributions and involvement in the promotion of renewable energy.

*24 percent of Nepali households do not have access to electricity.*

**26**

micro-hydro plants established in 2014



**45,900+**

people gained access to energy

**500**

local entrepreneurs supported to engage in energy-based business activities

## PROTECTING DOWNSTREAM COMMUNITIES

UNDP has been supporting the Government of Nepal in its efforts to reduce the risks of glacial lake outburst in the downstream communities of Tsho Rolpa and Imja lakes and floods in the Tarai and Churia Range.

In 2014, UNDP carried out preliminary work related to the design study of lowering Imja lake by at least three meters. The lake, located at an altitude of 5010 meters in Solukhumbu district, is among six glacial lakes at most immediate risk of bursting.

Furthermore, in order to mitigate potential flood risks in the Tarai, UNDP supported the construction of embankments, bioengineering works and 30 elevated tube wells in Mahottari, Siraha, Saptari and Udaypur districts. It also supported the establishment of a system to regularly monitor the flow of sediment and debris in rivers, expected to aid measures to mitigate risks posed by monsoon flooding in the rivers of the Tarai and Churia Range, averting extensive damage to human life and property.



## CONNECTING WITH NATIONAL GRID

UNDP's support to advocacy efforts in pioneering grid interconnection led to the introduction of modalities for interconnection of mini grid, mini and micro hydro with the national grid, adopting grid standards and technical specifications. This opening up of grid interconnection will ensure sustainability of micro hydro plants even when national grids reach their area of operation.

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## SECTION 4

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# Supporting Nepal's Democratic Transition

One of Nepal's fundamental challenges in its efforts for long-term, sustainable development progress, lies in successfully completing its democratic transition. The transition was initiated by the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2006. UNDP assists the Government of Nepal, political parties and civil society organizations to successfully navigate the challenging transitional period by promoting participatory dialogue on contentious issues, timely engagement with emerging political, resource or identity tensions, and greater awareness of localized conflict dynamics among development actors.



Political leaders, government officials and civil society representatives from Chitwan participating in a dialogue workshop

© MAN HARKHA THAPA

## DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION IN NEPAL



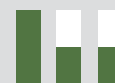
**Comprehensive  
Peace Agreement**  
signed in 2006

New constitution  
**5 Years**  
overdue, according to  
guidelines set by CPA



UN Mission  
supported the peace  
process for  
5 years  
(2007-2011)

Progress on CPA pillars



Completed: integration  
Outstanding: Constitution and  
Transitional justice

**15,585**  
out of 19,602 ex combatants  
reintegrated into civilian life



Approximately Rs. 13 billion  
spent in post-war rehabilitation/  
reconstruction/relief  
(as of FY 2013/14)



2 Constituent  
Assemblies (CAs)  
have been elected with  
a primary mandate to  
produce a new  
constitution.

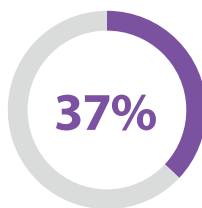


## ADDRESSING COMMUNITY TENSIONS

Towards preventing future conflicts, the Conflict Prevention Programme (CPP), funded by UNDP and the UN Peacebuilding Fund, is building collaborative leadership and dialogue skills amongst politicians and youth leaders on contentious transitional issues.

Under the Collaborative Leadership and Dialogue (CLD) initiative, UNDP convened a series of confidential dialogues between senior mediapersons and second tier political leaders to identify key issues of political transition, and help each group understand the nuances of constitution writing.

The Editors Forum, formed with the support of CLD, meets periodically to assess the role of media in



of over 1,000 government, civil society and political leaders equipped with collaborative leadership and dialogue skills are women

↓ *Members of Madhesi-Muslim Youth Dialogue Forum in Banke engaging in a dialogue to analyze the challenges of community's access to resources*  
@AJAY DAS

giving a positive direction to the peace process, and to develop common grounds for consensus on key issues. This initiative has helped editors reflect on their role in peace process, and develop shared ideas of how they can contribute jointly to help political actors conclude the transition smoothly.

With CPP's support, national and local leaders have used CLD as tools to address divisive issues that could escalate into more serious tensions. Seven multi stakeholders dialogue fora were established in 2014 to provide space for government officials, political party leaders and civil society actors to identify and discuss issues of concerns in their respective regions. For instance, religious leaders, who have skills in CLD approach continue to address possible religious tension between Muslim and other communities in Banke district.



