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# UN COUNTRY TEAM ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT 2021

NEPAL



March 2022

# **UN COUNTRY TEAM ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT 2021**

**NEPAL**

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# Foreword

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On behalf of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) Nepal, it is my pleasure to share with you this 2021 UNCT Annual Results Report. The report outlines the results of the partnership between the UNCT and the Government of Nepal in working towards the realization of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), all within the frame of the current UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The UNDAF (2018-2022) focuses on four priority outcomes: i) Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth; ii) Social Development; iii) Resilience, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change; and iv) Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights. The principle of leaving no one behind has been crosscutting to all the work that has been done.

While we would have all hoped to leave the COVID-19 pandemic behind us in 2020, this was of course not the reality. The second and third waves of the pandemic hit the world and Nepal severely, disproportionately impacting those most marginalised. In 2021, we could see both the immediate and medium-term impacts of the pandemic, risking stagnation or even regression on the SDGs. Thus, in 2021, the UN support to the government-led COVID-19 response focused on both targeted interventions to curb the pandemic, but also interventions within the UNDAF Outcome areas to protect the development gains already made by Government in working towards a prosperous and inclusive Nepal.

I am pleased that in this report I can also share the results of our progress on implementing the UN Reform including on strengthened coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency, showcasing some of our collective efforts on partnerships, joint advocacy, disability inclusion, and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. Notably, 2021 marks the year in which the UNCT, in collaboration with the Government, embarked on the process of developing the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2023-2027. In the coming years, the UNSDCF will be the most important instrument for the planning and implementation of our activities and frame our partnership with the Government on the realisation of the 2030 Agenda and a smooth LDC Graduation Process.

This 2021 annual UNCT results report represents the key results of the collaboration of the UN and the Government of Nepal during the reporting period. Interventions were carried out in partnership with local authorities, the people of Nepal, as well as civil society organisations and development partners. We remain grateful to our donors and partners for the close cooperation over the past year. I want to end by thanking the Government of Nepal for our continued close and trusted collaboration and look forward to our further strengthened partnership as we jointly develop the new UNSDCF 2023-2027.



**Richard Howard**  
UN Resident Coordinator a.i.

# UN Country Team

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Agencies Under the Cooperation Framework



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.



# Key Development Partners of the UN Development System

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In 2021, the UN Country Team in Nepal has been working with a wide set of partners and deepened the collaboration with bilateral, multilateral and international financial institutions. Additionally, joint UN initiatives funded by global multi-partner trust funds, for example, the UN Joint SDG Fund and

In 2021, collaboration with the Government deepened in all UNDAF outcome areas, notably working with the Government on

the Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage have been implemented. The UN Country Team is committed to working with the Government of Nepal and the people in achieving the aspirations set out in Agenda 2030, the 2015 Constitution as well as the 15th Plan.

COVID-19 socio-economic recovery, improvement of the social sectors, supporting disaster risk reduction and

climate change adaptation, as well as working on governance and rule of law.

The UN worked with Development Partners on key issues including COVID-19 response, COVID-19 vaccination drive and Green, Resilient and Inclusive Development (GRID).

In 2021, Nepal underwent the Universal Periodic Review and the UN in Nepal worked with both the Government and civil society to ensure meaningful participation in the process and the subsequent follow-up.

The UN Country Team has partnered with diverse sections of Nepali society including civil society, private sector and academia, and has been seeking feedback from stakeholders and beneficiaries.

# Chapter 1: Key Development Priorities in the Country and Regional Context

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*Photo credit: © UNDP Nepal*

Nepal heads towards graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status in 2026 after the UN General Assembly took note of it on November 24, 2021. The United Nations Committee for Development Policy recommended Nepal for graduation from LDC status in 2021, with a preparatory

period of five years, after the country met the criteria in the Human Asset Index and the Economic and Environmental Vulnerability Index. Despite the economic slowdown caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, Nepal is assessed to have favourable prospects for maintaining its



course towards sustainable graduation as long as it effectively utilizes the preparatory period, which was extended from the normal preparatory period of three years to five years due to COVID-19<sup>1</sup>.

[The year 2021 witnessed political developments in the country, leading to a change in the government.](#) Former Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli dissolved the parliament on two occasions in 2020 and 2021, this eventually, through a Supreme Court ruling, resulted in the formation of a new government led by Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, the leader of the Nepali Congress, who was supported by four other political parties.

[The 2017 elections implemented federal system governance, bringing three-tier structures—local, provincial, and federal governments—into practice.](#) This entails a fundamental shift in systems and structures and devolves functions to local and provincial levels. With this shift, local governments are responsible for delivering basic services, and for planning and implementing development. However, 2020 research showed that local governments operating under the current incomplete

legal and operational framework faced challenges across their concurrent powers. There is an overlap between the different levels of government and the progress in the assignment of functions from national to local levels were slowed down<sup>2</sup>. Now, the Election Commission Nepal (ECN) approaches a 10-month period of preparing for and running elections for only the second time across the three tiers of federal government in 2022-2023, with a scheduled election of the local government on May 13, 2022.

[The Central Bureau of Statistics \(CBS\) carried out the population and housing census in November 2021.](#) The preliminary results were released on January 26, 2022, with a population size of 29.2 million, amid concerns among the media about lower-than-expected growth in the hills and mountains, an undercount of the Nepali population overseas, and missing women. CBS is preparing to conduct a Post Enumeration Survey in a few weeks to assess Census coverage, however main results will be required in order to really understand the data. CBS is currently processing the questionnaires with a view to release the main results from the third

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<sup>1</sup> ESCAP, Towards Sustainable Graduation of South Asian LDCs in the aftermath of COVID-19: Challenges, Prospects and Policy Lessons, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> The English summary of the report is, The Asia Foundation, [Assignment of Functions Across Levels of Government in Nepal](#), 8 October 2020, and the full in [Nepali](#)

quarter of 2022. All data and thematic analyses are scheduled for release during 2022 and 2023.

