

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Annual Report 2018

UNDP IN NEPAL



↑ COVER: *Jit Bahadur Chaudhary grows bananas in Tikapur. Farmers in Nepal are adopting climate-smart agriculture with help from UNDP.*

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*Youth take part in a clean up campaign
at Patan Durbar Square on World Environment Day.*

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FOREWORD



THE 2017 elections have opened a new period of stability in Nepal, allowing the country to focus on its development aims. Over this past year, concrete steps were taken towards federalization. This new system has the potential to foster inclusion and reduce inequalities in some of the most disadvantaged areas in Nepal, in effect, giving a voice to the underrepresented. With UNDP's assistance, mechanisms were put in place to increase civil society participation, electoral institutions became stronger, and service delivery and access to justice provided more equal results for Nepal's citizens.

As Nepal finds its footing with federalization, it is leading the world in its implementation of Sustainable Development Goals programming. As one of the first nations to submit its SDG baselines to the international community, Nepal leads the pack with innovative SDG thinking. In 2018, with UNDP's assistance, the SDG Localization Platform was established bringing together the government and all stakeholders in a unified Agenda 2030 mission. While SDG localization is underway, the Government of Nepal is mapping out its funding needs with costing and financing projections. Creating a conducive environment for domestic and international investment will further strengthen the bedrock of Nepal's development goals, which UNDP will provide technical support as needed. With the newly-launched SDG Accelerator Labs worldwide, UNDP can offer Nepal expertise it can draw upon to push its agenda further and faster.

Private sector participation is vital in achieving the SDGs, and in Nepal some big names have taken big steps towards these Goals. As seen with the Chaudhary Group and Yeti Airlines, when companies transform their models of business in the name of sustainable development, everyone wins. Implementing an SDG strategy in the corporate world is not only good for social responsibility, but it's good for the bottom line. Nepal's public and private institutions must be commended for their leadership and innovation in creating integrated pathways for achieving the development goals.

Also in 2018, UNDP wrapped up its flagship poverty reduction programme known as MEDEP. Funded by the Government of Australia, MEDEP became the go-to entrepreneurial programme that, in the end, provided 140,000 people access to economic opportunities. Due to

the positive results of MEDEP, the Government has launched its own version fully integrating this successful programme into its strategy of building resilience amongst some of the most disadvantaged groups like women and minorities.

Pushing Nepal towards a resilient nation also requires taking action to reduce disaster risks. In 2018, with help from UNDP, Nepal developed its national policy and strategic plan for disaster risk reduction, which lays the groundwork for the future development of DRR instruments and mechanisms. This is a significant investment from Nepal's Government towards institutionalizing DRR to better protect people and property, which is in line with the Sendai Framework for DRR. Furthermore, in 2018, UNDP helped the Government to expedite the earthquake reconstruction, ensuring all new buildings meet building codes to better withstand future shocks.

Lastly, State-structure reform in Nepal runs concurrently with the global reform of the United Nations, which includes changes within UNDP. The corporate changes brought about by this reform provide an opportunity to rethink UNDP's structure while remaining a reliable go-to partner in development and poverty reduction. In Nepal, UNDP has been successful in raising development funding from non-traditional donors, such as the recent partnerships with China, India, Qatar and Thailand, from which UNDP was able to provide post-disaster recovery programming in hard-hit areas.

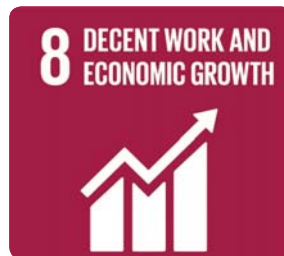
We look forward to 2019 and into 2020 as Nepal realizes its SDG funding structure, opens pathways for investment to build the economy, address challenges of climate change, and take significant steps towards eradicating extreme poverty and inequality. The nation has a young population that is one of Nepal's most valuable resources. It is from this group that innovative solutions to development problems will come. It is UNDP's privilege to work alongside Nepal towards Agenda 2030.

RENAUD MEYER
UNDP Country Director

VALERIE JULLIAND
UN Resident Coordinator and
UNDP Resident Representative



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



UNDP & the SDGs

The Sustainable Development Goals are approaching their four-year mark of a 15-year Agenda. In this short time, Nepal has laid a strong foundation in order to tackle its national SDG priorities. Since the beginning of the SDGs in 2015, UNDP has been a reliable source of SDG expertise assisting Nepal in its commendable early progress.

Nepal was one of the first nations to take stock of its SDG baselines; the starting point to measure the SDGs. One of the most important steps of the SDG Agenda is to turn global ideas into local action, tailoring the Global Goals to meet the national needs. In 2018, UNDP helped Nepal set up the SDG Localization Platform, a mechanism for Nepal's Government and other stakeholders to mainstream and localize the SDGs. With a network of experts and knowledge partners, and the ability to pull in needed resources, the Platform has engaged with governments, the private sector and civil society.

UNDP's support has been customized to meet the special needs of both the national and sub-national structures. In 2018, the National Planning Commission, with help from UNDP, aligned current policies and monitoring frameworks with the SDGs. At the sub-national level, UNDP partnered with provincial governments, CSOs and the private sector to help them undertake their roles in accelerating the SDGs. At least two provincial governments, Gandaki Province and Province 5 prepared their first provincial SDGs baseline reports.

To support the SDG localization process, UNDP published and distributed to all local governments a package of SDG-related knowledge products in Nepali, including the national SDG baseline report, SDG-aligned monitoring and evaluation guidelines for national and provincial governments, and SDG booklets.

Good data is vital to SDG achievement, particularly at

the local and sub-national levels. To help Nepal access reliable data, UNDP supported the Central Bureau of Statistic to establish an SDG-friendly data profile framework, the Online National Data Profile (ONDP). This online database is expected to integrate and centralize data and statistics dissemination at all levels of government. The ONDP provides disaggregated data for key targets and indicators of all 17 SDGs across all 753 local government units and seven provincial governments.

The private sector has a crucial role to play in the SDGs, and last year, UNDP engaged with the private sector through the Business Coalition for SDGs, an informal alliance created in 2017 under the facilitation of UNDP, to promote ethical, responsible and sustainable businesses that contribute to the SDGs. The coalition is a voluntary group of likeminded enterprises who want to align their business operations with the SDGs and collaborate to achieve sustainable development. In 2018, Yeti Airlines worked with local NGOs to clean up about 40 tons of waste from Mount Everest. As part its voluntary contribution, Yeti Airlines initiated a voluntary carbon footprint audit exercise to become a climate neutral company. The airline aims to become carbon natural through emission reduction and offsetting.

UNDP also continued its partnership with media, CSOs and youth organizations. UNDP partnered with NGO Federation of Nepal, an umbrella body of non-governmental organizations, to mark the third year of the SDGs in all seven provincial headquarters. The celebration provided an opportunity for all stakeholders to take stock of the SDG progress. Similarly, through partnerships with over 30 organizations, over 2,000 youth from across the country were directly engaged in a wide range of activities, including SDG innovation, raising awareness and mobilizing volunteers. UNDP also partnered with a number of media organizations, including the Society of Economic Journalists Nepal (SEJON), Nepal Tourism Journalists Association, and Federation of Nepalese Journalists Gorkha Chapter to build the capacity of local media in reporting the SDGs.

Two provincial governments, Gandaki Province and Province 5 prepared their first provincial SDGs baseline reports.

FOSTERING INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

RESULTS BY

Implemented over **30 livelihood** promotion activities, such as skills trainings to micro entrepreneurs and equipment support to farmers, **benefiting over 12,800 people** (55% women) in earthquake-hit districts

Provided recovery support to around **36,000 flood-affected families** in the southern plains of Nepal

Helped establish **65 local governments** as “model governments” championing microenterprise **development for poverty reduction**

Introduced the country's **first Bachelor's Degree on Micro Enterprise Development** in partnership with Pokhara University

Helped **65 local governments** to pilot the champions of micro enterprise development for **poverty reduction**

Over **80 community infrastructures**, such as irrigation canals, community buildings and drinking water schemes constructed **benefitting 103,000 people** (56% women) in earthquake-hit districts

PROMOTING **DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE**



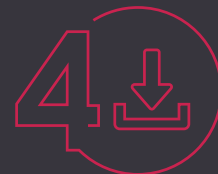
Engaged over **23,000 people**, about half of them women, from across the country in **promoting social cohesion and community security** through income generation activities, youth engagement and volunteerism



Supported the **Election Commission** to review the federal, provincial and local elections, which **provided concrete recommendations in 18 different fields**, including the legal framework, voter registration and voter education



Provided law scholarships and internships to over **50 students** (over 50% of them women) coming from **marginalized groups**, helping increase representation of the most vulnerable in legal professions and justice institutions



Over **700 newly elected Members of Parliament**, provincial assemblies, and **170 staff members** were oriented on the **parliamentary procedures and codes**

THE NUMBERS

BUILDING RESILIENCE



Four isolated microhydro power plants were connected to the national grid, ensuring a sustainable income and power supply to over

2,300

households in Gandaki and Province 1



Supported around

7,000

households in Gorkha in constructing their resilient homes through hands-on support including house-plan design and accessing construction grants



Provided 12 small grants directly to local communities for projects on conserving biodiversity, mitigating climate change, and reducing land degradation, directly benefiting over

2,100

people, including men, women and children



Put in place two automated early warning systems in flood-prone river basins of Sindhupalchowk and Surkhet districts, benefitting over

790

households



Introduced an innovative tool to track climate-resilient spending in the agriculture sector to help improve planning and monitoring of climate responses

SECTION 1

Promoting Inclusive Economic Growth

Poverty in Nepal has seen a steady decrease over the last 20 years from around 42 percent of people living below the poverty line in 1995 to 21.6 percent in 2015. However, bigger challenges remain in uplifting the remaining one fifth of the Nepali population out of poverty and reducing inequalities. As part of its commitment to the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, Nepal aims to reduce the poverty rate to 4.9 percent by 2030. As a trusted partner, UNDP continues to provide the Government of Nepal with much-needed technical and financial support aimed at promoting an equitable, inclusive and sustainable development.

Mina Mandal, a Janakpur-based entrepreneur specializing on bangles, shows her latest creations.

© KIRAN PANDAY, UNDP NEPAL





INSTITUTIONALIZING MICRO-ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Past development experience shows that Nepal's investment in micro-enterprise development has not just helped to reduce poverty, but has also addressed inequality. Introduced 20 years ago, the Micro-Enterprise Development Programme (MEDEP), funded by the Government of Australia, created over 142,000 entrepreneurs, with around 70 percent comprising women and some of the most marginalized groups. About 40 percent of the entrepreneurs have scaled up their businesses, providing direct and indirect employment to a total of 500,000 people. Most notably, economic empowerment has led to political empowerment for some of these entrepreneurs who have traditionally been institutionally underrepresented. This was evident in the 2017 elections when 389 MEDEP entrepreneurs were elected to key decision-making positions in local government.

In what is a major achievement of 2018, UNDP transferred the implementation and management

↑ *Krishna Bastola, a successful mushroom farmer in Udayapur, has been a source of inspiration to many aspiring youth in the district.*

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of the programme to the government. The model has been adopted in the government-run Micro Enterprise Development for Poverty Alleviation (MEDPA) being implemented in all 753 local governments.

To further strengthen Nepal's poverty reduction efforts nationwide, UNDP assisted leadership and staff members in over 740 local governments on the micro enterprise development (MED) model. Sixty-five local governments were selected to be the first among their peers to receive enterprise development training, establishing Enterprise Development Committees and to develop a five-year enterprise development plan. As of December 2018, at least 15 of these governments had established an Enterprise Development Fund, which will pool resources from state and non-state sources.

On the academic front, UNDP, in partnership with Pokhara University and the Ministry of Industry, introduced the country's first Bachelor's Degree in Micro Enterprise Development, which will help produce capable human resources to expand the Government-run MEDPA in the coming years.

RESTORING COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

In 2018, UNDP continued to work with the Government of Nepal and other development partners, including Thailand and Qatar Red Crescent, to help support the ongoing recovery and rehabilitation of community infrastructure and livelihoods damaged by the 2015 earthquakes. In 2018, UNDP constructed over 80 community infrastructures, such as irrigation canals and drinking water schemes benefiting 103,000 people (56% women) in earthquake-hit districts. Since 2015, over 425 community infrastructures have been built benefiting 275,000 vulnerable populations, including

UNDP supported local communities to reconstruct quake-damaged infrastructure such as this access trail leading to a popular monastery in Helambu.

UNDP NEPAL

1,862 people with disabilities. Communities now benefit from new or refurbished health centres, drinking water systems, irrigation canals, bridges and school buildings.