UP CLOSE

# TALKING SPACE

**BRINGING THE MEDIA AND POLITICAL LEADERS TOGETHER ON A REFLECTIVE DIALOGUE SPACE PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO DIAGNOSE THE STATUS OF THE CONSTITUTION-DRAFTING PROCESS WHILE HELPING GENERATE GREATER UNDERSTANDING ON STUMBLING BLOCKS.**

Nepal's second Constituent Assembly (CA), which was elected in November 2013, promised to deliver a new constitution by the end of January 2015. However, political negotiations on the content of the constitution have not made sufficient progress on the issues that have remained most contentious since the first CA. Nepal's transition to peace thus continues to be marked by political uncertainty. Promulgation of a new constitution, one of the key components of the 2006 Comprehensive Peace Agreement remains incomplete. Even if a constitution is delivered in the coming months, its implementation will meet challenges.

In order to reflect on the intricacies of the contentious issues and use structured dialogue to support the democratic transition, UNDP's Conflict Prevention Programme (CPP) convened senior editors of national newspapers and

influential second-tier leaders from major political parties in December 2014. This reflective dialogue space gave both sets of actors an opportunity to diagnose the status of the constitution-drafting process, while helping generate greater understanding on stumbling blocks in on-going political negotiations.

The off-the-record and in-depth exchange covered several key sticking points in CA negotiations. The editors and politicians explored the dynamics and intricacies of negotiation complexities. Party leaders from all sides displayed willingness to compromise on key conflicting issues. They also gave voice to concerns about a lack of substantive discussion among stakeholders to find consensus on contentious issues.

The senior editors advocated for various middle grounds to forge consensus. They agreed that the role of the media in a divided society can have major impact on shaping discourse on

contentious issues and greatly influence the abatement of opposing sentiments. One of the participants remarked, "embarking on federalism is the beginning of confrontational politics, therefore deeper dialogue is the need of the hour. The media plays a constructive role in making those dialogues healthy and productive."

Members of both groups noted that this was the first time that senior political leaders and media figures had ever come together for such a deep and open conversation,

and that it was a unique and important opportunity to engage with each other over these issues. One senior editor said, "I think the reflections and sharing experiences are beneficial for all of us, and even though we might not reach a conclusion, we can learn from, and help, each other." The participants valued the dialogue space and expressed interest in continuing this type of reflection on ways to support the CA in successfully promulgating a new constitution and enhance the media's constructive role in mending societal ruptures.





## SUPPORTING THE CONSTITUTION PROCESS

UNDP's Support to Participatory Constitution Building in Nepal (SPCBN) project, in partnership with Denmark, Norway and Switzerland has been facilitating international expertise to assist the Constituent Assembly (CA) Secretariat and Assembly members assess and reach important decisions. Public participation in the constitution making process requires an informed public debate on the main features of the constitutional issues and choices facing the people and the CA.

In 2014, UNDP continued to promote informed debate on the major key contentious constitutional issues,

↑ Workshop on 'Women Participation in the constitution making process and electoral system'

by MACHINDRA JIMI

**140+**

political leaders and CA members engaged in 24 interactions to narrow gaps on constitutional issues

including federalism, electoral system, citizenship issues, forms of government, judicial system, and inclusion. The project engaged with political party leaders and CA/committee members and facilitated the development of compromise options by forming a group of experts to brainstorm issues regularly.

Over the past year, more than 1,930 political leaders and CA members (38% women) enhanced their knowledge on key constitutional issues through 44 dialogues/interactions, which helped to narrow the gaps on key contentious constitutional issues. The project also trained 8640 former local body representatives, civil society members, local leaders and activist, including general public, on these contentious issues.





Through informed debate, UNDP worked to enhance the knowledge of women and excluded groups on their meaningful participation in the constitution making process.

UNDP published six knowledge products, including those related to federalism in Nepal, women's participation and lessons learned from the first CA.