[The COVID-19 impact on Nepal's economy has brought economic slowdown, with key sectors – such as services, tourism, hospitality, manufacturing, and construction – slowing down.](#) The lockdown has, for example, led to the closure of 61% of businesses during the 2020 lockdown, resulting in a reduction in economic activities of 73.8% and estimated job losses of between 1.2 million and 2 million<sup>3</sup>. In 2021, remittance decreased by around 6 percent against an increase the previous

year. The current account registered a deficit of Nrs 2.97 billion in the last six months of 2021 against the deficit of 440.8 million in the same period last year. The gross foreign exchange reserves have decreased by 15.9 percent in mid-January 2022 from Nrs 11.75 billion in mid-July 2021. Notably, consumer price inflation stood at 5.65 percent in the past sixth months compared to 3.56 percent during the same period a year ago. These economic indicators have led to several policy measures to discourage imports of high-value goods, and banking loans to luxury vehicles and land/housing sectors in Nepal.

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<sup>3</sup> NPC, Annual Report, 2076/77

# Chapter 2: UN Support to National Development Priorities

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## 2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

In 2021, the UN Country Team in Nepal supported Nepal's aspirations for LDC Graduation and achievement of the SDGs as laid out in the 15th Plan.

The UN continued supporting the country to recover from the COVID-19 induced crisis through employment generation and enterprise development. These UN programmes contributed to the government efforts to improve three key areas: agriculture productivity, employment, and food security. These included micro-enterprise development and support for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. The UN supported government counterparts along with other development partners to address food insecurity and unemployment problems, especially in hard-to-reach areas, applying the principle of leaving no one behind. There was an emphasis on supporting small hold farmers, and in particular women in increasing farm production and marketing.

The government continued to develop policies and programmes with the aim of providing equitable access to basic social services for all and ensuring the continuation of basic services in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, the UN supported the government's efforts to prepare policies, strategies and operational guidelines as well as to implement interventions in order to ensure good health, food security, quality education, access to basic sanitation and quality water, as well as gender equality.

In 2021, long-term disaster and climate change resilience and preparedness in Nepal was significantly enhanced through a number of positive developments. Nepal made remarkable progress in its international commitments to combat climate change by developing a Long-Term Strategy highlighting its commitment of achieving 'net-zero emission' by 2045, in line with the enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) submitted to the UNFCCC in 2020. Provincial NDC implementation plans and climate strategies have also been drafted with UN support, and implementation will continue in 2022.

Despite the challenges presented by the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, progress continued towards establishing inclusive, democratic, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels of government this year. The government has accepted 195 of the 233 UPR recommendations made by the Human Rights Council (HRC) in 2021. Constitutional Commissions continued to enhance capacity and implement human rights commitments this year. Through UN-supported capacity development initiatives, the capacity of local elected representatives and officials was further enhanced. The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) successfully conducted the Population and Housing Census in 2021. Three provinces finalized their first SDG Baseline Reports.

The details of progress against the outcome indicators can be found in UNINFO<sup>4</sup>. In 2021, UNCT Nepal has conducted the UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard, UNCT-Accountability Scorecard on Disability Inclusion, and the UNCT Youth 2030 Scorecard reporting and implementation. The UNCT and its relevant inter-agency working groups have taken concerted action to implement the scorecard recommendations. Some key achievements from 2021 include the roll-out and

implementation of the Gender Equality marker Tool; continued action on increasing gender parity and staff diversity; launching the 'Diversity in Dialogue' pledge with the UNCT and 16 development partners; capacity development and awareness raising initiatives on disability inclusion; increased accessibility of common premises; conducting a digital accessibility assessment; formalization of the UN Youth Group-Task force with youth focal points from 15 agencies; and conducting several joint campaigns and events to amplify the voice of youth.



Photo credit: © UNRCO

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<sup>4</sup> [Nepal | UNCT Overview | UNSDG Data Portal \(uninfo.org\)](https://uninfo.org/)

United Nations Nepal COVID-19 Emergency Response In April 2021, Nepal saw a surge in COVID-19 cases, which challenged the health care system. The United Nations together with the Humanitarian Country Team launched the COVID-19 Response Plan calling for financial support of US\$ 83.7 to assist 750,000 of the most vulnerable Nepalis affected by the pandemic.

According to the Financial Tracking System, a total of 40.4 mil US\$ were raised for the response<sup>5</sup>.

UN agencies provided critical support to the government in coordinating and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic under the WASH Cluster. This involved directly working with the government at all three levels, and other partners including CSOs across all seven provinces in targeting isolation centers, health care facilities, points of entry, communities, and schools. The response directly reached 1.3 million people with hygiene promotion messages, and over 800,000 people with at least one or more WASH services including supplies in different setting such as communities, health care facilities, quarantine and isolation centers, and points of entry/holding centers.

To support evidence-based planning, UNICEF and WFP contributed to data generation and monitoring of the impact of COVID-19 on household vulnerability through the Child Family Tacker and mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Monitoring (mVAM) surveys. Based on the evidence provided by the Child and Family Tracker, UNICEF in partnership with civil society organizations and NGOs supported dissemination of messages promoting healthy diets, breastfeeding, demand creation for nutrition services broadcast through social media, radio, and SMS channels. 700,000 households received remote messaging on nutrition and 8500 health workers increased skills and knowledge. WFP combined blanket supplementary food distribution with tele-counselling on infant and young child feeding practices.

WHO provided support for the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on Case Investigation and Contact Tracing (CICT) and guidelines; training to the CICT members on CICT and Information Management Unit (IMU) application; technical and operational support for the establishment of Call center at EDCD with the purpose for helpline functions and to

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<sup>5</sup> <https://fts.unocha.org/countries/156/summary/2022>

strengthen surveillance for early detection of COVID-19 cases and contacts, enhance risk communication, and follow-up of home isolated cases; strengthening the laboratory capacity in terms of PCR testing and genome sequencing; technical support in strengthening laboratory-based influenza surveillance system; technical support on infection prevention and control, critical care training modules development and providing trainings on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and critical care.

WHO also provided protective items and equipment to be distributed to the hospital for pandemic response, support to establishment of temporary health desks in Points of Entry (PoEs), refurbishment of functional federal HEOC and PHEOCs; rapid capacity assessment of 21 COVID-19 unified hospitals; technical and operational support to conduct second round of seroprevalence survey. The survey findings helped national authorities to initiate more targeted public health measures to control and prevent COVID-19. WHO mapped hospitals with oxygen capacity; provided training on the use of biomedical equipment; supported in the development of the Communication Strategy for COVID-19 and RCCE directive, and provided orientation on the RCCE directive, IEC material development and dissemination.