UNDP also worked with local governments to create new livelihood and income generation opportunities. Targeted support and interventions, such as distribution of improved varieties of vegetable seeds, tourist guide training and auxiliary nursing midwife trainings, directly benefitted over 12,000 people, of whom a significant number are women, Dalit, and from other socio-economically marginalized groups in earthquake-affected areas.



China Aid helps Nepali flood-affected community recover

In August 2017, Bimala Devi Khang of Sakarpura, Saptari, was home with her family when the rains began. Nothing to worry about at first, Khang began to panic when the water began to pool at her feet in her small thatched-roof hut. Everyone in her village also began to panic.

“People were screaming and crying for help,” she says. “Those who had concrete houses climbed to the top of their roofs, but my husband and kids and I just huddled together on our bed. There was water everywhere.”

And the water kept coming. After a few hours, rescue arrived. The armed police swept up Khang, her husband, and three children into their boat and took them all to higher ground. “We wouldn’t have survived if not for the security personnel,” she says.

When she returned a month later, the devastation hit home. Her family had lost almost everything. Everything in her two-room house was gone: food, clothing and the two goats she kept were all swept away. All that remained were the walls of her two-room house and a damaged water pump.

It wasn’t until January 2018 that her hope began to surface. She had heard that the Government of the People’s Republic of China and UNDP were providing support for flood-affected families in the Terai. Shortly after, a young man came to her door, took her details, snapped a photo for identification and left behind a card, telling Khang to keep it safe. It was to help her get back on her feet.

Not long after, Khang traded in that card for a relief package. Funded by China Aid, the packages contained



a range of non-food items—including bed nets, blankets, shawls, cooking utensils, a water filter, a smokeless cooking stove and hygiene kits, among other essentials. Upon receiving the boxes containing these materials from the distribution centre where she had gone with her card, Khang’s face broke into a smile.

This was the first time in months that she and her family had had reason to be optimistic. It had been a hard winter after the August 2017 floods—not just because of what they lost, but also the psychological shock the incident had caused. “What little we had to begin with was all gone or rendered unusable,” she says. “I had no idea how we could possibly manage.”

The package received as part of the post-flood recovery assistance she says, has served to allay her suffering a great deal. “These are all things we use on a daily basis, and having them has created a sense of normalcy where before there was only panic,” Khang says. “More than the objects themselves, it’s that feeling of starting to put our lives back together that we’re most grateful for”. The US\$4 million recovery programme implemented in late 2017 and early 2018 benefitted around 36,000 flood affected people like Khang in the Terai.

Upon receiving the boxes containing materials from the distribution centre, Khang’s face broke into a smile.

MESSAGE FROM CHINA'S AMBASSADOR



"China is committed to building an environment of mutual trust and common development in consolidating ties with neighbouring countries including Nepal for the shared future of region. In August 2017, the Chinese Government provided US\$1 million grant assistance to the Government of Nepal for flood disaster relief. In 2017, we offered another US\$4 million to help the Nepali people in the flood affected Terai region recover from the disaster. We are glad to work together with UNDP to provide this recovery package, which includes some

basics that are certain to prove handy in a post-flood situation. The assistance provided under the framework of the Chinese South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund, reached 36,000 households in Sunsari, Saptari, Sarlahi, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Rautahat and Parsa districts of Provinces 1 and 2. As a neighbour, we are always ready to provide support in the hours of need."

HOU YANQI
China's Ambassador to Nepal



Watch video



IMPROVING FARMERS' INCOME

Cooperatives are one of the key pillars of Nepal's economy, and they have the potential to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. Currently, over 34,000 cooperatives with over 6 million members, provide direct employment to over 60,000 people. Vegetable and fruit farming are among the most popular co-ops. However, their growth is hindered by poor infrastructure, including transport and storage facilities, inadequate access to market information, and regulatory and institutional bottlenecks.

With funding from the Government of Nepal, UNDP and the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation jointly launched the Cooperative Market Development Programme aims at improving the income of over 14,000 smallholder farmers associated with cooperatives in 18 municipalities of six districts in and around the

SMRITEE BAJRACHARYA,
UNDP NEPAL



Cooperative Market
Development Programme
aims to improve the
income of

14,000

smallholder farmers
associated with
cooperatives

Kathmandu valley. The programme aims to increase quality, quantity and consistency of the supply of fruit and vegetable production through infrastructure development, training and support on farming techniques, marketing, and institutional capacity building. The government contributes roughly 70 percent of the total available budget.

As a plan to engage with the farmers, UNDP partnered with 70 primary cooperatives and, in the first phase, trained over 500 farmers and co-op members on management of cooperatives and development of business plans. In order to help these groups to better manage and supply their produce, the project is constructing around 70 collection centres at strategic locations.

On the policy front, coinciding with Nepal's transition to federalism, the project is helping create a conducive policy environment where governments at all levels could use cooperatives as tools to accelerate

the achievement of the SDGs. The project partnered with cooperative associations to organize dialogues on role of cooperatives and SDGs at the federal, provincial and local levels, engaging over 1,500 people.

In partnership with KOICA, UNDP is also working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development to improve farmers' income through the creation of better market opportunities and technology for post-harvesting. Studies reveal that poor returns to farmers is linked with their limited access to market information and post harvest loss, which is estimated between 12 and 14 percent for fruits and vegetables.

Funded by KOICA, UNDP's Value Chain Development of Fruits and Vegetables project has identified 10 most potentially marketable vegetables and five fruits, including their pocket areas covering around 10,000 farmers. At least 12 of these products do not



UNDP supported the Ministry in its effort to re-design and customize a new Aid Management Information System. Earlier, the Government had to rely on an external company to manage database on foreign aid.

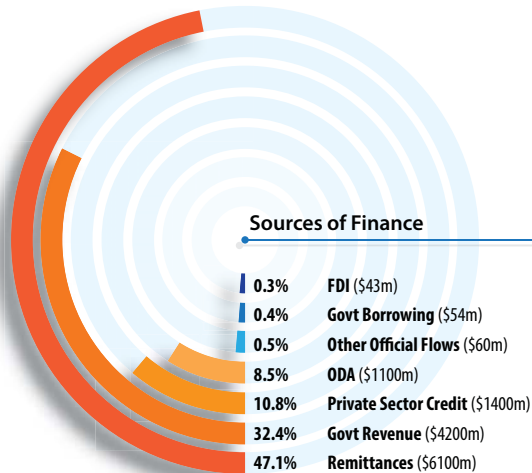
benefit from proper post-harvest technology. The project has initiated its work in the pocket areas, supporting farmers in improving their production, developing and acquiring effective post-harvest technology and market linkages.

IMPROVING AID EFFECTIVENESS

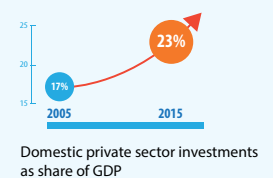
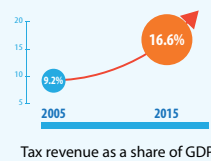
Improving aid effectiveness has long been a priority of the Government of Nepal and UNDP. Through its Effective Development Financing and Coordination (EDFC) project, funded by the Government of Germany, UNDP continued to provide frontline support to the Ministry of Finance to improve foreign aid mobilization and management.

In Nepal, international development cooperation represents a significant amount of public finance – over 22 percent of the national budget in fiscal

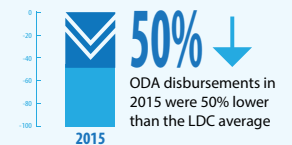
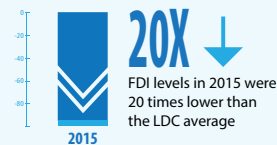
Nepal has committed to achieving the sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Nepal needs a significant amount of finance to achieve them. A new study shows this landscape of finance in Nepal:



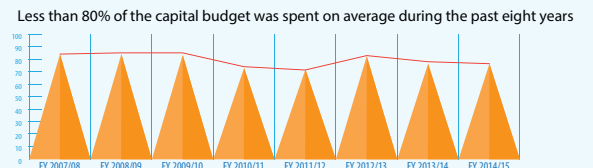
Nepal has been able to increase some of its finances, such as tax revenue and private sector investments, which can be mobilized to achieve the SDGs.



Nepal still has financing opportunities not yet accessed, unlike other Least Developed Countries.



Nepal's low capital budget spending limits its chances to mobilize additional global funds.



year 2017/18 – and an important contribution to the financing of the SDGs. Having in place effective policies, institutional and coordination mechanisms, and data management systems that promote transparency, is critical to ensuring that these resources are translated into development results on the ground.

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Finance, Nepal has recorded significant achievements in furthering aid effectiveness. But the transition to federalism demands that past approaches to aid management be reconsidered in light of the 2015 Constitution; this has been a key focus of EDFC's support in 2018.

The UNDP-supported Study of Foreign Aid Mobilization in Federal Nepal, published in 2017, explored a new framework for aid mobilization in federal context. In the follow-up to the study, during 2018, the project supported a pipeline of critical work to concretely adapt systems and structures to the new federal context. This included supporting the process to revise the 2014 Development Cooperation Policy, as well as drafting guidelines to set out the procedures for channeling development cooperation to the provincial and local levels.

Capturing and ensuring transparency of aid data is another pillar of a strong aid management system. In 2018, UNDP supported the Ministry in its effort to re-design and customize a new Aid Management Information System (AMIS). Earlier, the Government had to rely on an external company to manage database on foreign aid. The new AMIS introduces features such as 'SDG coding,' which will allow for accurate tracking and statistical analysis of the alignment of Nepal's foreign aid inflows with the SDGs, in turn supporting the country's broader SDG monitoring and reporting efforts. The new AMIS, which will be launched formally in early 2019,

Equipping the unskilled would not just significantly improve the remittance flow, but also address the shortage of a skilled workforce in the domestic labour market.

is piloting an initiative to import data from the International Aid Transparency Initiative, focusing first on importing forward-spending data. This will inform the Government's annual and medium-term planning and budgeting processes.

Data in the AMIS also provides the evidence for the Development Cooperation Report, which UNDP supports the Ministry of Finance to publish each year. The eighth annual report, covering FY 2017/18, was published in December 2018. The report has become a point of reference in discourse around aid effectiveness and helps enhance transparency and mutual accountability among Development Partners as they engage in friendly competition to rank favorably on annual disbursement volume, on-budget share of disbursement, and close alignment with the country's development priorities.

HELPING REFORM THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION SYSTEM

Nepal continues to be one of the major labour supplying countries in the region, making it one of the world's top remittance-reliant countries in the world. However, only around one percent of its workforce going abroad in the labour market is skilled. Equipping the unskilled would not just significantly improve the remittance flow, but also address the shortage of a skilled workforce in the domestic labour market.

UNDP supports Nepal to reform its technical and vocational education system so that the country can produce skilled workforce catering to the demands of the local job market while being engaged in gainful employment.

In 2018, UNDP's Support to Knowledge and Life-Long Skills (SKILLS) Programme assisted the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) to review and redesign the existing TVET policy and institutional arrangements. A comprehensive reform plan has now been adopted by the Ministry, which is expected to synchronize all isolated laws, including the Labour Act, Industrial Enterprise Act, TVET Act and Youth Act, and synergize TVET line ministries and related institutions. As part of the reform process, UNDP facilitated the government's high-level TVET task force to carry out consultations at the national level and in five of the seven provinces.

With the support of UNDP, MoEST has established and operationalized a National TVET Management Information System, which provides a disaggregated database showing existing skills, current market demand and the gaps. The MIS has already incorporated disaggregated data of over 280,000 individuals who have received skills trainings in the recent past. The database is expected to support scientific and evidence-based intervention to create a robust labour market.

UNDP worked closely with the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) to institutionalize the knowledge management and knowledge networking system in the TVET subsector of Nepal through events aimed at dissemination of findings, lessons learnt, and details of planned activities of the various relevant institutions and stakeholders.

With a focus on developing a TVET skill map of Province 5, UNDP commissioned a study to provide a wider picture of current situation of demand and supply of TVET in the province, solutions to enhancing the quality and relevance of TVET opportunities available in the region and identify

↓ *Mechanical engineering students undertake practical training in Rupandehi.*

📍 ANAND GURUNG,
UNDP NEPAL

current and future needs of the local industries to contribute to the rapid economic and social growth of the province. The Butwal Metropolitan City in Province 5 is formulating its TVET strategy in line with the suggestion from this report.

To ensure that the gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) component is adequately identified and addressed in the TVET-subsector, UNDP continued to organized nationwide and provincial events to incorporate GESI as a crosscutting element in the amended TVET policy and sensitize the stakeholders on GESI.