**640+**

journalists trained on constitutional issues to help disseminate correct information to the general public

Leaders of political parties, government and civil society addressing a programme on 'Electoral system for the meaningful participation of women' jointly organized by Women Act and UNDP

© MACHINDRA JIMI



**270+**

lawyers trained on constitutional issues



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## SECTION 5

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# Promoting Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

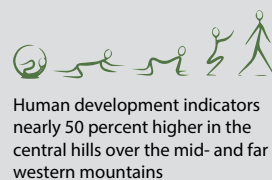
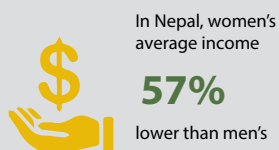
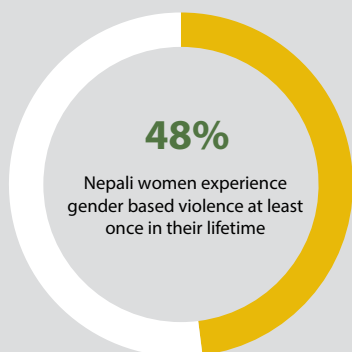
In Nepal, and across South Asia, gender-based discrimination, violence, and almost watertight gendered division of labour prevails, making the society unjust and unequal in many respects. Addressing these issues remains a major priority for the Government of Nepal, as reflected in the Interim Constitution of Nepal and the Thirteenth Plan.

UNDP promotes empowerment amongst socially and economically excluded groups by working at the grassroots level with individuals and communities to find innovative ways for the equitable development of marginalized and disenfranchised groups. UNDP also works at the policy level to ensure the voices of women and socially excluded groups are heard and represented at the decision making level.



Armed Police Force receiving electoral training at the Electoral Education and Information Center  
© Roohan Kadaraya

## GENDER EQUALITY & SOCIAL INCLUSION IN NEPAL



Gender empowerment is highest in the eastern region and lowest in the far western region



While Nepal Constituent Assembly has **30 percent women**, the number at decision making level in other national institutions is much lower





## WORKING FROM A STRONG EVIDENCE BASE

In 2014 UNDP supported the production of several important knowledge products that significantly enhanced understanding of the current picture of exclusion in Nepal, and form a solid knowledge base to inform gender and social inclusion responsive policy and programme development for UNDP, government and development partners.

- The Nepal Human Development Report 2014 provides a comprehensive picture of the inclusion issues facing Nepal. The report not only includes key gender indicators, such as Gender Development Index (GDI), but also breaks down and analyses development progress by social group and geographical location. Recommendations to policy makers on consolidation and acceleration of development gains also provide a solid basis for future policy and programme development.
- In 2014, UNDP launched an important report on Nepali Masculinities & Gender Based Violence, which has generated significant discussion and inspired innovative problem solving. Evidence from the study shows that social norms defining gender roles shape the country's institutions. This results in a dominating role for men in socio-political and legal institutions, and tends to reinforce an unequal gender order. The report also highlighted that knowledge on laws combating GBV is lower amongst the less educated, poorer and younger Nepalis.
- In 2014 UNDP conducted an Impact Study on Empowerment of Women and other disadvantaged groups through micro-enterprise development. The study found that MEDEP has

*Nepal Human Development Report 2014 provides a comprehensive picture of the inclusion issues facing Nepal. The report analyses development progress by social group and geographical location.*

Interactive game "Kasto purush kasto nari" designed to challenge gender stereotypes  
UNDP NEPAL

significantly contributed to the empowerment of women in terms of increased income, enhanced participation and greater role in decision-making.

- A booklet on Women Participating in the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, highlighted the encouraging growth of the news media, and the important role it can play in strengthening women's political participation by enhancing women's portrayal as active political participants and leaders, rather than perpetuating stereotypes of women in their traditional roles.

## BATTLING GENDER STEREOTYPES

Findings of the Masculinities Report inspired UNDP to think outside of the box for a way to battle harmful social norms associated with prevalent notions of masculinities. As a result, an innovative video quiz was designed to draw attention to instances of everyday gender-based discrimination and violence, by reversing traditional gender roles to demonstrate how disturbing the norm truly is.



The Quiz was completed by a little over the original target of 500 adolescents and youth between 13-19 years of age, and received over 40,000 likes, reaching the walls of over 1.1 million people on Facebook alone. The project was featured in a blog on UNDP's global page during International Day to Eliminate Violence against Women, and generated excellent discussion on issues of gender bias.

A survey at the end of the video quiz recorded that over 90 percent of the 570 youths who completed the quiz stated it had prodded them to think about often ignored forms of violence in their community. It also highlighted important areas for improvement. For instance, a third of respondents agreed dressing provocatively invites harassment.

This initiative's success is planned to be replicated and scaled up. UNDP is committed to making a persistent effort to affect lasting behaviour change.