UNICEF continued to co-lead the risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) efforts to promote COVID-19 safety behaviours. Interventions and content were adjusted based on behavioural insights generated through four rounds of telephone surveys with more than 6,500 respondents, crowdsourcing real time mask use monitoring data, 240 rounds of focus group discussions with affected populations, news and social media monitoring and community-based reporting from the 66 radio journalists. The insights were analysed and shared with the relevant government authorities for timely response. Rumours and misinformation related to mask, testing and vaccination were addressed through radio, television, social media contents and community volunteers.

UNICEF-initiated and co-led the Crisis Media Hub at the MoHP and developed more than 500 multi-media assets, shared across government and RCCE member channels, enabling a fast response to changing scenarios and quick response to concerns arising from robust daily social listening. The content was based on the monthly COVID-19 insight brief that used multiple sources of information and mechanisms to collect the feedback, questions and concerns from the communities. The content produced by the hub was also resource materials for TV/radio media and RCCE members used

the content for community orientation. Extending the reach to communities has also been achieved through the UNICEF supported 180 episodes of a radio programme on COVID-19 and its secondary impact in the "capsule" format, reaching more than 7 million people across the country. Furthermore, UNICEF's social media content on various topics including COVID-19 flood and cholera responses in 2021 reached over 22.7 million individual users, gathering over 1.1 billion impressions and 125 million engagements. UNICEF led the design and organization of two national campaigns - mask week (August) and mental health campaign (October) along with the government to promote mask wearing behaviour in Nepal as well as spotlight the issue of mental health of children and young people amidst COVID-19. More than 557,087 people engaged in reaching out more than 1.2 million people and 46,337 returning migrants at point of entry.

UN/WHO also supported the government and MoHP in design of continuation of essential health services during COVID-19 Pandemic thus, ensured the implementation of continuation of essential services to vulnerable communities and marginalized populations in country.

UNOPS contributed to the COVID-19 emergency situation of the country by

supporting MoHP with the supply of 1,000 Oxygen 10L concentrators and 7 Duplex PSA Oxygen Generation plants in 7 provinces of the country. The operations and maintenance of the plants will be carried out by UNOPS until July 2024.

IOM procured and distributed extra care packages with financial support from UN HQ for donation to hospitals to strengthen the health care system's response to COVID-19. IOM has been running the COVID-19 clinic and has achieved a substantial marking on reaching UN personnel and dependents with COVID-19 vaccination access. In coordination with the Government of Nepal, it undertook migrant-focused vaccination campaigns, and advocated for inclusion of migrants in the National Vaccine Deployment Plan. By 31 December 2021, 29,109 people had been vaccinated through IOM, including Nepalese and foreign migrants, Nepalese returnee migrants, internally displaced populations and at-risk and vulnerable populations.

In 2021, the National Logistics Cluster on behalf of WFP transported 1,623 mt (4,684 cbm) medical items and NFIs, including oxygen cylinders, of the MoHP and different humanitarian organizations for COVID-19 from Kathmandu to the provincial capitals and district headquarters. Similarly, stored medical items and NFIs of the MoHP and different humanitarian organizations at the Humanitarian Staging Areas (HSAs) in Kathmandu, Dhangadi, Nepalgunj and Surkhet. Storage space was provided through 13 mobile storage units (MSUs) at the Humanitarian Staging Areas (HSA) in Kathmandu, Dhangadhi, Nepalgunj and Surkhet. Three MSUs were loaned to COVID-19 Crisis Management Centre (CCMC), and one MSU to each Provincial Health Directorate, Bagmati Province, Gandaki Province and Madhesh Province. city for COVID-19 response. UNICEF supported the procurement, shipment, and inland transportation and distribution of 39 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines and provided 20 million syringes contributing to Nepal reaching over 50 per cent of the targeted population with COVID vaccines despite challenges. Two 40 feet WFP supported the MoHP with the transshipment of approx. 6.3 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines from the HSA in Kathmandu to the health facilities in the provinces.

Guarding the nexus between sector reform and humanitarian response, the UN supported the government to revise the Federal Education Cluster COVID Contingency Plan, ensuring linkage with WASH and protection clusters for safe reopening of schools. This included facilitating intergovernmental coordination where the formal/legal structures between the (federal, provincial, local) government tiers remain absent due to the ongoing delays on the promulgation of the Federal Education Act. Besides the COVID-19 response, the UN also supported the continued implementation of the Comprehensive School Safety Masterplan and the development of the Monsoon preparedness plan.

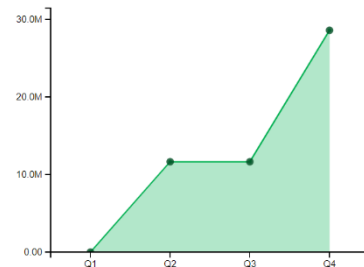
Responding to the needs of more than 8 million out of school children, UNICEF led the education cluster in supporting alternative learning approaches during COVID-19 lockdown school closures, such as home and community-based teaching modalities and the learning continuity campaign with particular focus on children experiencing the most severe learning loss largest loss, particularly in Madhesh, Lumbini, Karnali and Sudurpaschim provinces. UNICEF provided 3,500 young children in the most disadvantaged areas with early childhood tele-teaching and benefitting 48,000 parents through a parenting education radio series. UNICEF



also distributed 110,000 self-learning packages, trained 3,200 teachers on psychosocial support, and provided individual student kits to 5,800 adolescent girls under the Girls' Access to Education programme. On the socio-economic response the Country repurposed 32 million US\$, progress was made on many indicators<sup>6</sup>.