SECTION 2

Fostering Democratic Governance and Rule of Law

As Nepal initiates implementing the new federal Constitution with newly elected leadership at all levels of the government, one of the key priorities of UNDP is to strengthen the democratic institutions for rule of law, social justice and human rights so that vulnerable people enjoy the full benefits of peace, development and inclusive growth. In 2018, UNDP continued to work alongside the government and civil society supporting the federalization process, broadening civic space for participation and voice, strengthening electoral institutions and enhancing service delivery and rule of law, particularly for the most vulnerable.



Senior citizens in Birgunj receive social security allowance cards. UNDP-mobilized volunteers have been assisting local governments in service delivery.

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SUPPORTING ELECTORAL PROCESSES

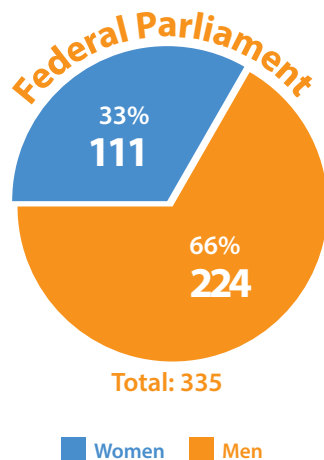
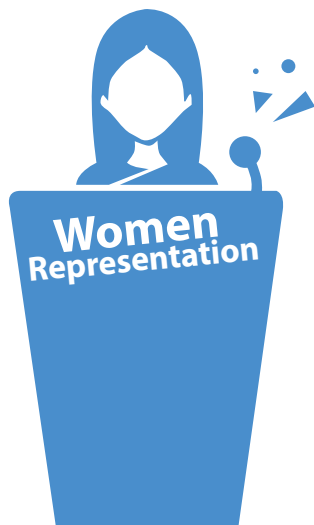
For Nepal, 2018 was the year of implementation of federalism – having elected all three tiers of the government through a long, yet peaceful and credible electoral process. It was a perfect time for the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) to review the electoral process to draw lessons for the future. UNDP, in partnership with the European Union, continued to support the ECN in building its institutional capacity through a number of initiatives.

UNDP supported the ECN to carry out a review of the entire process. The review provided an important opportunity to reflect on the first elections under the new federal system and draw lessons for future elections. Conducted in all seven provinces engaging over 300 people, including electoral staff, political leaders, observers and the media, the review produced over 100 recommendations in 18 different fields, including the legal framework, voter registration, voter education, polling and counting, dispute resolution and the use of technology. The report will provide a basis for the new ECN five-year strategic plan (2019-2024).

A UNDP-supported review of the electoral process provided the Election Commission an opportunity to draw lessons for future elections.

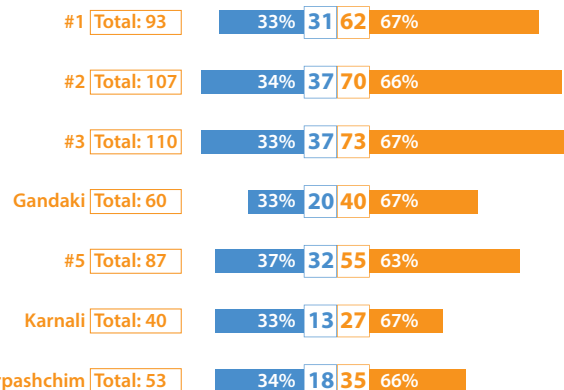
UNDP also supported the ECN in a dedicated review of the electoral process from the perspective of gender equality and social inclusion. The study confirms the importance of special legal measures for the representation of women and historically marginalized groups and will inform the ECN Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan.

UNDP carried out an impact evaluation of the capacity-building using the BRIDGE methodology that ECN conducted in Nepal with support from UNDP and other partners from 2008 to 2016. BRIDGE stands for Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections. It is a modular professional development program with a particular focus on electoral processes. The evaluation concluded that BRIDGE has been very successful in Nepal and was pivotal in building the capacity of ECN to conduct the 2017 elections. It also made recommendations for ensuring ECN can conduct its capacity-building without external assistance in the future. UNDP has started implementing these recommendations, including through support to six additional BRIDGE events conducted in 2018.



Provincial Assembly Members

Province



PROMOTING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Several milestones were achieved in 2018 in promoting access to justice. Criminal and civil codes came into effect and the Parliament passed 16 bills related to fundamental rights. UNDP, through its Access to Justice project, funded by Norway, continued to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs in legislative reforms and effective implementation of the laws.

A number of marginalized groups were provided space to participate in the process of drafting legislations on fundamental rights. At least six laws were reviewed from the human rights perspective and substantive feedback was provided to the Parliament prior to the adoption of laws. Several amendments were made in the draft bills based on the feedback.

Six laws were reviewed from the human rights perspective.

↓ *Law scholarship students interact during a learning session at Nepal Law Campus.*

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Familiarizing the newly enacted laws among the general public as well as the implementing agencies was a major challenge. UNDP supported key stakeholders in rolling out the Costed Action Plan for implementation of the newly enacted criminal and civil legislation. In partnership with the Law Book Management Committee, the Access to Justice project prepared simplified versions of the newly adopted criminal and civil codes, and disseminated them widely within the justice sector in order to increase understanding of the new codes amongst key stakeholders and the general public. UNDP worked closely with the Office of the Attorney General helping it draft and introduce guidelines, policies and systems to implement the codes. The Access to Justice project facilitated organization of a national conference of attorneys where a plan of action for implementation of criminal codes was adopted.

A public awareness campaign, including a series of radio and television programs and PSAs, reached out to over 100,000 people across the country raising awareness and understanding on the new codes, and roles and responsibilities of Judicial Committees.

In a bid to encourage lawyers in providing free legal aid to those who need it, UNDP supported the Nepal Bar Association (NBA) in drafting a Pro Bono Guideline for lawyers. The General Assembly of the Association adopted the guidelines.

Special efforts were made to integrate human rights into business, an area that had long been left out of the human rights discourse. For the first time in Nepal, a series of cross-disciplinary dialogues on business and human rights were organized bringing together judges, lawyers, parliamentarians, business representatives, academia, human rights defenders, civil society and the media. Introducing this activity



in Nepal put the country on the map of business and human rights in South Asia and ensures participation of Nepal in the first Business and Human Rights Forum in South Asia to be held in 2019.

UNDP continued to support affirmative legal education, through scholarship (20 students, out of them 12 women) and an internship programme (31 young lawyers, out of them 16 women) for young professionals coming from marginalized groups, significantly increasing representation of the most vulnerable in legal profession and justice institutions.

The Project also worked closely with women lawyers, supporting them to organize a national conference, which brought together over 100 women lawyers to discuss issues and challenges they face in the profession. As an outcome of the conference, a number of women lawyers registered as providers of free legal aid from which many women and marginalized categories stand to benefit, ensuring that they have access to legal recourse in protection of their rights.

↑ *Provincial Assembly member during a leadership and communications training organized in Gandaki Province.*

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Over
700

elected members of parliament, provincial assemblies and 170 staff members were oriented on the parliamentary procedures and codes.

STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENTS

Strengthening the capacity of newly formed parliaments at federal and provincial level remained a major priority of UNDP in 2018. UNDP, through its Parliament Support Project, funded by the Government of Norway, provided technical support to the Federal Parliament Secretariat in developing a transition plan – including projection on human resources, infrastructure and financial needs -- that would contribute to operationalize the Provincial Assemblies. UNDP supported in preparing and rolling out Provincial Assemblies' Rules of Procedures based on learning from global best practices.

UNDP worked closely with the Federal Parliament and Provincial Assemblies to prepare and execute a series of events to orient and build capacity of the new leadership and staff. Over 700 elected members of parliament, provincial assemblies and 170 staff members were oriented on the parliamentary procedures and codes. A comprehensive package of knowledge products and global literature on

parliamentary affairs, ethics, lawmaking, SDGs, and oversight were published and disseminated to help deepen MPs' understanding on parliamentary procedures. These efforts have helped promote what is called "cooperative federalism" in line with the Constitution; for example, all seven provincial assemblies launched the Speakers' Meeting to promote inter-provincial assembly coordination.

UNDP supported the parliaments to carry out technical reviews of and public consultation on a number of bills related to fundamental rights, social security, rights of children, safe motherhood and reproductive health engaging over 300 people including, federal parliamentarians and provincial assembly members, thematic area experts and general public.

In order to create a more robust dialogue interface between the legislators and the socially disadvantaged communities, the project made some targeted outreach efforts, including a nationwide campaign against gender-based violence and dialogues on the former's role in promoting human rights, wherein 800 people from all seven provincial assemblies and civil society stakeholders participated.

Media play a key role in strengthening parliamentary practices. UNDP worked closely with journalists' associations to build the capacity of over 200 journalists in parliamentary reporting so that they could effectively report from the parliaments while also bring out the voices of the general public and those left behind.

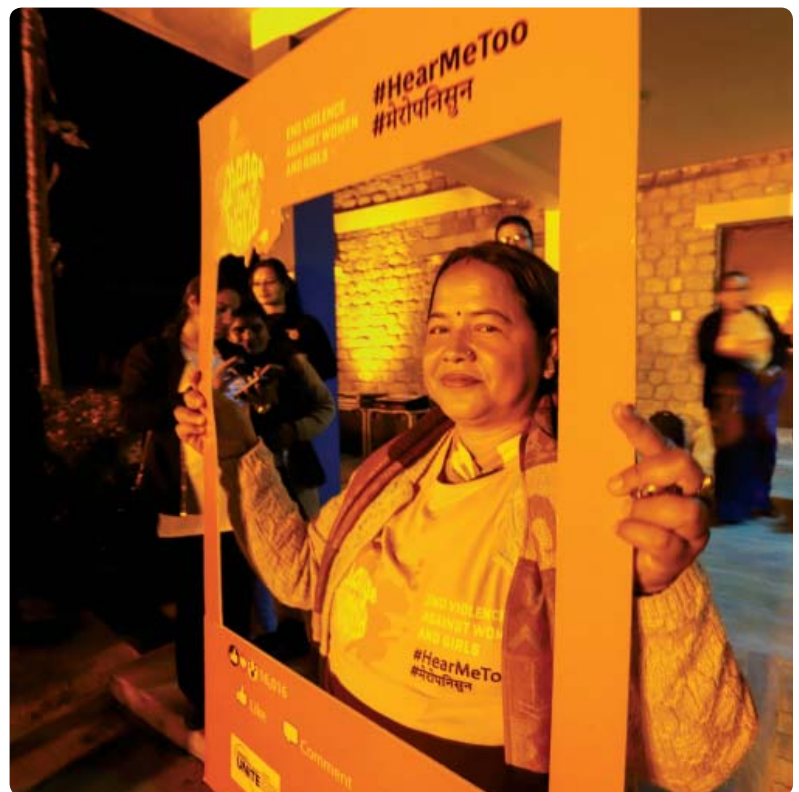
UNDP also supported the Legislation Management Committee under the parliament in institutionalizing the law auditing process, which aims to ensure effective implementation of laws through pre- and post-legislative auditing of the laws. Under this initiative, UNDP supported the Committee to carry

Provincial Assembly member of Sudurpaschim takes part in the #HearMeToo campaign marking 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence.

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out a research on law auditing practices around the world and recommend standard working procedures providing a clear guideline on the scope, priorities, limitations, approaches and tools of law auditing. The Committee audited over 339 laws and grouped into 16 major clusters. This audit database is expected to set a solid foundation for any new legal reform process.

"The effort consisting of research, sectoral consultations, and expert engagement will result into a great change towards making the total legal regime more effective in terms of size, clarity, interaction, interpretation, and application," says Parshuram Meghi Gurung, Chairperson of the Committee.



PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE

In the new federal system, the Constitution has mandated the local governments with a number of new responsibilities. Among those include the authority to handle local disputes through judicial committees led by deputy chairs/mayors. While these committees are expected to deliver speedy and amicable resolution of cases, the current challenge is to provide them with enough resources, tools, skills and knowledge to effectively deliver on their mandate. Against this backdrop, the Strategic Plan Support Project (SPSP) housed at the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), organized a series of trainings for the Judicial Committee members on dispute handling. Relevant literature and guidebooks, including a handbook on human rights, were developed and distributed to over 76 Judicial Committee members from Dhankuta, Terthum, Dadeldhura and Doti. The trainings have been found highly effective in giving a clear guidance to committee members.

“The orientations have helped me gain better understanding around the right to a fair trial, the process of mediation and administration of justice,”

Oriented 40 officials on the new Civil and Criminal Code and human rights monitoring and investigation

↓ *Staff of National Human Rights Commission taking part in a training on international human rights treaty obligations of Nepal.*
© UNDP NEPAL

said Yagya Kumari Ruchal, Chief of Judicial Committee of Chaubise Rural Municipality, Dhankuta sharing her experience after the training. “The training helped build my capacity to deal better with cases relating to the rights of women, children, and senior citizens.”