*In 2014, UNDP supported inclusive policy development with numerous government bodies across a variety of fields.*

▶ *Theatre artists perform a street drama to raise awareness against gender-based violence.*

© UNDP NEPAL

## INCLUSIVE POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Because changes in cultural attitudes and roles need strong legal and policy support to be sustainable, UNDP also works with the government to enhance its institutional protection of women and socially excluded groups. In 2014, UNDP supported inclusive policy development with numerous government bodies across a variety of fields. Examples of such support include:

### LEGAL CHANGES

- Technical assistance to the Women's Security Pressure Group (WSPG) in organising a series of national policy dialogues between leaders from women's organizations and political and civil society stakeholders, resulted in the endorsement of the Sexual Harassment in Workplace (Eradication) Bill, 2014.





## TRADITIONAL AND NON-TRADITIONAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Born into a disadvantaged Magar family, Chitrakali Budha changed her fate through hard work, dedication and the support of UNDP. Today, Chitrakali is a successful allo entrepreneur and community leader. This year she opened a workshop in Lalitpur, and two sales outlets in Jhamsikhel and Thamel, Kathmandu; also, with the support of UNDP, she signed an agreement with a Kathmandu carpet factory to supply 1,000 kgs of yarn.

From a humble beginning she has developed and honed her technical and business skills with the support of UNDP, and has expanded her business exponentially, directly employing 19 other women, while also purchasing allo yarn and handmade goods from nearly 4,000 regular suppliers. With a view to empowering other poor and disenfranchised women, she has provided allo processing training to several hundreds of women from nearby communities, encouraging them to become self-reliant.

Chitrakali is a staunch supporter of women's rights, and works tirelessly to breakdown traditional gender-roles through participation and leadership in several professional and financial organisations. Her meaningful participation in these institutions emboldens other women from marginalized communities to assert their rights to participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives.

UNDP also supports women's skills development in non-traditional roles, promoting their ability to act as leaders and change makers in key fields. One such field is disaster risk management, a critical challenge for Nepal. In 2014 UNDP designed and delivered two training programmes specifically for women on earthquake resistant building practices, National Building Code (NBC) implementation, and the newly establish e-BPS (electronic Building Permit System).

Female mason training in the Kathmandu valley  
© UNDP NEPAL

Allo entrepreneur Chitrakali Budha exhibiting her products at Far Western Regional Festival in Dhnagadhi  
© INDRA DHOJ KSHETRI

Trainings were held for female masons, benefitting 43 women, and separately for female architects, benefitting 36 women. This training significantly enhances in-demand skills, and sets these women apart from other masons in an environment of increased awareness of disaster risks. The beneficiaries of their training have experienced increased confidence as a result of their exclusive skill set. After training, female masons and architects have been registered in a database of building professionals trained in NBC.

To advance the sustainability of women's role in safe construction practices, UNDP also conducted a training of trainers on earthquake safe construction practices for 17 female engineers, enabling them to further train masons in the future.





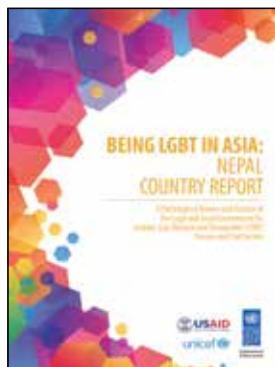


## POLICY REVIEW

- Review of civil service acts and regulations from a gender and social inclusion (GESI) perspective to inform policy amendments.

## INSTITUTIONALISATION

- Technical support in institutionalising the Electoral Commission of Nepal's Gender and Social Inclusion policy including the establishment of GESI Unit and formation of Gender Committee at ECN.



- Implemented 'Being LGBT in Asia' initiative, a regional initiative to assess and analyse the legal and socio-economic situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and intersex people and institutions, resulting in the publication of a Nepal country report with recommendations for action.

↑ *First group of young lawyers from the legal internship programme*  
© DILA PANT

*15 young lawyers from target groups were supported for six-month internship opportunities with legal firms.*

## IMPROVING ACCESS TO LEGAL PROFESSIONS

Increasing representation of women and excluded groups in the legal field was a focus area for UNDP in 2014. Affirmative action, particularly in law scholarship and internship schemes, was designed with the purpose of improving representation of, and sensitivity towards, excluded groups in the legal profession. Comprehensive guidelines were prepared and procedures put in place to provide BA/LLB law scholarships to students from excluded groups. In 2014 these scholarships were awarded to 20 students. Special coaching classes were conducted, targeting students from Mid- and Far Western regions to enable them to apply for scholarships.