**People Accessing Vaccination, Maternal Health & Nutrition Programmes.**

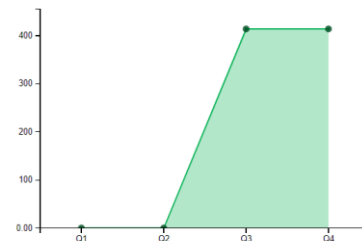
**7.2M**  
Maternal Health  
**120k**  
Vaccination Programmes  
**5.1M**  
Nutrition Programmes



**Health Facilities Supported (Immunization)**

**2.5k**  
Health Facilities

Quarterly Progress



<sup>6</sup> <https://data.uninfo.org/results/health-first.html?iso=NPL>

## 2.2. Cooperation Framework Priorities, Outcomes and Outputs

### Outcome 1. Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth

*By 2022, economically vulnerable, unemployed and underemployed people have increased access to sustainable livelihoods and safe and decent employment and income opportunities.*



In 2021, the UN continued supporting the country to recover from the COVID-19 induced crisis through employment generation and enterprise development. UN programmes contributed to the government's efforts to improve in three key

areas: agriculture productivity, employment, and food security. First, in 2021, 94,000 smallholder farm households, with around 40 to 70 percent women beneficiaries, increased farm production, increased access to income generating and employment opportunities, and improved their access to market, value chains and risk transfer mechanism supported by UN programmes implemented in collaboration with government counterparts. Similarly, 3,002 rural women farmers increased their food production outputs by 295% and generated a total income of NPR 35,540,000 (USD 300,168.91)<sup>7</sup>, contributing to the improved diet and food security of 12,908 family members. Additionally, 70% of those rural women farmers in project areas generated NPR 29,084,800 (USD 215,243) by selling seeds and grains and 80% of households improved their food consumption score. The leadership ability of 2,353 rural women farmers was strengthened for production, marketing, leadership, and challenge traditional social norms through a series of in-person leadership training and innovative radio programmes.

Second, the UN supported the government to implement the Micro-Enterprise

<sup>7</sup> US\$ 99,258.95 based on the UN exchange rate for October 2021, NPR 118.40/US\$.

Development Programme for Poverty Alleviation (MEDPA) in 753 local governments, resulting in around establishment of 33,000 new entrepreneurs, with around 80% women entrepreneurs, with the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). UN agencies advocacy support resulted in lowering restrictions on women's choices of labour migration destination and growing support for fair-recruitment principles. Recruitment agencies that were previously opposed to no-fee recruitment are now advocating for the adoption of fair recruitment principles in government-facilitated recruitment corridor. With UN support, Nepal has become one of the path finder countries for SDG 8.7., hosting the Alliance 8.7 Secretariat at the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security in Nepal. This has contributed in strengthened collaboration among stakeholders to effectively address child labour, forced labour, protect migrant workers, and promote occupational safety and health.

Third, the UN supported government counterparts along with other development partners to address food insecurity and

unemployment problems, especially in hard-to-reach areas, applying the principle of leaving no one behind and getting back on track to achieve SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger), and SDG 8 (inclusive and sustainable economic growth). UN agencies employment generating programmes and Food Assistance for Assets using cash modality resulted in the creation of approximately 567,340 workdays through the creation and rehabilitation of community assets for sustainable food and nutrition security and disaster risk reduction. This effort served to transfer the cash amount to USD 2,785,043 to 81,861 people, with 43 percent women direct recipients, construct 265 productive and resilient community assets, benefitting a total 66,002 households. Over 70% of beneficiaries were women, undertaking non-traditional gender roles, including leading and managing local infrastructure projects. This has resulted, as shown by the WFP 2021 household survey on COVID-19 impact in Nepal, in decline in the percentage of households with inadequate food consumption to 14.1% in 2021 from 14.9% in 2018.



Photo credit: © UNRCO

## Output

### **Strengthened capacities of smallholder farmers for increased farm production and marketing.**

The UN Joint Programme—Rural Women Economic Empowerment (JP RWEE)— of FAO, IFAD, UN Women, and WFP supported 2,210 rural women farmers with the construction of 75 MT post-harvest storage facility and their linkage with the localized and stable agricultural market through Home-Grown School Feeding. Similarly, 132 government officials participated in workshops and policy

dialogues, which led 4 municipalities to allocate NPR 34.5 million in agriculture-related activities. Additionally, the programme oriented 103 local vendors on topics related to the overall concept of gender equality and social cohesion. WFP supported 1269 vulnerable HHs (65% female) to adopt climate-resilient agriculture practices and 4,555 farmers (78% women) to have access to crop and livestock insurance schemes including weather-index based insurance for apple farming. Approximately 1,215,000 households listened to 112 episodes of FM radio programmes on farming techniques and



*Photo credit: © UNRCO*

pest management in 3 local governments; 531 farmers received online advice from call centres; 5,487 farmers (53% women) got training on production technology and postharvest loss management skills; and 28,740 farmers (51% women) gained enhanced access to markets through collection centres, cold storage, mobile markets, and transportation facilities. UNDP's supported farmers to develop, upgrade and maintain small scale tourism infrastructure, cultural heritage sites, parks, and trekking trails, which resulted in the sale of 19,716 tons of fruits and vegetables worth USD 7,416,482. It also supported 5,645 (25.5% women) poor and vulnerable tourism sector workers with 76,948 person-days of short-term employment.

FAO supported 33,571 farmers (72% women) with technical skill training on agriculture input for enhancing farm productivity and reducing women drudgery and 12,138 farmers (77% women) with technical and management training on agriculture. FAO also supported preparing operational guidelines and training manuals for Farmer Field School (FFS), Business Farm School (BFS), and Nutrition Field School (NFS) to enhance agri-productivity, to upscale agribusiness, and improve food and nutrition security of women as well as feeding and caring practices of children aged 6-24 months. FAO also trained 156 FFS facilitators (18.9% women), who ran 64 models FFSs involving 1,329 farmers (71% women) and supported GoN to run 208

FFSs, benefitting 4,880 farmers (71% women). FAO additionally trained 25 BFS Facilitators (32% women) and technically assisted MoALD to conduct 44 BFSs involving 1358 farmers (52% women). Likewise, FAO trained 440 government officials (23% women) at the federal and provincial levels on organic agriculture technology and certification, para-taxonomy, agroecosystem conservation, rapid bioassay of pesticide residues; agriculture statistics-MIS, etc. Likewise, agriculture input support was provided to 709 farmer groups benefitting 19,892 farmers (81% women), and technical assistance was provided to distribute a total of 116 MT of improved variety cereal crop (paddy, wheat, maize) seed, and support was provided to irrigate additional 412 hectares of land benefitting 3,096 farmer households.