UNDP also supported the NHRC to orient 40 officials on the new Civil and Criminal Code and human rights monitoring and investigation. The project also supported the NHRC to carry out its first baseline survey on human rights of people with mental disabilities, which established a standard for promoting and protecting their human rights in Nepal.

In a bid to further strengthen the NHRC’s role and leadership at the regional level, the project collaborated with the Commission to organize an international conference on “Identifying Challenges, Assessing Progress, Moving Forward: Addressing Impunity and Realizing Human Rights in South Asia.” The conference brought together rights advocates and stakeholders from 22 countries and issued a 29-point Kathmandu Declaration 2018 that called for governments to adhere to international treaty obligations and end impunity.

A series of public outreach programmes, including human rights film festivals, TV drama and interactions were organized to raise awareness on human rights issues. The human rights film festivals were organized in Janakapur, Jumla, Surkhet and Dhangadi bring in hundreds of viewers.

The project also marked the 70th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights, hosting an event in each of the seven provinces, bringing together over 700 participants from the government and civil society organizations to discuss how they can work together to effectively promote and protect the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution.





SUPPORTING VICTIM-CENTRIC TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

Over 12 years since the peace agreement, Nepal's transitional justice process remains ongoing. UNDP worked closely with the conflict-affected population to ensure their continued and adequate participation in the process. While UNDP encourages the Government to amend its laws governing the current transitional justice process so that it is consistent with the 2007 and 2015 judgments of Nepal's Supreme Court and the country's obligations under international law, it is also supporting the conflict victims to discuss victim-centric transitional justice process and raise their voice for possible amendments. Citing some gaps

UNDP is supporting the conflict victims to discuss victim-centric transitional justice process and raise their voice for possible amendments.

in the transitional justice laws, the Supreme Court in February 2015 had ordered the government to come up with amendments to ensure that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) is in line with international standards.

In 2018, the UNDP's Transitional Justice Project (TJP) provided technical support to the Conflict Victims Common Platform (CVCP) to design and organize a series of workshops that brought together over 100 participants and discussed the draft amendment bill to reform the law establishing the TRC. Through these interactions, victims were able to strongly voice their concerns. While the continued support has increased the recognition of the victims' groups, the concerns are yet to be addressed.

PROMOTING SOCIAL COHESION

While the country underwent a successful election, a great deal remained to be done to help Nepal make a smooth transition to federalism. There was a sudden surge of sudden public expectation on the new government despite limited resources and experience.

UNDP's Social Cohesion and Democratic Participation project focused on helping sustain peace by supporting the national and sub-national governments and the communities to bridge this gap between expectations and performance by providing support in service delivery and engaging youth and volunteers.

As part of the initiatives promoting social cohesion, UNDP engaged over 23,000 people across Nepal, about half of whom were women, in activities around livelihoods and income generation, access to service delivery and accountability, community security, youth engagement, volunteerism and risk mitigation.



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people across Nepal, about half of whom were women, in activities around livelihoods and income generation

Artists perform cultural dance during a local festival organized to promote social cohesion in Banke.

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UNDP worked closely with the local political parties and communities to help them learn and practice the “collaborative leadership dialogue” approach, which helped them reach consensus to proceed with a dozen infrastructure projects that were on hold for a couple of months due to political disagreements.

UNDP supported at least four municipalities including Dhangadi Sub Metropolis to develop a youth engagement and volunteerism strategy and standard operating procedures. As an immediate result, Dhangadi municipality launched “Surprise Dhangadi,” a youth-led campaign to engage volunteers in the government projects. Similarly, UNDP-led youth volunteerism initiatives launched with the help of over 350 youth volunteers benefitted over 3,000 people in accessing public services, such as birth registration and senior citizen allowance. Such initiatives have helped improve access to services. For example, ward no 6 of Mahakali municipality in Sudurpaschim, youth volunteers helped to ensure that all babies born were registered.



PROMOTING YOUTH IN ADVANCING SDGs

How we engage with the young people today determines the prospects for sustainable development and peace. Young people are not just the majority of the population of Nepal, they will continue to constitute the dominant demographic cohort until 2035, covering the period of SDGs and beyond.

In 2018, guided by its youth strategy (2018-2022), UNDP Nepal partnered with a number of youth-led organizations in creating several meaningful opportunities for young people to learn and exchange ideas, innovate and actively contribute to the SDGs. Over 2,000 youth took part in joint activities with over 30 organizations.

UNDP's Youth Co:Lab, a regional initiative to promote young entrepreneurs, brought together over 70 young people and provide them tools to brainstorm and develop their concepts into commercially viable projects. Two of the best ideas -- Airlift, a drone service related enterprise and AeroRoots, a soilless organic farming enterprise – were declared winners.

In what was a first, a Federal Youth Parliament was organized by the National Youth Council jointly with UNDP, with 69 youth leaders representing a cross-section of Nepali society learning about parliamentary democracy and its procedures.

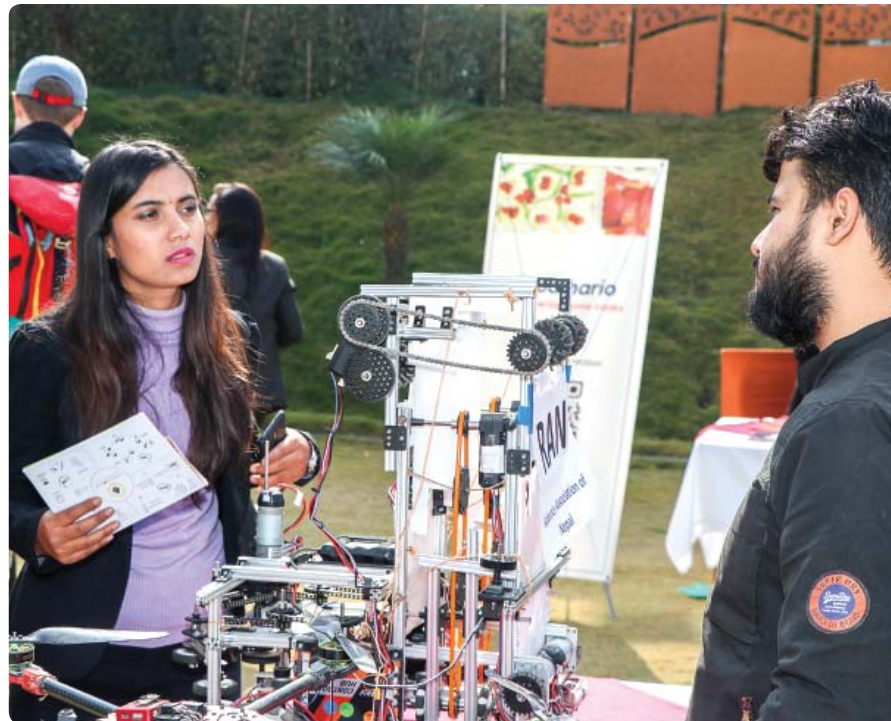
Through a massive social media campaign on anti-corruption, UNDP and its partners reached out to over 20,000 people with messages on how everyone can promote integrity, transparency and accountability. The Jimmewari Campaign, which marked the International Anti-Corruption Day, also steered over 600 young leaders into action through a

Students take part in an innovation fair organized in Kathmandu.

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series of interactions across all seven provinces.

The National Youth Conference on Climate Change brought together around 100 young participants from all over Nepal to discuss how young people could help build a more resilient Nepal. The conference concluded with an 11-point declaration calling for climate actions in all the provinces. Special events, such as Start Up Weekend on Women, Girls and SDGs organized jointly with Nepal Entrepreneurs Hub (NeHUB), Nepal Innovation Lab, and other UN agencies gave an opportunity to 50 young women and girls from different parts of Nepal to develop and implement business ideas. Furthermore, the National Youth Summit on Disability organized in partnership with Disability Rights Promotion International helped explore challenges and opportunity to promote livelihood of youth with disabilities.





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

© VIVEK DHAR SHARMA, UNDP NEPAL

FEATURE

WILLED INTO REALITY

SAMINA HUSSAIN'S LONG-STANDING POLITICAL AMBITIONS HAVE FINALLY BORNE FRUIT WITH HER NOMINATION TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE RECENT ELECTIONS, A POSITION SHE IS KEEN TO USE TO BRING POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE LIVES OF WOMEN IN HER CONSTITUENCY IN RAUTAHAT.

The last time Nepalis cast their ballots was in 1997, so when the polls opened in the 2017 elections, citizens turned out in large numbers to take part. The successful elections at the local, provincial and federal levels proved a milestone on Nepal's path to a stable democracy, characterized by the decentralization of power from the capital, Kathmandu.

Among the many who had triumphed at the polls was Samina Hussain from Rautahat, nominated a member of the House of Representatives in the Proportional Representation (PR) list from then Communist Party of Nepal—Unified Marxist-Leninist (CPN-UML).

Samina, born and raised in Dumarbar in Bara, had grown up in something of a fragile political environment—the country was still under monarchical rule, and there were constraints aplenty on various freedoms. Her father, an active political leader had made a deep impression on the young Samina.

"I remember accompanying my mother as she took my father's lunch to him when he was attending meetings at the party office," she says. "And I would sit there, listening to them discuss people's welfare and plans to protect their rights." These sessions served to strengthen her conviction that it was only through the promotion of democratic practices that the prosperity of one's constituency and the country at large could be achieved. And to do this, she believed, she would have to enter politics herself.

It was a long journey to that end for Samina, starting with joining a youth club and participating in various leadership trainings while still in school, all with the intention of prepping herself for a career in politics. One formative moment was when former Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal had visited Bara and eager to make a good impression, Samina had picked a lotus and presented it to him.

Her family had always been supportive of her ambitions,



"But it was difficult to move up the path as a woman. Seniority still rules to this day, and women empowerment is still lacking," she says. Still she persevered. The constitutional quotas for women, and persons from Dalit and other marginalized communities were a welcome development, though she lashes out at the election expenses that candidates were expected to cough up for campaigning. "There's only so much you can spend on a campaign from your own pockets," she says. "In any case, if you are a good leader, I don't think you need to organize parties to lure voters," she adds, referring to a common tactic during the elections.

Samina says that in the future, more efforts are needed to support local-level structures

and build their capacity for improved functioning—one such example, according to her, are the Collaborative Leadership and Dialogue and Electoral Violence Prevention workshops organized by UNDP's Conflict Prevention Programme (CPP) and Social Cohesion and Democratic Participation (SCDP) Programme, in which she herself had taken part.

Now that she has landed her dream job, Samina is keen to use her position and influence to bring positive change to the lives of women in her constituency. "Women are capable of doing so much more but we simply don't have access to the opportunities and resources," she says. "I'm looking forward to changing that."

SECTION 3

Building Resilience

Nepal is among the world's top 20 countries prone to multi-hazard risks, and the fourth most vulnerable to climate change, posing serious threats to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Against this backdrop, UNDP is supporting the Government of Nepal on building individual, community and national level resilience to natural hazards and climate change. These priorities are based on the lesson that disaster risk reduction, climate change, poverty reduction and sustainable development must be mutually supportive and should be acted on together.



Nawang Thsering, a local tourist guide, explains how community-based early warning systems like this are critical to the safety and sustainability of the tourism industry in the Khumbu region. UNDP has supported the Government of Nepal to install early warning systems for floods in high risk zones.

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INSTITUTIONALIZING DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

In 2018, Nepal made significant progress in institutionalizing disaster preparedness with the endorsement of the National Policy and Strategic Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (2018-2030) by the Prime Minister-led Disaster Risk Reduction and Management National Council. The long-term national policy sets out a vision to promote pro-active disaster risk reduction and disaster management. The strategic action plan details out key priority actions in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction priorities for action. UNDP provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) in the formulation

↑ UNDP trained over 1,500 masons in Gorkha and many of them are women.

📍 ABHUSHAN GAUTAM,
UNDP NEPAL



Over
1,500

masons were trained on resilient and affordable housing models.

of the important policy document, which included a series of multi-stakeholder consultations at federal and sub-national level, ensuring wider acceptance and strong ownership among all the stakeholders.

Post-earthquake reconstruction moved quickly in 2018. UNDP continued to support the government through socio-technical facilitation with special priority to the poorest and most vulnerable households. In Gorkha, with support from the Government of India and UNDP, the Nepal Housing Reconstruction Project reached 69 percent of the targeted 26,900 beneficiaries completing reconstruction of their houses while maintaining standard seismic safety measures. The project directly assisted over 8,000 home owners to complete their construction, providing hands-on support from

designing and costing to banking support and supervision.

In Sindhupalchowk and Dolakha, 60 poor and vulnerable households received direct technical support from UNDP. Several households benefitted through the trained masons, popularly known as *Awam Nirman Saathi*, community facilitators, engineers and architects deployed in the earthquake-affected areas to guide and supervise masons and house owners on safe reconstruction.