UNDP also facilitated to place candidates in law firms. As a result, 15 young lawyers from target groups were supported for six-month internship opportunities with legal firms. These young lawyers are now able to practice law at any level of the judicial system. Nepal Bar Association has agreed to provide professional support to young lawyers.



# THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS



The United Nations Volunteer (UNV) has been operating in Nepal since 1974. Both national and internationally recruited UNVs have a long history of providing operational and programmatic support to UN agencies. In 2014, UNV Nepal recruited over 25 Nepali men and women to serve as International UN Volunteers in Congo, Eritrea, Laos, Liberia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Currently, over 75 Nepali are serving as International UN Volunteers in over 16 countries in the world.

In 2014, 58 UN Volunteers held positions in Nepal with IOM, NRRC, UN Women, UNDP, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRC, UNRCPD and WFP in six regions of Nepal and Kathmandu. These volunteers supported their respective UN agencies in working with the Government of Nepal to eradicate poverty, empower women, uphold human rights, promote safe migration and protect children, among others.

### LGCDP IN FOCUS

UNV Nepal continues to support peace and development in the country through volunteerism and capacity development. UNV Nepal has been contributing to the Local Governance and Community Development Programme (LGCDP) of the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) since Phase I.

Phase I involved working closely with the National Development Volunteer Service (NDVS) to promote volunteerism for development. UNV funded and coordinated the deployment of 100 national NDVS volunteers, who supported LGCDP community empowerment activities. UNV also provided NDVS staff with capacity development training during the process of formulating a national volunteering policy, and assisted in the establishment of a Volunteer Resource and Information Centre and an Integrated Volunteer Management Information System at NDVS.

Phase II of LGCDP provides the systems, procedures, structures, tools and capacities for facilitating the transformation of local bodies into local government entities. Building on the experience from the UNV component of Phase I, in Phase II UNV Nepal is supporting MoFALD in its new pilot initiative: "University Youth IT Volunteers". This initiative

aims to digitise the operational procedures of the Government of Nepal in addition to strengthening and maintaining the IT infrastructure of local government bodies.

Under this programme, 136 Volunteers are placed as 'ICT Volunteers' for an initial period of two years in each of the 75 District Development Committees (DDCs) as well as 58 municipalities and three in the MoFALD. Additionally, UNV Nepal has placed eight National UNVs as 'ICT Experts' in six Regional Cluster Units (RCU) and two in the Program Coordination Unit (PCU) of the Ministry to oversee and coordinate ICT Volunteers and their activities.

### NATIONAL YOUTH UN VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN NEPAL

Five national UN Youth Volunteers have been recruited for the first time in Nepal to work with UNDP's Electoral Support Project (ESP).

The modality of national Youth Volunteers came into effect with an aim to provide opportunity to less experienced Nepali youths in the UN working environment. Youth Volunteers are offered diverse opportunities for learning and development, with an aim to strengthen the volunteer's skills and competences, improve the quality of the assignment and keep the volunteer's motivation high.





*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

# UNDP NEPAL & THE UN SYSTEM



UNDP works closely with the 18 other UN agencies in Nepal under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2013-2017. The UNDAF is signed between the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and the Government of Nepal (GoN) to guide development work of all UN agencies. The Framework focuses on the needs and rights of the most vulnerable, and supports effective governance and stability, livelihoods, basic services, disaster risk management, conflict prevention.



The UNDAF addresses Nepal's key development challenges and sets out interventions structured around three priorities: advancing equality through equity, protecting development gains and creating an enabling environment for enhanced international cooperation.

As the custodian of the Resident Coordinator (RC) system, UNDP provides financial and management support to the office of the UN RC and is an active member of the UNCT and the Security Management Team.

UNDP is actively engaging in joint UN efforts under the UN Fund for Peace in Nepal. UNDP leads efforts to ensure a participatory and secure transition, with UN Women, and contributes to providing catalytic support on land issues, with IOM and UN Habitat.

Guided by the principles of the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Coordination, UNDP chairs the UN Monitoring and Evaluation Group, and contributed to the preparation of the UNDAF Annual Report 2014.

UNDP provides support to UNCT in analyzing the country's disaster situation and offers programmatic

support for preparedness and early recovery, in coordination with UNOCHA.