**Increased inclusive employment through support to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) mainly in major growth sectors, including agriculture and tourism.**

WFP supported to 4,125 people (57% women) start/expand 220 agroforestry enterprises and 494 women-led enterprises. Furthermore, 305 HHs have established women-owned and -operated solar dryers-based food processing enterprises. WFP also supported to revive 295 women-led rural enterprises shut down due to the

impact of Covid-19. Through MEDPA, UNDP provided technical assistance to the GoN to establish 26,352 new micro-entrepreneurs (82% women) across 753 local governments. The UN supported the drafting of 3 federal and 14 provincial policy documents, trained 4,124 local government officials, elected representatives, and associations (44% women) to institutionalize the Micro-Enterprise Development (MED) model. In collaboration with UN Women, UNDP launched a pilot on Temporary Basic Income, benefitting 2,361 marginalized and vulnerable women. UNDP's tourism sector recovery programme created short-term employment for 5,645 tourism workers (23% women). UNCDF trained 5,914 entrepreneurs (66.66% women) on digital payment services for their access in e-commerce platforms. UNCDF also completed the Nepal Financial Inclusion refresh to guide Nepal's financial inclusion policy focusing on Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

UN Women supported 1,433 women entrepreneurs with vocational training, business development support, and seed fund support as part of Covid19 economic recovery response. It also provided vocational training to 463 out-of-school adolescent women to enhance their livelihood opportunities. It also supported to establish a mobile application Mero Pasal (Sabahbazaar.com) to increase the

inclusive employment opportunities through e-commerce. The app enabled 200 participants to market products digitally at [www.sabahbazaar.com](http://www.sabahbazaar.com). UN Women also conducted a feasibility study of financial inclusion of women and a study on the gendered impact of COVID-19 on local and national supply chains of specific sectors. Similarly, IOM continued to provide sustainable opportunities through social, economic, and psychosocial reintegration to the vulnerable, victims of trafficking, and stranded migrants. UN-Habitat supported 600 home-based workers, especially marginalized youth, and women, in establishing tourism-based enterprises. Around 450 community youths and women were trained on various product design and development, branding, and packaging in the local community based on their interest and potential. ILO capacitated 16 trade union leaders to extend business literacy training, especially to home workers. Additional 6 Union leaders and 6 members of sectoral employers' associations received e-ToT on ILO's generic GET Ahead Training (Gender and Entrepreneurship Together training programme. In collaboration with National Youth Council, ILO trained 240 Enterprise development Facilitators, who further provided SIYB (Start and Improve Your Business) training to 2,100 youth members and linked them to the Government's Stimulus package for self-employment for starting their enterprises.

**People in rural areas have increased access to improved livelihood assets, rural infrastructure, and wage labour opportunities in the process of construction/maintenance of the infrastructures.**

WFP supported 81,861 people (43% women) with Food Assistance for Assets (cash-based transfer) in complementarity to Prime Minister Employment Programme (PMEP) and created 265 productive and resilient community assets, for sustainable food and nutrition security and disaster risk reduction, despite COVID-19 and subsequent health and safety protocols put in place including four months-long country-wide lock-downs and movement restrictions in 2021. Total 66,002 households were benefitted from created community assets for their increased productivity, access, and resilience. Over 70% of participants under various FFA activities were women, undertaking non-traditional gender roles i.e., leading and managing local infrastructure work. In alignment with WFP's corporate guidelines for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, vulnerable households (those who were unable to participate in FFA activities for reasons such as pregnancy, age, and disability) were excused from work and given unconditional cash transfers equivalent to the entitlement earned at an FFA site.

In partnership with Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC), UNDP supported 1,317 remote households to be connected to renewable energy services. With FAO's support, 11 Mechanization Service Groups (MSG) involving 1,575 farmers (37.5% women) have established and operationalized 3 Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) to deliver mechanization services in

rural areas. UNCDF provided technical assistance to strengthen infrastructure asset management in pilot municipalities in partnership with the Town Development Fund. A review of critical municipal assets was conducted in six municipalities to support sustainable infrastructure asset management.



Photo credit: © Shabin Sunuwar Rasail, UNDP

**Fair and decent work for youths and migrant workers through vocational skill and access to employment services, and bilateral, regional, and global dialogues for safe, orderly, and regular migration.**

WFP provided short-term vocational and skill development training to 495

marginalized women and youths working in the informal sector, daily wage workers, and returnee migrants who lost income/employment opportunities due to Covid-19. WFP also provided agro-based training to 261 marginalized women and youths affected by Covid-19. UNDP completed a skill mapping rapid survey



among 10,800 returnee migrant workers in 3 provinces. The Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MoEST) began an operation of web-based National TVET-MIS by integrating profile of 299,414 (51% women) trained graduates. ILO assisted 40,000 aspiring women and girl migrant workers through outreach activities. ILO technical assisted the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (MoLESS) to draft BLAS for 3 new countries and to develop background paper as preparation for the participation of government officials in a meeting of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD) held on 24-27 May 2021 and the ADD Sixth Ministerial Consultation held on 25 October 2021-29 October 2021. ILO developed Toolkit for private recruitment agencies in Nepal to adopt fair and ethical recruitment based on ILO General Principles and Operational Guidelines of Fair Recruitment, prepared baseline document for IEC material for Malaysia, Jordan and Qatar.

IOM supported the government to ensure the implementation of GCM commitment and its representation to the regional discussions on Abu Dhabi Dialogue, Bali Process, Colombo Process, and GCM regional level consultations. IOM supported the government to develop a national implementation plan for GCM. It supported Dhankuta Municipality to develop the first Foreign Employment and Reintegration

Policy 2078 at the local levels. It supported the Province 1 government to establish the Coordination Center for Migration and Development within the Ministry of Social Development. IOM delivered training to recruitment agencies, Migrants Resources Centers staff, youth, on pre-departure orientation, safe migration, and fair/ethical recruitment. Additionally, over 3,5 million migrants were reached through various radio, television, social media, posters with awareness-raising and advocacy messages about safe and dignified migration.