Reaching a milestone in building resilience, the government, with the support of UK Aid and UNDP, completed the design and architecture of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority, an apex body responsible for overseeing disaster risk reduction and management actions for the entire country.

UNDP continued to support the government in scaling up the electronic building permit system (eBPS) in Butwal, Dharan, Chautara and Madhyapur Thimi municipalities. The innovative tool has significantly helped the government improve building code compliance while also bring efficiency, transparency and accountability in service delivery.

In preparing communities for future shocks, UNDP worked closely with the local governments to set up and operationalize two early warning systems in flood-prone river basins of Sindhupalchowk and Surkhet districts, benefitting over 790 households. The early warning system also provides climate and weather warnings for farmers to adapt their practices to mitigate climate disaster risks. This result was achieved as part of a South-South cooperation initiative jointly implemented in Nepal, Bangladesh and China with the financial support from UK Aid China.



The project directly assisted over

8,000

home owners to complete their construction, providing hands-on support



↳ *Sayurabhami micro-hydro plant in Nuwakot was connected to the national grid in 2018.*

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IMPROVING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

In 2018, Nepal resolved a policy bottleneck for micro-hydro power plant sustainability. The breakthrough was achieved when the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) allowed a 23-kilowatt (kW) micro-hydro plant in Nuwakot, which was powering around 100 homes, to directly connect to the national grid and sell its surplus electricity setting a precedent for future connections and revenue generation.

Facilitated by UNDP's Renewable Energy for Rural Livelihood (RERL), funded by the Global Environment Facility, and the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPIC), this interconnection was a symbolic victory for the communities relying on small and isolated power plants. When the national power supply came to the village, the micro-hydro plant avoiding obsolescence by feeding into the national grid and maintaining a level of income. This interconnection in Nuwakot suddenly made micro hydro an attractive area for private investors once again.





There are around 1,800 micro-hydro plants of which one third are on the periphery of national grid. Connecting these plants could immediately add over 10 megawatts of electricity to the national grid, while also bringing a stable source of income and power supply to thousands of communities in the remote mountains. In 2018, with UNDP's technical support, at least four power plants were connected to the national grid, ensuring a sustainable income and power supply for over 2,300 households in Gandaki and Province 1.

UNDP also continued to work in the construction of new micro-hydro and solar plants. UNDP installed three solar micro grids and solar pumping systems, benefitting over 400 households from extremely marginalized communities in Province 1 and 2. Over a dozen health facilities, including snake-bite treatment centers, health posts and birthing centers in remote areas of Karnali and Province 2 were provided with back-up systems to ensure uninterrupted power supply for regular services and refrigeration.

UNDP also supported the commercial operation of 25 micro-hydro plants, resulting in a spike in revenue. Darna MHP in Achham, which generates 83 kW, was able to increase its monthly revenue five-fold – from US\$250 to US\$1,250 - after exporting electricity to

↑ *The Telkuwa solar irrigation project provides families in Bara with an uninterrupted supply of clean energy.*

📷 UNDP NEPAL

neighboring Kalagaun village.

In partnership with AEPC's South Asia Sub Regional Economic Cooperation Programme (SASEC), UNDP is developing mini hydro and solar mini grids of around 5MW capacity that will power thousands of homes in remote villages. Under this programme, a total of 335kw have been generated from solar mini grids bringing affordable and clean energy to over 1,200 households in Provinces 1, 3, 6 and 7.

HELPING NEPAL MOBILIZE CLIMATE FINANCE

UNDP, with funding from the German Government (BMU), continued to support the Ministry of Finance in strengthening its own and other national stakeholders' capacities to access, manage and monitor climate finance from the Green Climate Fund (GCF). GCF is a new global fund created to support the efforts of developing nations to respond to the challenge of climate change. In 2018, two national entities - Nepal Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) and Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC) secured an advanced stage of accreditation with GCF for direct access to grant resources. The Town

Development Fund together with Nepal Investment Bank Limited have been nominated by the Ministry of Finance for accreditation with GCF to access blended financial resources including loans.

The government, in partnership with UNDP, introduced an innovative tool to track climate-resilient spending in the agriculture sector, to help better planning and monitoring of climate responses. This was an important step to ensure the budget allocated for climate-related programmes are reaching out to vulnerable farmers and addressing gender concerns to help them better prepare and respond to emerging climate threats.

In a related initiative to encourage private sector contributions to achieve the SDGs, UNDP supported Yeti Airlines in its bid to become Nepal's first carbon neutral airline. The company was provided with tools to assess its carbon emissions, and capacity building support to prepare an action plan to become a carbon neutral company through emission reduction and carbon offsetting.



Four power plants were connected to the national grid, ensuring a sustainable income and power supply for over

2,300
households

UNDP supported the installation of automated weather stations and early warning system in disaster-prone areas.

DEEPAK KC, UNDP NEPAL

AIDING CLIMATE ADAPTATION

For over five years, UNDP, in partnership with DFID, has supported the Government of Nepal to implement a series of actions aimed at helping vulnerable and poor communities adapt to the effects of climate change through a dedicated Nepal Climate Change Support Programme (NCCSP). As the context changed in 2018, with the federal structure in place, UNDP focused to reorient its strategies and activities aligned with the newly formed local governments. In the new set up, the programme is concentrating in the 14 selected local government units identified as the most prone to climate-induced hazards. UNDP worked closely with the local governments to design 79 climate resilient projects while integrating climate change considerations in their development plans.

UNDP supported the Ministry of Forest and Environment to prepare the 6th National Report on Convention on Biological Diversity, based on substantive review and consultations with relevant stakeholders at national and sub-national level.



LINKING LIVELIHOODS WITH CONSERVATION

Development experiences from across world reveal that local communities in the developing world are often the first to feel the effects of environmental degradation and climate change. UNDP in partnership with Global Environment Facility has been aiding communities in Nepal and elsewhere to design and implement small-scale programs which link vulnerable communities' livelihoods with conservation.

In 2018, UNDP Nepal, with the funding support from the Global Environment Facility, provided 12 small grants directly to local communities for projects on conserving biodiversity, mitigating climate change, reducing land degradation and eliminating persistent organic pollutants and chemicals that aim to address and mitigate these challenges. This has directly benefited over 2,100 people.

In Morang, Province 1, an innovative technology introduced with the support of UNDP's Small Grant



Provided 12 small grants directly to local communities for projects on biodiversity conservation, benefiting over

2,100
people

Portable solar powered pumping system introduced by UNDP in Janakpur.

© KIRAN PANDAY, UNDP NEPAL

Program has raised new hopes among the mushroom farmers who see future in organic products. The solar-power technology has provided the farmers with an environment-friendly, low-cost and efficient solution to sterilizing hay, which is the main raw material used in mushroom farming. The technology has a huge potential to be replicated and scaled up across the county, thereby contributing to not just improve the income of the farmers but also reduce carbon emission.

In Janakur of Province 2, a portable solar-power pumping system is gaining popularity. Introduced to 14 economically poor communities, the solar pump can irrigate 10 hectare of land in a day. With the new technology, the local farmers are saving around US\$350 per year in fuel (diesel), while also helping reduce the carbon footprint from their farms.

Many of these projects led by local communities have won prestigious national and international awards. In 2018, DB Chaudhary, one of the former grantees, received the global "Birdlife Nature's Hero" award for his contribution in vulture conservation.



Babu Raja Shrestha shows his newly installed solar machine provided by UNDP. UNDP engaged local engineers and entrepreneurs to prototype and scale-up an innovative solar-powered machine to sterilize hay for mushroom farmers.

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Expediting Reconstruction



UNDP's Nepal Housing Reconstruction Project, implemented with support of the Government of India, made significant progress in expediting housing reconstruction in Gorkha district, the epicentre of the April 2015 earthquake. Work began in March 2018 providing crucial support to over 26,000 homeowners in six rural and two urban municipalities, and of whom 8,000 come from vulnerable communities. Almost three-quarters of the homes are reconstructed, all of which follow seismic safety measures compliant with government building codes.

Through the project, home owners received socio-technical support tailored to their needs. This may have included some or all of the following:

Almost three-quarters of the homes are reconstructed, all compliant with government building codes

preparing designs and drawings for municipal permits; construction cost estimates and access to available resources; links to skilled masons; supervised construction, facilitating financial support processes; and accessing the right documentation to help them in the entire cycle of reconstruction. The project deployed a team of over 180 skilled workers, including coordinators, engineers, architects, sub-engineers, *Awasi Nirman Saathi* (experienced masons with the technical know-how of safe construction practices) and community facilitators. Municipality officials, with UNDP support, lead reconstruction processes through effective engagement and coordination, coupled with trainings of government-deployed engineers to expedite housing reconstruction.

MESSAGE FROM INDIA'S AMBASSADOR



When the first earthquake struck in 2015, we from India responded immediately, right from rescue and relief. And when the reconstruction work began, we thought it was absolutely important that reconstruction needed to not only bring back things to where they were, but to be better, be earthquake resilient and to ensure that dignity and quality of life of people was improved.

To this end, the Government of India announced a package of US\$1 billion of which 250 million was aid and 750 million was a line of credit. I am particularly happy that in 2018, we have moved significantly forward in the housing sector. For the housing sector about US\$150 million was earmarked of which US\$100 million was a grant from the Government of India and 50 million was part of the line of credit for supporting 50,000 households in Gorkha

and Nuwakot. We are very happy to have worked very closely with the Government of Nepal, the National Reconstruction Authority and the United Nations - UNDP and UNOPS. They have been our partners in getting this support to the affected households.

Much progress has been made and we have disbursed the tranche of about NRs 200 crore (US\$20 million) to the Government of Nepal, while the next tranches will be disbursed soon. So I am happy to see that this project is progressing well on the ground and people are benefitting. And though, it's been a little while, there has been substantial success in bringing people's lives back on track, and affording them a better dignity of life.

MANJEEV SINGH PURI
India's Ambassador to Nepal

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Watch video



Mobile vans equipped with video and communication materials on safe reconstruction have been an effective way to reach out to people in remote areas.

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FEATURE

BUILDING RESILIENCE: SHARMILA'S MASTERY OVER MASONRY

SHARMILA MAJHI, 25, LIVES WITH TWO SIBLINGS AND HER PARENTS IN INDRAWATI-10, JHOLUNGE, A REMOTE MOUNTAIN VILLAGE SOME 300 KM EAST OF KATHMANDU. BORN TO AN INDIGENOUS FISHERMAN'S FAMILY, SHARMILA GREW UP IN EXTREME POVERTY.

Her parents and many of the Majhi community were fishers for generations. However, lately, with fewer fish in the rivers, Sharmila's parents, like many others, had turned to wage labour to eke out their living.

Sharmila never went to school. It was a luxury her parents could not afford. She had to look after her younger siblings, take care of cattle, and support her parents in their household chores.

At the age of 21, she left home for Kathmandu where she worked as a domestic helper. Everything she earned, she sent home. There was enough for her siblings to go to school, and this gave her family hope for the future.

However, the 2015 earthquakes turned their lives upside down. Their only home was reduced to rubble and with nothing left, Sharmila went back to her village

to see how she could help. With good luck, she was selected as part of a UNDP-led initiative to train masons needed for the massive reconstruction efforts. Sharmila quickly put her new skills to work, joining her father, a semi-skilled construction worker, to rebuild their house. The community soon noticed her skills and she gained a reputation as an expert mason in and beyond the Majhi community.

It's been three years since the earthquake, and Sharmila and her father have jointly constructed more than 10 houses on their own, bringing prosperity to her family. Her siblings, who had stopped going to school after the quakes, have since returned to their classes. The family has sufficient food at home. Things are going well, she says, thanks to the training and her hard work.



SECTION 4

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

With the tremendous success of women's participation (and victories) in the 2017 elections, Nepal took a major step towards equality and social inclusion nationwide. Since this was a new role for the newly-elected representatives, UNDP focused on building capacities of elected representatives, particularly women and marginalized groups from federal, provincial and local governments.

As a joint effort of UN Gender Theme Group, and International Development Partners - GESI Working Group, a resource book and manual on social inclusion and equity planning, the roles and responsibilities of local elected officials in Nepal's federalization was developed. The resource book, which aims to help further strengthen local governance in regards to gender equality and social inclusion, was rolled out in 50 local government units in the first phase. At least 25 local representatives were trained on the social inclusion and equity planning process. In partnership with UN Women, UNDP oriented provincial parliament members and local government representatives in Karnali and Province 5 on gender-responsive budgeting and planning. UNDP provided technical support to make the Technical Vocational Education and Training policies and strategies responsive to "gender equality and social inclusion" in Province 5 and Sudurpaschim.