As a result of the immense vulnerability to disaster risks, the Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium was founded, around five flagship areas in 2010. UNDP facilitates Flagship Five: strengthening disaster risk management policy and institutions, and also provides administrative and financial support to the Consortium's operations.

As a member of the UN Gender Theme Group, UNDP contributed to the development of its strategy and supported CSOs for the Beijing +20 Review. UNDP also contributed to preparing the strategy for coordination on gender and social inclusion (GESI).

As a member of the Operational Management Team, manager of Common Services and leader of different operational task forces, UNDP contributes heavily in building a "One UN" system of operations. This year UNDP led the joint procurement of seven different common services, managed the UN Traineeship Programme, and provided operational services to 14 residential and 19 non-residential UN agencies.

# FUNDING SOURCES & PARTNERSHIPS

In 2014, UNDP implemented projects with a total value of about \$34 million across Nepal. Out of this \$34 million, 26% percent came from UNDP Core funds, 66% from bilateral and multilateral development partners, and 8% from Trust funds including the Global Environment Facility and UNDP-South Korea MDG Trust Fund. The highest expenditure was in the area of Governance and Rule of Law (39%) followed by Poverty and Inclusion (26%), Democratic Transition (18%) and Environment, Energy, Climate and Disaster Management (17%).

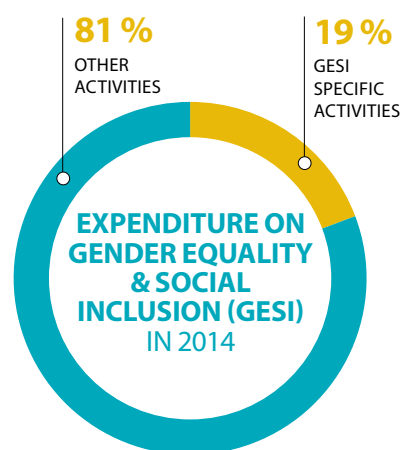
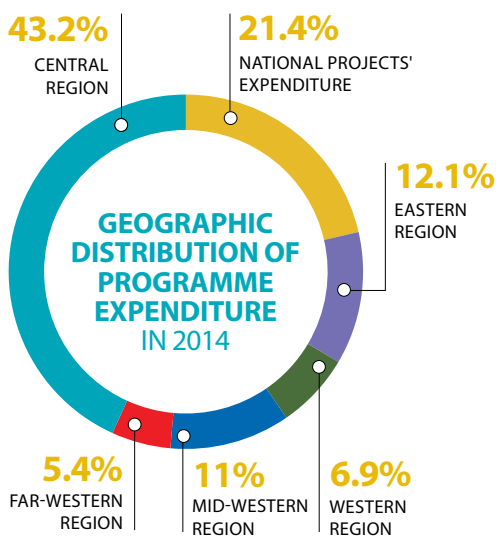
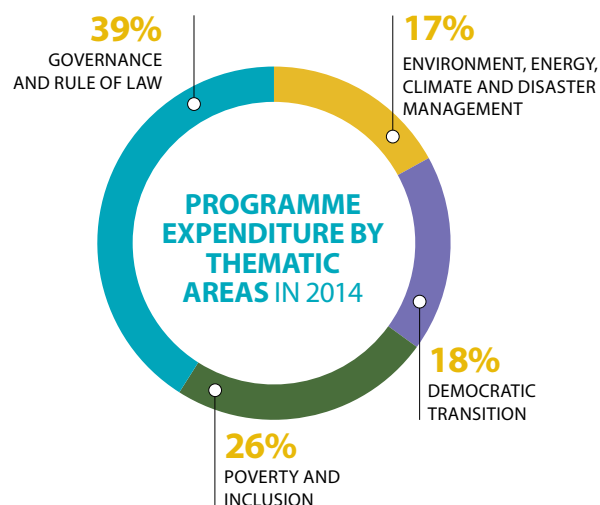
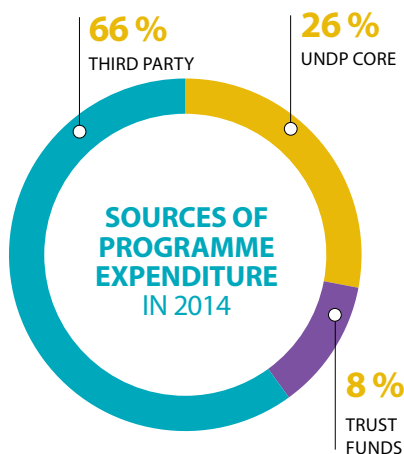
Several new project funding partnerships were started in 2014 with Denmark, Finland, Norway, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, USAID, and the UN Peace Fund.