### **Strengthened enabling environment for job creation, trade facilitation and sustainable livelihoods.**

IOM partnered with the government to conduct 4 research studies to support evidence-based policymaking and planning to ingrate returnee migrant workers and job creation. Eighty artisans received hands-on training on confined masonry and green technologies from UN-Habitat. UN Women supported the government to review the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) strategy of the Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) under JP RWEE. Similarly, UN Women developed a policy brief on gender-responsive social protection and public procurement to advocate for increased social security and economic opportunities for women. UN Women also supported the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens (MoWCSC), National

Planning Commission (NPC), and Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) for a macro-economic analysis of the impact of Covid19 on women from a gender perspective. UN Women also supported 3,000 vulnerable women-headed households with cash transfers in collaboration with WFP and UNDP to meet their special needs. Also,

8,237 women and members of vulnerable and excluded groups affected by the COVID-19 pandemic were benefitted from nutritious meals provided through UN Women-supported community kitchens. A total of 29 community members (90% women) received a job opportunity through this initiative.



Photo credit: © WFP

With the technical assistance from WFP, seven Local Governments developed GESI-responsive Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPAs) as model LAPAs which will guide local governments to deliver climate-resilient local development and an enabling environment for job creation and sustainable

livelihoods. Eight Climate-Smart Villages (CSVs) were developed in three districts as a model of integrated rural climate change adaptation and sustainable livelihoods. UNDP along with the government enhanced the capacity of 217 subnational government officials (8.75% women) for SDG

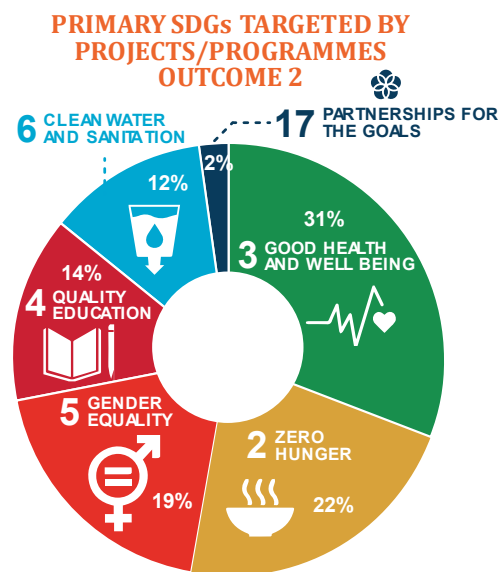
localization, SDG-based planning, budgeting, M&E, data management, and reporting. UNDP also supported for preparation and publication of the Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI), and Waste Management Survey Reports. With the technical support of UNDP, the Ministry of Finance conducted key studies such as Assessment of Federal Budget 2078/79, analysis of Per Capita Gross National Income Differential, and a study on trade management and foreign currency reserve in Nepal.

With ILO's support, sectoral employers' association of handicraft Nepal developed code of conduct for prevention of gender-based violence and harassment at workplaces; employee and employers regulation procedure to promote sustainable and ethical business culture and business formalization strategies. The joint platform for advocacy and action for promoting rights of homeworkers drafted the policy framework of home-based workers. Similarly, two unions organized cooperative education to 35 leaders of sectoral unions of homeworkers in order to facilitate the formalization of homeworkers through developing their cooperatives. In addition, MoLESS has developed a National Diagnostic of Informality in Nepal that has assessed the extent of informality in selected sectors and the need and opportunities for the sectors for transition to formality. UN Habitat's technical assistance

The Land Issues Resolving Commission (LIRC, 2020) and the National Land Commission (NLC, 2021) established for allocation of land to the landless and regularization of informal tenure incorporated the Fit for Purpose (FFP) approach in their guidelines.

## Outcome 2. Social Development

*By 2022, there is improved, equitable access, availability and utilization of quality basic social services for all, particularly for vulnerable people.*



The government continued to develop policies and programmes with the aim of providing equitable access to basic social services for all and ensuring the continuation of basic services in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, the UN supported the government's efforts to prepare policies, strategies, operational

guidelines and mobilisation of resources as well as to implement and monitor interventions in order to ensure, food security, quality education, access to essential health services basic sanitation and quality water, as well as gender equality.

An estimated 158,816 unintended pregnancies, 45,893 unsafe abortions, and 125 maternal deaths were averted through the national family planning programme, supported by the UN.

The UN Joint Team on HIV and AIDS supported the review of the Nepal's National HIV and AIDS Strategy and the eventual development of the new strategic plan (NHSP 2021-2026). During 2021, as many as 21,723 people living with HIV were receiving life-saving anti-retrovirals (ARVs) which was an increase of around 10% from the coverage in the previous year.

The joint team on HIV and AIDS also supported the government in writing a funding proposal to the Global Fund on AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) for the amount USD26.92 million for HIV programming covering the period of 2021-2024, which was wholly approved. An additional USD1.1 million was further awarded to the country as catalytic investment to address human rights and gender related barriers HIV and TB services.

The demand for and supply of multi-sectoral gender-based violence (GBV) response services was increased through the development and endorsement of policies, strategies, operational guidelines and costed implementation plans at the local, provincial and federal level on GBV. This was also realized through the further strengthening of the capacity of governmental and non-governmental service providers and awareness raising on GBV services.

The Government of Nepal scaled up interventions of the Multi-sector Nutrition Plan (MSNP), supported by the UN, resulting in increased access to nutrition services to vulnerable populations including children, as evidenced by the admission levels at Outpatient Therapeutic Care (OTC) centers for treatment of severe acute malnutrition returning to pre-COVID levels. Climate sensitive costed WASH plans were developed and sector management information systems at local government level were digitized with the support of the UN. A multi-sectoral risk assessment was conducted by IOM at six ground crossing points along the Nepal-India border, mapping risks under the health, WASH and protection sectors. The assessment listed recommended actions to address the identified risks at the six locations.

## Progress at Output Level

### Outcome 2.1. RMNCAH



In 2021, the UN supported the design and implementation of key surveys and assessments including the National Health Facility Survey 2020/2021, the Maternal Mortality Study, Assessment of Digital Health Interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Effective Vaccine Management Assessment. Furthermore, with UNICEF support, the Child and Family Tracker was successfully launched to track the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on children and their families. These assessments supported a stronger evidence-based national and sub-national response on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) to the COVID-19 pandemic. Supported National Programs in development of interim guidelines for HIV, TB, Malaria and Leprosy thus, ensured implementation and continuity of essential diagnosis, treatment, and care services to disease vulnerable communities during crisis of Pandemic.