With increased representation of women in the decision-making positions and decreased gender gap in labour force participation, Nepal was ranked 105th, the third best performer in South Asia, on the 2018 Global Gender Gap Index (105), climbing five positions up from the 2015 ranking (110). Important milestones were achieved in formulating and enacting laws, including the civil and criminal codes and those relating to the fundamental rights.



Participants check out the newly published research report on Economic Empowerment of Indigenous Women in Nepal during its launch in Kathmandu.

© RICHA RANJITKAR, UNDP NEPAL

UNDP also provided support to review 10 draft bills from gender and inclusion standpoint, to ensure that they adequately protect the fundamental rights of women, marginalized groups, youth, persons with disabilities, senior citizens and children. More than 70 chairs of the Judicial Committee were trained on their roles and responsibilities to address gender and social inclusion issues under the Constitution of Nepal.

In 2018, UNDP continued its ongoing efforts to promote gender equality through economic empowerment of women and marginalized groups. This year, UNDP successfully handed over the Micro-Enterprise Development Programme (MEDEP) to the Government of Nepal after helping over 140,000 of them (70% of whom are women) to become entrepreneurs. UNDP supported to develop guidelines for single-women micro-finance institutes and provided trainings on establishing micro-finance institute, business development, accounting and enterprise development, which led to the establishment of 94 new women-led enterprises across the country.

Addressing gender-based violence (GBV) remains a major priority. UNDP in partnership with other UN agencies and the Government conducted a national consultation with over 100 representatives, including lawyers, police, line ministries of the federal and provincial governments, health professionals, and civil society on the importance of multi-sectoral services to address the GBV. The consultation took stock of existing laws, mechanisms and practices across sectors and provided concrete recommendations on ways to strengthen a multi-pronged approach to battling GBV.

On 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence, UNDP and other UN agencies partnered with all seven Provincial Assemblies and organized

UNDP and other UN agencies partnered with all seven Provincial Assemblies to organize public awareness events and interactions on battling gender-based violence.

public awareness events and interactions on battling gender-based violence. All the seven provincial assembly buildings were lit in orange in solidarity with the global Orange the World campaign. Over 500 people, including provincial assembly members, representative of civil society and the media participated in the interactions that focused on the role of parliamentarians in addressing GBV.

In line with the principle of leaving no one behind, which forms the basis of Sustainable Development Goals, UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women and WHO supported organizations advocating for the rights of the persons with disabilities to amplify their voices and concerns. UNDP also supported LGBTI communities to interact with the Members of Parliament. These interventions are expected to have strengthened voice and agency of these organizations to address stigma and discrimination and make national and local policies, budgets and services more responsive to the needs of people with disabilities and other under-privileged groups.

UNDP continued to support Nepal in effectively fulfilling its obligations under international human rights treaties. In 2018, Nepal was reviewed for three international conventions, including the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CRPD). In all these reviews, UNDP supported the National Human Rights Commission and concerned civil society groups in preparing their reports. In the meantime, UNDP also facilitated to develop a coherent and coordinated mechanism for civil society participation in the global forums, including the Commission on the Status of Women, CEDAW, and CRPD sessions, which enhanced their learning while allowing them to present their issues more effectively.

Promoting Disability-Inclusive Development

UNDP worked closely with the Government of Nepal and the civil society in fulfilling the central pledge of SDGs to leave no one behind and to reach the furthest behind first. Nepal, as a signatory of the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and a number of other international treaties has a clear obligation to ensure that its national and sub-national policies and programmes are responsive enough to allow everyone, including people with disabilities, to lead a dignified life.

In 2018, UNDP provided technical support to various stakeholders, including the National Human Rights Commission, in reviewing the Government of Nepal's periodic report to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Allowing civil society organizations to present their own observations and concerns, UNDP also supported the National Federation of the Disabled Nepal, an umbrella



Wheelchair athletes start the 3km race at the #Run4HumanRights marathon in Kathmandu. © LAXMI PRASAD NGAKHUSHI, UNDP NEPAL

organization championing the disability rights in the country, in preparing and submitting a separate civil society report (shadow report) highlighting the status of implementation of the CRPD. The UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities acknowledged the improvements made since Nepal's ratification of the convention in 2010, particularly the enactment of the Disability Rights Act in 2017. The new law demonstrates Nepal's commitment to addressing disability-related issues using the rights-based model as

opposed to charity-based approaches.

UNDP also facilitated a coherent and coordinated mechanism to facilitate civil society participation in global forums, including the Commission on the Status of Women, CEDAW, CERD and the CRPD sessions, which enhanced their learning while allowing them to present their issues more effectively.

UNDP joined the National Federation of the Disabled Nepal, Disability Rights

Promotion International, York University and other actors to organize a National Youth Summit on Disability. The summit focused on livelihood issues, such as employment and entrepreneurship of youth with disabilities and linkages with the SDGs, leaving no one behind. The summit brought together 135 youth, both with and without disabilities, from all the seven provinces of the country to share the challenges and opportunities facing Nepali youth with disabilities.

UNDP NEPAL'S INNOVATION IN 2018

Innovation for development is about identifying more effective solutions that add value for people affected by development challenges – people and their governments, our users and clients. In 2018, UNDP piloted and scaled up a number of innovative solutions in the areas of promoting social enterprise, renewable energy, tackling climate change, and improving public services.



GRID CONNECTION

A UNDP-led initiative in 2018 links stand-alone micro-hydro plants with the national grid while generating income by selling surplus electricity. The Syaurebhumi micro-hydro plant in Nuwakot was the first to connect to this scheme and three others followed. Hundreds of micro-hydro plants can now connect with the national grid making power more reliable and profitable for some of Nepal's most vulnerable people.



TRACKING THE CLIMATE BUDGET

The Government of Nepal, with the support of UNDP, introduced an innovative tool to track climate-resilient spending in the agriculture sector, helping better planning and monitoring of climate responses.



MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR TVET

UNDP supported the Government of Nepal to develop and operationalize a consolidated system, mapping the skills of over 150,000 people across the country, and reform the trade and vocational education and training (TVET) sector to address unemployment. This web-based national MIS database improves the quality of TVET programmes and services in Nepal.



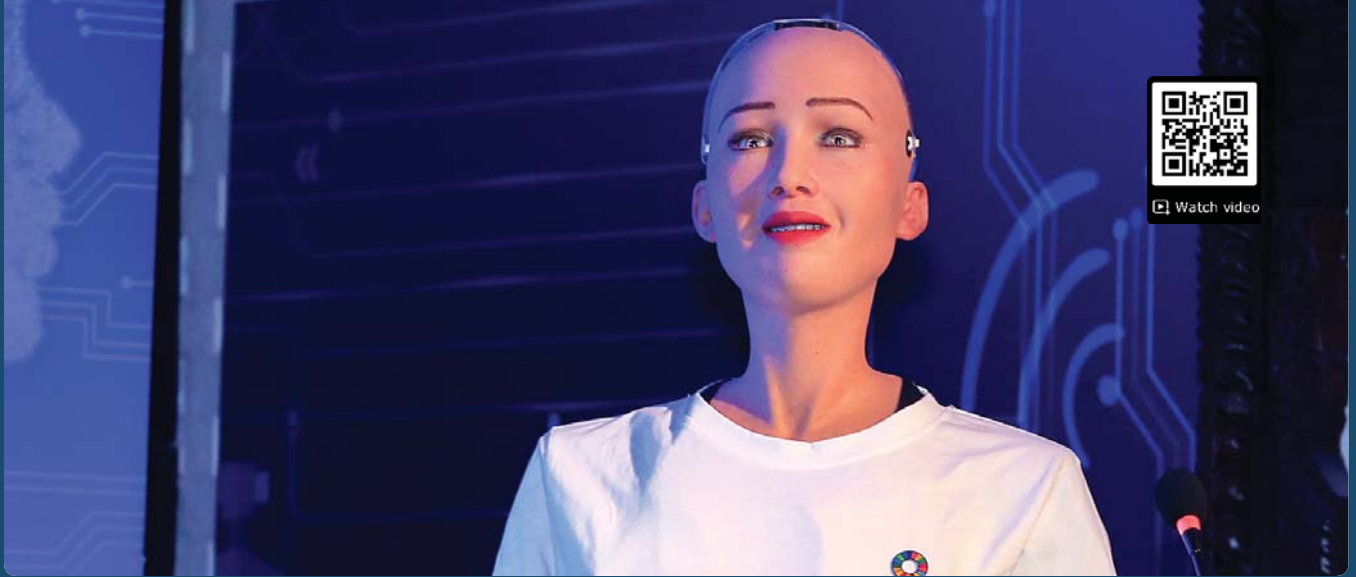
INNOVATIVE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

UNDP, in partnership with its Bangkok Regional Hub, engaged hundreds of youth in harvesting innovative ideas for social entrepreneurship. Known as Youth Co: Lab, the Nepal edition of the programme showcased over 50 innovative projects on social entrepreneurship, out of which top two ideas, 3D mapping and organic agriculture, were selected for scaling up.



CLIMATE LAUNCHPAD

Emerging Technologies in partnership with UNDP and other actors organized a Nepal episode of Climate Launchpad, a global competition on green innovation initiatives that saw germinated hundreds of ideas. Winning prototypes, namely Green Coal Pellet, EEBrick, and Kishan Agro, were selected for scale up for their promising solutions around carbon reduction technology for brick kilns and climate-resilient agriculture.



Watch video

UNDP's first non-human innovation champion, Sophia, a robot, addressing a programme organized by UNDP in Kathmandu.

© LAXMI PRASAD NGAKHUSI, UNDP NEPAL



AI FOR SOCIAL GOOD

As part of the Social Good Summit 2018, UNDP Nepal collaborated with Artificial Intelligence for Development (AID) to conduct a boot camp for 50+ women coders and IT students, connecting them to AI experts to explore ways to make tech work for the SDGs at the Institute of Engineering.



SOLAR PUMPS

Introduced by UNDP in 2018, the Sunflower solar irrigation pump is gaining popularity among farmers in Janakpur. At least 30 farming households have benefitted from this portable carbon-free technology.



MINI MAKER FAIRE

The Kathmandu Humanitarian Mini Maker Faire organized by the Nepal Communitere, in partnership with UNDP and others, was a unique gathering of global innovators solving some of the greatest social challenges faced by different communities. The event attracted 1,500 visitors, where they got to know about different innovations related to health, environment and education.



TECHNOLOGY FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

As part of efforts to facilitate discussion on how technology and innovation could contribute to better governance, and towards achieving the SDGs, UNDP organized a conference on "Technology for Public Services". The event, which included a keynote speech by Sophia, UNDP's non-human innovation champion, received huge coverage in the media. Over 200 people, including 16 mayors and deputy mayors participated in the event.



WASTE RECYCLING

UNDP supported the Robotics Association of Nepal to introduce recycling technology that uses 3D printing to produce items using plastic waste. Funded by the Global Environment Facility Small Grant Programme, the technology has a potential to be scaled up and expanded to other cities of Nepal.

UNDP's FIELD OFFICES

AS OF DECEMBER 2018



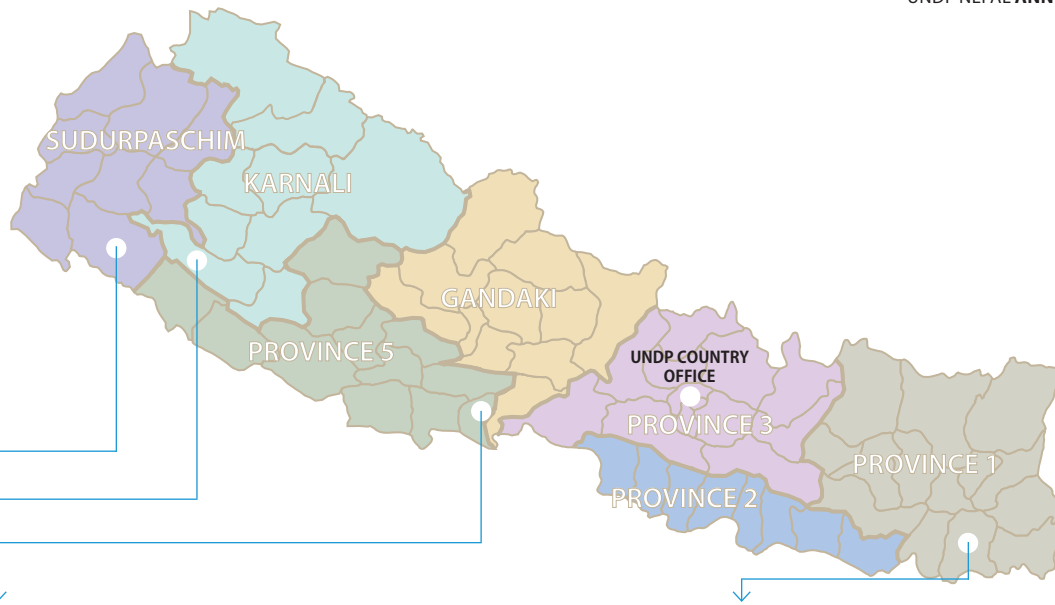
DHANGADI

In 2018, UNDP's Dhangadhi field office played a key role in building partnerships with the provincial and local governments in Sudurpaschim. Much of its efforts were geared towards building the capacity of the elected provincial members on provincial planning and localization of SDGs. UNDP worked together with the Provincial Ministry of Social Development and a number of other UN agencies to advance the rights of persons with disabilities. The office continued to work closely with the governments and civil society organizations on SDG advocacy and youth empowerment, through targeted campaigns and events, including an innovation fair for students at 10 public and private schools in Dhangadi where they showcased ideas to solve key development challenges.