## FUNDS RECEIVED IN 2014

UNDP received a total of USD 27,643,645 in 2014. The top five bilateral donors are: UK, Australia, Norway, Finland and Denmark.

DONORS	IN USD
UNDP Core	8,691,000
United Kingdom	4,818,091
Australia	2,547,852
Norway	2,189,986
Finland	2,082,756
Global Environment Facility	1,866,844
Denmark	1,689,287
UNDP HQ Thematic Trust Fund	1,182,799
Nepal	1,075,387
Switzerland	491,803
UN Peace Fund	447,656
Republic of Korea	99,269
Other Trust Funds	216,724
World Bank	164,641
United States of America	64,650
Central Queensland University	14,900
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27,643,645</b>





Out of 20 projects in 2014, 13 had significant volume of field-based expenditure in all development regions and 7 projects had national level activities focusing on policy and institutional capacity development. This chart shows that 78.6% of the total expenditure was spent on the 5 regions and 21.4% was spent on national level activities.

Out of the total expenditure in 2014, 19% was spent on gender equality and social inclusion promoting activities. Some examples of such activities include gender-based violence (GBV) trend analysis, training and counseling for women and individuals from excluded groups to prepare for the civil service exams, supporting women and excluded groups among the poor communities to improve their income, and supporting various Government entities to develop GESI strategies and policies.