Facilitated series of virtual training and orientation for HCWs at the central and provincial levels and supported undisruptive supply of ARVs and DR-TB drugs during COVID-19 Pandemic with movement restrictions and lock down measures. Furthermore, through the Reproductive

Health sub-cluster, the RMNCAH partners ensured a coordinated response targeting those most vulnerable and advocated for the continuity of essential services. The continuity of COVID-19 vaccination roll-out was ensured by the MoHP with the support of the UN for the planning, preparation and availability of the COVID-19 vaccine. Support was also provided to MoHP by UNDP and WHO to pilot digitalization of COVID-19 vaccination records. With UNICEF's technical and financial support, Nepal's routine child immunization service returned to the pre-pandemic levels with BCG coverage of 86 per cent and full immunization increased to 78 per cent as compared to 65 per cent in 2020.

UNICEF delivered 1000 oxygen concentrators and 5800 50L-oxygen-cylinders for the preparedness and response to COVID-19 waves and overall improvement of oxygen therapy. With UNICEF support, 16 COVID-designated hospitals increased capacities to repair and maintain the biomedical oxygen equipment. This support better positions Nepal to scale-up capacity in oxygen therapy and quality improvement of maternal-newborn-child health care in primary and secondary level.

With a focus on building sustainable capacities for quality RMNCAH services, the UN agencies supported the development

and updating of key guidelines and protocols including the Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) guidelines Cervical Cancer Screening and Prevention guidelines, the National Safe Abortion Services (SAS) programme implementation guidelines, the National Medical Standard Vol III, Kangaroo-mother-care (KMC) implementation guidelines, the Management Protocol for Children during COVID-19, and the Postpartum Family Planning (PPFP) services advocacy tools.

In an effort to address preventable maternal deaths, the UN continued to support the midwifery education programme and the first batch of professional midwives graduated in 2021. The Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) action plan was developed in 2021 and a total of 616 health care workers were trained on the MPDSR action plan implementation. Furthermore, 20,546 people from across the country were provided guidance and support through two toll-free helplines and an estimated 356 pregnant women from 28 districts received free ambulance services, enabling them to access lifesaving emergency obstetric services during the pandemic. The Safe Delivery Mobile Application was launched to enhance knowledge and skills for skilled birth attendants. Further, 7,606 public health service providers and key stakeholders

received training on family planning including on logistics and supply chain management.

### *Outcome 2.2. GBV/Harmful Practices*



In 2021, a total of 3,999 GBV survivors were reached through 14-hospital based one-stop crisis management centres (OCMCs) supported by the UN. Approximately one third of these survivors were referred by community psychosocial workers (CPSWs) mobilized by UN agencies and local government (LG) partners. A total of 724 female GBV survivors from all seven provinces received pro bono legal counselling from 12 lawyers. The UN agencies developed the capacity of 866 GBV survivors to challenge harmful social and cultural norms that perpetuate son preference, acceptance of GBV, and child marriage. The UN agencies supported the establishment of three toll-free hotlines to provide remote psychosocial and mental health support to women and marginalized groups during the pandemic. Under the framework of the comprehensive relief package for COVID-19, 3,000 women and members of excluded groups in four provinces were reached with cash-based support, food, fuel, and essential supplies.

The Nepal Police, with the support of the UN, rolled out a harmonised GBC information management system in 77

districts and trained 106 police officers on its use to promote better compilation and analysis of data. The Nepal Police recorded an increased number of GBV cases (19,309 cases) in the Nepali fiscal year 2020/2021, compared to the previous fiscal year<sup>8</sup>.

The MoHP approved the National Strategy to End Gender-based Sex Selection (GBSS) and a costed implementation plan following collective advocacy and joint policy dialogue supported by the UN. Similarly, the Government of Lumbini adopted the Provincial Strategy to End Child Marriage. The UN agencies further contributed to the development and endorsement of a total of five policies at the local level, including a policy to end GBV, two policies on gender equality and social inclusion, and two policies to end child marriage. In addition, a total of 14 LGs endorsed the operational guidelines for the GBV Elimination Fund. Together, UN agencies trained 11,966 GBV service providers and other stakeholders, including through online platforms. Since the continued pandemic has led to increased psychosocial issues, the WHO partnered with national CSO (KOSHISH) for the psychosocial interventions in five municipalities of three districts (Lalitpur, Bhaktapur and Kavrepalanchok) especially in COVID-19

affected communities. This has enabled address the emerging needs and reach 1120 people directly through psychosocial support to the affected population especially persons with psychosocial disabilities and over 10,000 people indirectly through community outreach and awareness raising initiatives.

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health and Population in setting up a pool of national trainers on Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) working in collaboration with local level psychosocial workers, female community health volunteers and teachers, for more synergistic results reaching 56,485 people (including 32,945 adolescents) with mental health support.

A risk assessment conducted by IOM at six ground crossing along the Nepal-India points highlighted protection-related risks, of which the most common were inadequate crowd management, lack of gender- and disability-friendly spaces and facilities and lacking access to psychosocial first aid and other psychosocial support mechanisms. IOM also placed 200 posters concerning GBV with contact details for survivors of GBV at the six ground crossing points.

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<sup>8</sup> Official police statistics are made available according to the Nepali fiscal year only.

Under the framework of the UNFPA-UNICEF joint programme to end child marriage, 149,256 adolescents were successfully reached through the Rupantaran Social and Financial Skills Package and 46,257 parents were reached with the Rupantaran package for adults reaching (through in-person and radio sessions).

An estimated 2.6 million people were reached through public service announcements on local radio stations on harmful practices and COVID-19; 160,553 people were exposed to messaging on son preference and GBSS; and a further 50,000 listeners were reached through radio programmes on depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts and coping mechanisms.

IOM contributed to women's empowerment as part of its interventions by initiating dialogues with local government officials on the interlinkage between "TB and Gender". A total of 82 practitioners (45 males and 37 females) were oriented on the gender dimensions of tuberculosis and its implications on tuberculosis prevention, treatment and access to care.