SURKHET

In 2018, the field office of Nepalgunj was moved to Surkhet, the provincial headquarter of Karnali, to align UNDP's field presence with the newly formed federal structure and develop strong coordination with the local and provincial governments. The office worked in close coordination with the Provincial Parliament Secretariat providing crucial support in preparing a provincial SDG-baseline report, drafting and operationalizing the provincial annual business plans aligned with the SDGs. UNDP brought together the provincial and local governments, and civil society organizations in coordinating a series of joint events during the international days including International Women's Day, Anti-Corruption Day and World Environment Day.



BUTWAL

The Butwal field office is UNDP's newest field office having opened in late 2018. The field office coordinates UNDP's work in Province 5 and Gandaki. Jointly with the provincial governments of Province 5 and Gandaki and the National Planning Commission at the federal level, the field office helped facilitate the process of preparing provincial SDG baseline reports, which take stock of the progress made by the provinces in achieving the SDG and chart out a roadmap for achieving the same by 2030. The field office also played a crucial role in helping organize, jointly with the Federal Provincial Parliaments, orientations for the newly elected provincial assembly members and staff of both provinces on the lawmaking process.



BIRATNAGAR*

UNDP's Biratnagar field office coordinates activities in Provinces 1, 2 and 3. Relocated in Janakapur (the headquarter of Province 2) towards the end of 2018, the field office played an active role in coordination and partnership building with provincial and local level governments. In the changed federal context, the field office provided key policy and planning support to the provincial and local governments in the localization of the SDGs. Jointly with the Province 1 Parliament, UN Women and UNHCR, the field office organized interactions and public awareness campaign to mark 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence. As a focal point for activities related to Disaster Risk Reduction, the field office helped bring synergy in the works of state and non-state actors.

* The Biratnagar field office was moved to Janakapur in late 2018.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS 2018

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



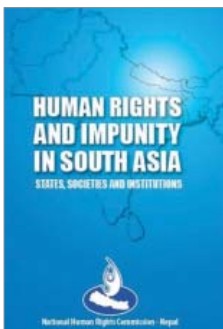
National Disaster Report 2017

More than 80 percent of the total population of Nepal is at high risk from natural hazards like floods, landslides, earthquakes and glacial lake outburst floods. The National Disaster Report 2017 highlights Nepal's experiences in disaster risk management in 2015-2016. The report documents key lessons and challenges with disaster management, and identifies priority actions for effective disaster response, risk reduction, and recovery.



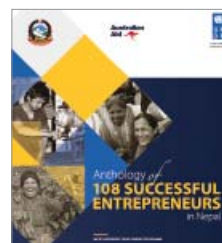
Dispute Settlement on Local Level

The booklet prepared by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) focuses on promoting a human-rights-friendly environment at the local level, particularly with local governments' role in handling disputes. Prepared after numerous consultations, discussions and interactions with concerned stakeholders, the booklet informs about various principles related to dispute resolution and NHRC's role at the local level.



Human Rights and Impunity in South Asia

Prepared as an outcome of the international human rights conference in Kathmandu, the book gives an insight into experiences of a number of South Asian countries in handling cases of impunity. The book affirms that despite an effective presence of statutes and human rights defenders across South Asia, accomplishing the human rights objectives in the post conflict setting is a daunting task.



Anthology of Successful Entrepreneurs

MEDEP has had a transformative effect in the lives of over 140,000 people, the majority of whom have become successful and empowered entrepreneurs not just providing for their own families but also creating employment for others, as well as becoming leaders in their communities. This collection offers a peek at the stories of some of these many successful entrepreneurs and insight into the journeys they undertook, the hardships and opportunities encountered - and the role played by MEDEP's direct and indirect support along the way.



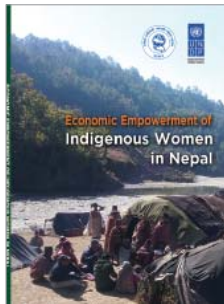
Resilient Housing Technology Handbook

The handbook aims to provide masons a step-by-step guide in constructing earthquake-resilient rural houses. The designs, models and checklist in this book has been published in accordance with the Nepal Government's Building Construction Code and the directives of the National Reconstruction Authority with the aim to inform Nepalis about earthquake-resilient housing.



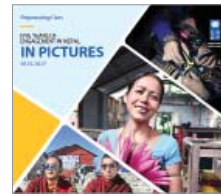
Federal Parliament: Booklet on Lawmaking

The booklet offers a step-by-step guide to how the Parliament formulates laws. It also provides insights on which key areas need to be reviewed or accounted for while scrutinizing a Bill. It is expected to prove a useful reference resource for parliamentarians, researchers, academia and indeed, anyone interested in the functioning of the Parliament.



Economic Empowerment of Indigenous Women in Nepal

UNDP Nepal in partnership with National Indigenous Women's Federation initiated this research with an objective to deepen the understanding on economic status of indigenous women particularly whether they are able to exercise their rights as provisioned by the Government's plans and policies, and take effective measures to address the specific needs for economic empowerment of indigenous women.



Five years of engagement in pictures

The photo book captures and presents some of the defining moments of UNDP's programming in Nepal from 2013 to 2017 as a tribute to the dedication of many Nepalis from all over the country in all walks of life who made our interventions impactful.



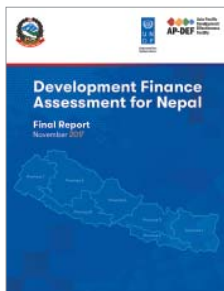
SDGs in Nepal: Infographics

Nepal is one of the UN Member States that have adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved by 2030. This series of infographics developed by United Nations Nepal, UNDP and other UN agencies, in partnership with Nepal in Data and the Republica national daily, illustrates how each province is faring as measured against set national targets and indicators of all the 17 Global Goals.



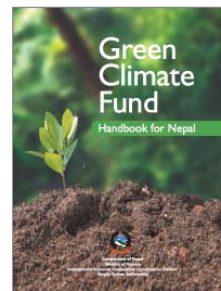
Children's Environment Series

This series of story books on environmental issues illustrate various aspects of environmental conservation, climate change and climate risk management, and are geared to educate, inform and sensitize school students, teachers and other audiences regarding the need for action. UNDP along with Children's Literature and Research Center, GoN Department Hydrology and Meteorology produced this book.



Development Finance Assessment in Nepal

The DFA identifies strategies to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the utilization of existing resources, and opportunities for the mobilization of additional resources. The assessment provides an overview of Nepal's development finance flows, and the institutions and policies that align this finance with national development priorities.



Green Climate Fund Handbook

This handbook explains the broader context of national climate change policies and investment priorities of GCF, the role and responsibilities of NDA, its governance mechanism, role of stakeholders and their engagement, national process for direct access entities and funding proposal development and other readiness and preparatory support that Nepal may receive from GCF.



THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS



Organized under the theme "Volunteers Build Resilient Communities", the International Volunteers Day mobilized over 300 young people, including men, women and LGBTI youth across the country to highlight the essential role of volunteers in building a resilient Nepal. UNV partnered with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the National Youth Council to organize a cleanup campaign and blood donation programme. © UNV NEPAL

In 2018, 58 United Nations Volunteers (UNVs) were embedded in UN Nepal agencies providing specialized assistance while promoting volunteerism. Agencies include UNDP, UNHCR, UNWomen, UNDP, UNRCPD, UNICEF, WHO and the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO).

Over the past year, UN Volunteers within UNDP focused their efforts on community infrastructure and livelihood recovery, disaster risk management, mobilizing youth, value chain initiatives and local governance and community development.

VOLUNTEERISM IN RECONSTRUCTION AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

As reconstruction continues in earthquake-affected districts, UNVs provided quality assurance of post-quake constructed community infrastructure through UNDP's Community Infrastructure and Livelihood Recovery Programme (CILRP). They have also supported to develop an effective Disaster Information Management System in the National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC) by institutionalizing latest technological innovations. This system with robust data related to disasters will provide statistical evidence to better inform policy-making and decision-making processes in the long run.

YOUTH FOR SDGS LOCALIZATION

In 2018, UNV's Youth Programme focusing on the localization of SDGs reached out to over 1,000 young people from across Nepal. UNV collaborated with more than 10 youth-led organizations championing innovation and entrepreneurship, encouraging young people in social entrepreneurship and innovation through the Youth Co:Lab. In collaboration with the Government of Nepal, the UN in Nepal promoted young people's engagement in the achievement of the SDGs with its Youth and the SDGs poster.



UN VOLUNTEER VOICE: DURGA PRASAD BHATTA

Since 2014, as a national volunteer, I have contributed in federal restructuring through GIS mapping of the newly established local governments and also conducted ICT survey of existing local bodies. I am supporting the operationalization of what we call a model e-governance in Sudurpaschim. This includes technical support in capacity development of IT officers, including regular backstopping support, monitoring and mentoring of 82 (out of 88) IT Officers working in various offices of the provincial government.

The Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA) has created IT officer position at each of the 753 local governments, working under the supervision of National UN Volunteers realizing the necessity of ICT-friendly local bodies. UNVs supported the Local Governance and Community Development Program (LGCDP) mobilized 10 UNV ICT experts in all seven provinces.



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

UNDP NEPAL & THE UN SYSTEM



UNDP joined other UN agencies and provincial governments to light-paint all the seven provincial assembly buildings in orange in solidarity with the global *Orange the World* campaign. © KIRAN PANDAY, UNDP NEPAL



UNDP functions as an integral member of the UN System in Nepal. A large part of the work of UNDP Country Office in Nepal is to participate in and support the work of the UN Country Team, led by the UN Resident Coordinator.

UNDP began the implementation of its new Country Programme Document (2018-2022). In line with the national United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) approved by the Government, the CPD articulates UNDP's work in three areas: inclusive economic growth; democratic governance, rule of law and human rights; and resilience, disaster risk reduction and climate change. Underpinning UNDP's work supporting Nepal's commitment to development priorities is the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UNDP actively engaged and led various thematic groups including the SDG Working Group, UN Communication Group, and Gender Theme Group. UNDP contributed significantly towards facilitating the new UNDAF (2018-22) implementing process. Communicating as One UN is one of the guiding principles for UNDP and therefore, where possible, events and programmes were organized in partnership with other relevant UN agencies that are coordinated through the regular UN Communications Group meetings chaired by UNDP.

With the changed federal structure of the country, UNDP along with other UN agencies focused on events relating to SDG localization. UN agencies, including UNDP, UN Habitat, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR and others joined the Municipality Association of Nepal in spreading the messages about SDGs localization. Similarly, UNDP along with other UN agencies jointly participated in lighting all seven-provincial headquarters in orange, marking 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence.

In partnership with local media, UNDP took the lead in promoting SDGs where all UN agencies collaborated to produce and publish a series of SDG infographics. The infographics, which were published in the Republica national daily, provided a province-wide status on the SDG targets set by the Government of Nepal.

Under the leadership of UN Resident Coordinator's Office, UNDP worked together with other UN agencies to organize an Open House Day with the theme "Innovation for Sustainable Development" which was attended by over 1,000 participants including students, government officials, donors, etc.

UNDP and UNFPA in partnership with National Youth Council jointly organized a model youth parliament program which helped the youth understand the parliamentary democracy as well as build their leadership capacity while providing them an opportunity for networking.

The UN marked the World Environment Day by launching its newly solar energy system in the UN compound in Kathmandu. The solar energy system, a joint venture of UNDP, WHO, FAO and UNICEF, reduces CO2 emissions by around 52 tons per year and save US\$ 26,000 on electricity bill annually.

UNDP together with other UN agencies partnered with the Search for Common Ground, a local NGO, in production and broadcast of Singhadurbar TV series, a 13-part teledrama, which included key messages around SDGs.

UNDP and other agencies including UNHCR, ILO and WHO supported and ran in the Kathmandu Marathon marking International Human Rights Day. The event helped highlight the role of sport in promoting the SDGs and human rights. Over 1,000 people, including people with disabilities, participated in the event which also included a wheelchair race marathon.