UNDP

# CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS



AUSTRALIA



DENMARK



EUROPEAN UNION



FINLAND



GERMANY



JAPAN



NEPAL



NORWAY



REPUBLIC OF KOREA



SWITZERLAND



UNITED KINGDOM

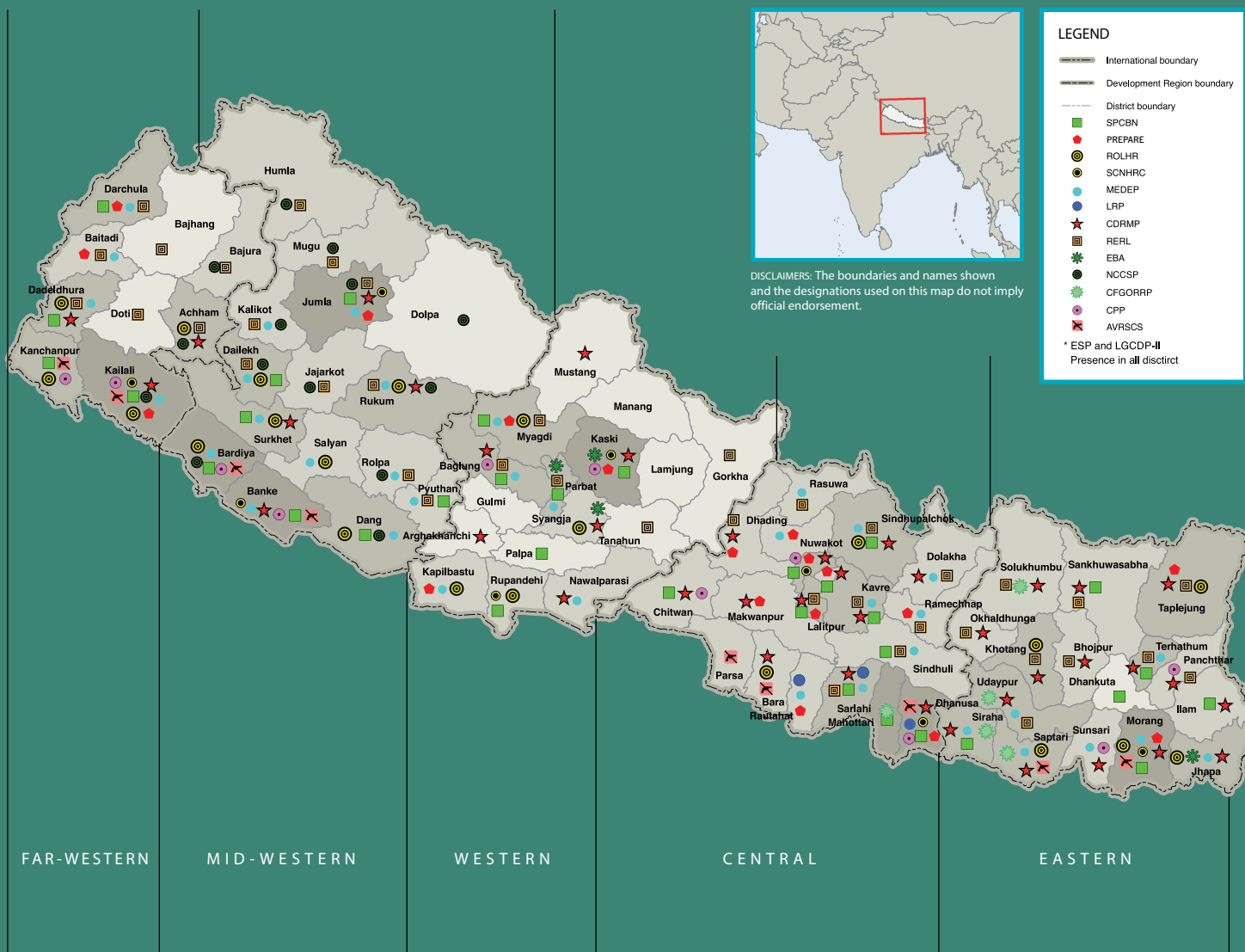


UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA

# UNDP NEPAL

## FIELD LEVEL PRESENCE

AS OF JANUARY 2015





## LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>AMP</b>	Aid Management Platform	<b>LRP</b>	Livelihood Recovery for Peace
<b>AVRSCS</b>	Armed Violence Reduction and Strengthening Community Security	<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>CBS</b>	Central Bureau of Statistics	<b>MEDEP</b>	Micro Enterprise Development Programme
<b>CDRMP</b>	Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Programme	<b>MEDPA</b>	Micro Enterprise Development for Poverty Alleviation
<b>CFGORRP</b>	Community Based Flood and Glacial Lake Outburst Risk Reduction Project	<b>MoFALD</b>	Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development
<b>CIAA</b>	Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority	<b>MoGA</b>	Ministry of General Administration
<b>CLD</b>	Collaborative Leadership and Dialogue	<b>MoHA</b>	Ministry of Home Affairs
<b>CPP</b>	Conflict Prevention Programme	<b>MoI</b>	Ministry of Industry
<b>DCEAMC</b>	Developing Capacity for Effective Aid Management and Coordination	<b>MoPR</b>	Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction
<b>DDC</b>	District Development Committee	<b>MoSTE</b>	Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment
<b>EbA</b>	Ecosystem based Adaptation	<b>NASC</b>	Nepal Administrative Staff College
<b>ECN</b>	Election Commission of Nepal	<b>NCCSP</b>	Nepal Climate Change Support Programme
<b>ESP</b>	Electoral Support Project	<b>NCOC</b>	Nepal Crime Observation Centre
<b>EWS</b>	Early Warning System	<b>NHRC</b>	National Human Rights Commission
<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence	<b>NPC</b>	National Planning Commission
<b>GEF-SGP</b>	Global Environment Facility – Small Grants Programme	<b>NRRC</b>	Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium
<b>GESI</b>	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion	<b>NSDS</b>	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
<b>GoN</b>	Government of Nepal	<b>NSDRM</b>	National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management
<b>HDI</b>	Human Development Index	<b>PREPARE</b>	Project to Prepare the Public Administration for State Reforms
<b>ILO</b>	International Labor Organization	<b>RoLHR</b>	Rule of Law and Human Rights
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration	<b>SCNHRC</b>	Strengthening Capacity of National Human Rights Commission
<b>JSCC</b>	Justice Sector Coordination Committee	<b>SLAC</b>	Socio Legal Aid Centre
<b>KMC</b>	Kathmandu Metropolitan City	<b>SNPMC</b>	Strengthening National Planning and Monitoring Capacity
<b>LAPA</b>	Local Adaptation Plan of Action	<b>SPCBN</b>	Support to Participatory Constitution Building in Nepal
<b>LDTA</b>	Local Development Training Academy	<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>LGCDP</b>	Local Governance and Community Development Programme	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
		<b>UNV</b>	United Nations Volunteers
		<b>VDC</b>	Village Development Committee
		<b>WCF</b>	Ward Citizen Forum



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