FUNDING SOURCES & PARTNERSHIPS

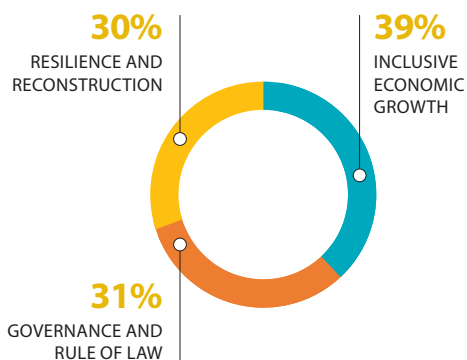
In 2018, UNDP implemented a wide range of projects in Nepal with total expenditure of US\$20.9 million, which came from its core fund, and from partners, bilateral and multilateral agencies, and thematic and vertical trust funds. The expenditure was over 82 percent of the total approved budget for 2018.

While UNDP contributed 26.9 percent of the total expenditure, the remaining 73.1 percent was mobilised from bilateral and multilateral agencies, among others. When considering UNDP's 2018 expenditure by committed outcome area, more than one-third of the programme expenditure went towards inclusive economic growth (39 percent), followed by inclusive governance and rule of law at 31 percent, and resilience and reconstruction at 30 percent.

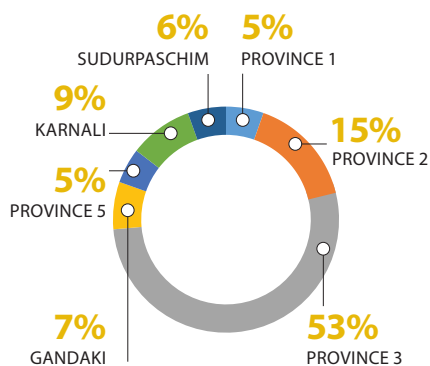
In 2018, the Government of Nepal contributed US\$ 448,561 of domestic resources to its partnership with UNDP.

EXPENDITURES IN 2018

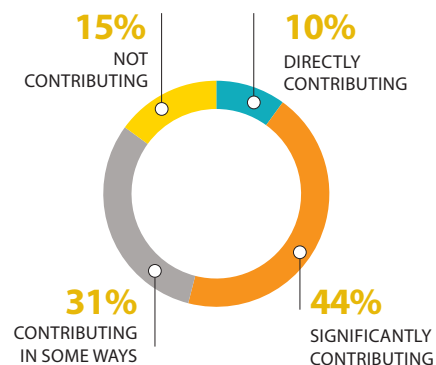
| DONORS | IN USD | PERCENT |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| UNDP | 5,625,059 | 26.9% |
| UNITED KINGDOM (DFID) | 3,010,332 | 14.4% |
| AUSTRALIA (DFAT) | 2,446,645 | 11.7% |
| CHINA | 2,166,302 | 10.4% |
| INDIA | 1,934,943 | 9.3% |
| NORWAY | 1,611,656 | 7.7% |
| EUROPEAN UNION | 1,355,363 | 6.5% |
| KOICA | 757,443 | 3.6% |
| THAILAND | 709,043 | 3.4% |
| NEPAL | 448,562 | 2.1% |
| GEF | 359,764 | 1.7% |
| GCF | 97,644 | 0.5% |
| QATAR | 85,200 | 0.4% |
| UNEP | 78,932 | 0.4% |
| GERMANY | 77,681 | 0.4% |
| OTHERS | 66,331 | 0.3% |
| SWITZERLAND | 61,446 | 0.3% |
| TOTAL | 20,892,346 | 100.0% |



EXPENDITURE BY OUTCOME AREAS

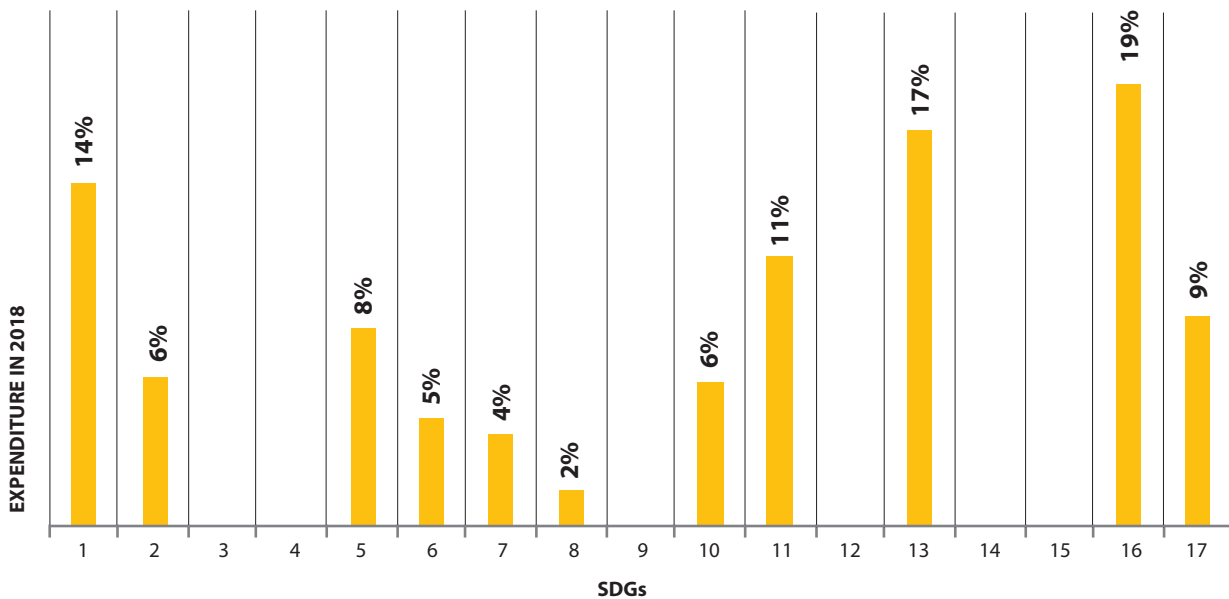


EXPENDITURE BY PROVINCE



EXPENDITURE CONTRIBUTING TO GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

UNDP EXPENDITURE BY SDGs



LEGEND

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

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



CHINA



DENMARK



EUROPEAN UNION



FINLAND



GERMANY



INDIA



NEPAL



NORWAY



QATAR



REPUBLIC OF KOREA



SWITZERLAND



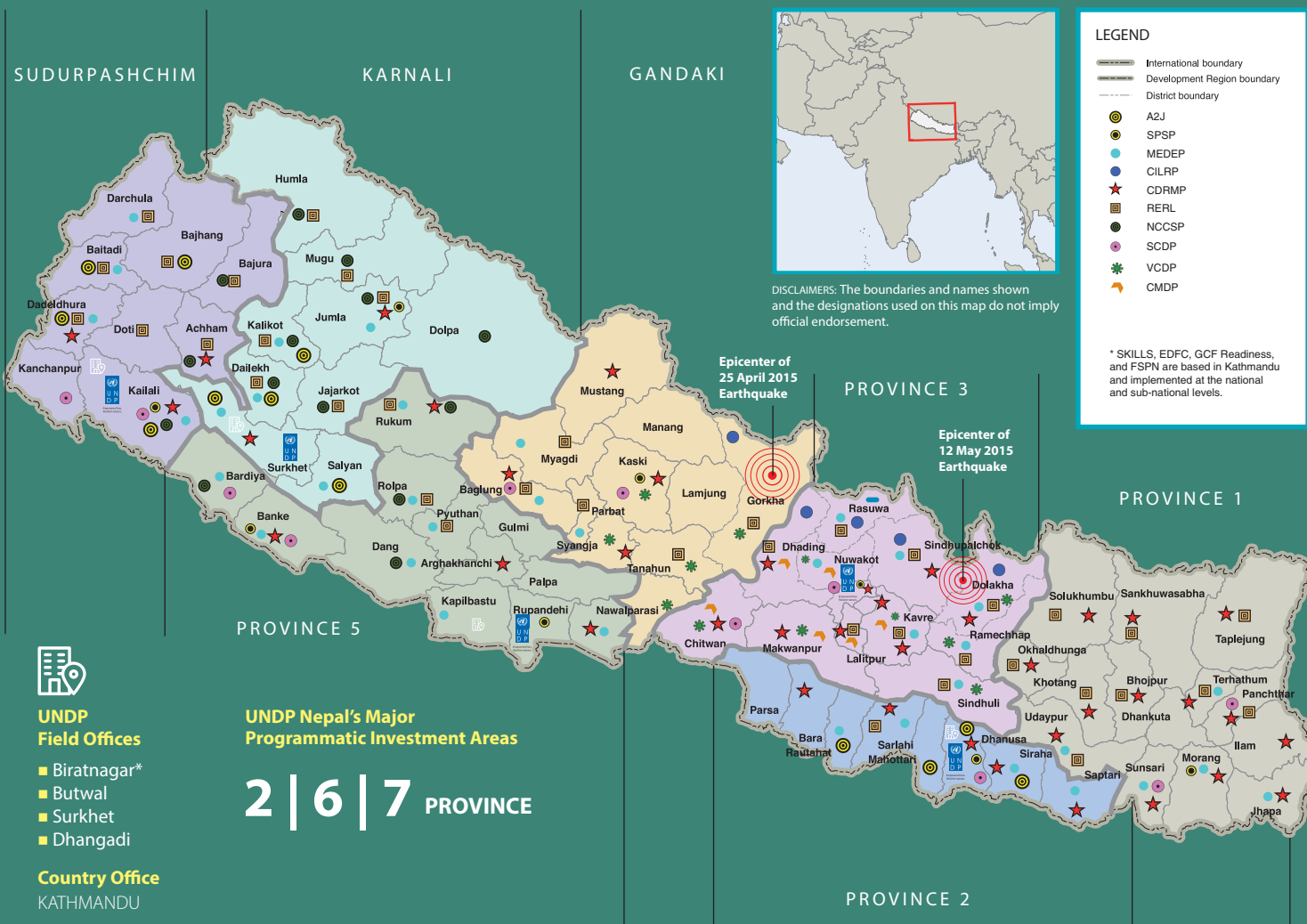
THAILAND



UNITED KINGDOM

UNDP NEPAL: WHERE WE WORK

AS OF JANUARY 2019



*The Biratnagar field office was moved to Janakpur towards the end of 2018.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

| | | | |
|---------------|---|-----------------|--|
| A2J | Access to Justice | NBA | Nepal Bar Association |
| AEPC | Alternative Energy Promotion Center | NCCSP | Nepal Climate Change Support Programme |
| AMIS | Aid Management Information System | NHRC | National Human Rights Commission |
| BMU | German Government's Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety | NPC | National Planning Commission |
| BRIDGE | Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections | NRA | National Reconstruction Authority |
| CDRMP | Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Programme | NTNC | Nepal Trust for Nature Conservation |
| CILRP | Community Infrastructure and Livelihoods Recovery Programme | ONDP | Online National Data Profile |
| CMDP | Cooperative Market Development Programme | PSP | Parliament Support Project |
| CSO | Civil Society Organization | RERL | Renewable Energy for Rural Livelihood |
| CTEVT | Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training | SASEC | South Asia Sub Regional Economic Cooperation Programme |
| CVCP | Conflict Victims Common Platform | SCDP | Social Cohesion and Democratic Participation |
| DFA | Development Finance Assessment | SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| DFAT | Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia) | SKILLS | Support to Knowledge and Lifelong Learning Skills |
| DFID | Department for International Development (United Kingdom) | TJP | Transitional Justice Project |
| eBPS | Electronic Building Permit System | TRC | Truth and Reconciliation Commission |
| ECN | Election Commission of Nepal | TVET | Technical and Vocational Education and Training |
| EDFC | Effective Development Financing and Cooperation | UN | United Nations |
| ESP | Electoral Support Project | UNICEF | United Nations International Children's Fund |
| FDI | Foreign Direct Investment | UNCDF | United Nations Capital Development Fund |
| GCF | Green Climate Fund | UNCT | United Nations Country Team |
| GEF | Global Environment Facility | UNDAF | United Nations Development Assistance Framework |
| GESI | Gender Equality and Social Inclusion | UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| GoN | Government of Nepal | UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| HDI | Human Development Index | UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| KOICA | Korea International Cooperation Agency | UNV | United Nations Volunteers |
| KMC | Kathmandu Metropolitan City | UN Women | United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women |
| MEDEP | Micro Enterprise Development Programme | VCDP | Value Chain Development Programme |
| MEDPA | Micro Enterprise Development for Poverty Alleviation | | |
| MHP | Micro Hydro Plant | | |
| MIS | Management Information System | | |
| MoE | Ministry of Education | | |
| MoF | Ministry of Finance | | |
| MoHA | Ministry of Home Affairs | | |



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