### *Outcome 2.3. WASH*



UNICEF, WHO, UNHABITAT and WFP continued to support the WASH sector reform agenda of the government both at federal and provincial levels. The major focus of the support covered the array of policy instruments such as formulation of inclusive WASH policy, water quality monitoring and surveillance, localizing of SDG 6.1 through water safety plans under the Water Safe Initiatives, endorsement of National Standards for WASH in health care facilities, and standard operating procedure for healthcare waste management, drafting school reopening framework and new School Education Sector Plan (SESP 2021-2030). In addition, critical technical assistance was provided to the government for upgrading N-WASH tool and digitized MIS system for the WASH sector and mainstreaming climate change, gender, and social inclusion (LNOB) in WASH programmes. UN agencies also provided technical support to the government in development of the National Adaptation Plan of Nepal (2021-2050) with particular focus on integrating WASH into the plan to support the climate change agenda. The MoWS has also finalized the Nepal Road Map for Hand Hygiene for All (HH4A) with major support from UNICEF and WHO, as a part of global initiative.



The federalisation of the WASH sector governance was further strengthened through the development of 111 local level WASH plans that are climate resilient and SDG aligned. In addition, with UNICEF support, 16 local government established water quality monitoring mechanism while modelled municipal WASH Act has been developed and circulated to all 753 municipalities.

Despite the challenges brought by COVID-19 pandemic, remarkable progress was also achieved in the areas of service delivery. With water quality improvement interventions such as safe water initiative more than 43,000 additional people gained to safely managed drinking water services while and additional 39,000 people gained access to basic sanitation services. Inclusive WASH services and child friendly hand washing stations are improved in 332 schools while WASH services improved in 50 healthcare facilities and development of standard operating procedures (SOP) for Healthcare Waste Management and standards for WASH in Health Facilities with support from WHO, UNICEF and other partners. Pilot support provided to MOHP by WHO for collection and proper management of COVID-19 vaccination wastes (3,000 safety boxes) from peripheral vaccination centers of Kathmandu Valley.

As WASH Cluster co-lead, UNICEF continued to support the government to coordinate the COVID-19 response of over 65 cluster members across all seven provinces.

UNICEF's WASH response reached 273,463 people, affected by COVID mostly migrant workers, and health care providers, with WASH services and supplies. Further, UNICEF also responded to localized, disasters such as fire, cholera and diarrhea outbreak, floods and landslides reaching approximately 72,643 people.

IOM conducted a risk assessment which included mapping of WASH-related risks at six ground crossing points along the Nepal-India border. The assessment showed that among the most common WASH-related risks were inadequate handwashing and toilet facilities, low access to clean potable water, and transmission of vector-borne diseases.

#### Outcome 2.4. Nutrition



WFP reached 82400 beneficiaries (31,273-PLW and 51,127 children aged 6 to 23 months of age) at potential risk of acute malnutrition due to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 through the distribution of specified nutritious food (WSB+), with a ration of 3 kg per person per month for a period of 2 months. Technical support was provided to municipalities for the implementation of the programme.

WFP provide nutrition education through telephone counselling and radio messaging to the most vulnerable target population, PLW and caretakers of children aged 6 to 23 months of age. A total of 29,626 beneficiaries (17,816 children and 11,810 PLW) received 3 kg of WSB+ per month from March – December through the MCHN program in Karnali Province.

UNICEF supported comprehensive nutrition training for 7000 healthcare workers. Treatment coverage of severely wasted children was improved in 2021, through technical assistance to the MoHP to adapt and revise national guidelines, strategies, and protocols.

UNICEF support provided for the introduction and adoption of simplified approaches to wasting management enabled the MoHP expansion of treatment

services for moderately wasted children. Capacity development to provide treatment services for child wasting facilitated an increase from 22 to 25 Nutrition Rehabilitation Homes and the establishment of an additional 56 OTCs, increasing the coverage to 61 of 77 districts.

UNICEF coordinated the partner support to the MoHP for two campaign rounds which resulted in Nepal achieving 85 percent coverage of two doses of vitamin A supplementation for children 6-59 months despite the disruptions caused by COVID-19.

WFP supported a qualitative study to document operational challenges, opportunities, and values of conducting Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) in the context of COVID-19. Most of the participants mentioned that the interim standard operating procedure (SOP) for BSFP approved by the Government of Nepal was used as a key guideline for implementing BSFP during COVID-19. Recommendations of the study include: local governments should incorporate an emergency nutrition response plan in their regular annual program to minimize the unforeseen consequences of similar kinds of future pandemics; local language needs to be given preference in counseling about the importance of the program and the use of

WSB+; adequate budgets needs to be managed by governments to sustain and maximize coverage and meet the provincial demand for BSFP support; BSFP can be integrated into the emergency nutrition program of the government at all levels in order to prevent and reduce malnutrition among mothers and children; beneficiaries reported that BSFP helped improve growth and nutritional requirements of children. These findings suggest BSFP should be sustained and continued through provincial and local governments.

#### *Outcome 2.5. Education*



Despite difficult circumstances, UNICEF supported the Government in mitigating severe disruptions in education and achieved 66.7 per cent of the 2021 academic year targets. This was partly realised through support to local governments to plan and budget for the provision of alternative learning resources to students, targeting those that have the least, or no access to media-based lessons and training teachers and parents in their roles to facilitate children's continuity of learning. Furthermore, UNICEF supported the adaptation and response of services during the school closures and to ensure that the home- and community-based modalities were inclusive. WFP provided food as take home ration as an alternative to the on-site meals and assisted 164,892

vulnerable children who couldn't access free school lunches due to the lock down.

With support from UNICEF and education partners, the comprehensive education sector analysis was completed in 2021, based on which the new inclusive and gender-responsive Education Sector Plan 2030 was developed.

At the Local Government (LG) level, UNICEF supported 21 LGs to draft their education sector plans alongside the School Education Sector Plan (SESP) and local Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) curriculum, 63 LGs in developing their Equity Strategy Implementation Plans, 30 LGs to develop education emergency response plans, and 13 LGs to establish gender education networks. UNICEF and education partners also supported the government's learning continuity campaign in 30 LGs, reaching a total of 181,699 children (90,544 girls).

Over 15,000 school students received information on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) directly from the adolescent friendly information corners (AFICs) established in 87 community schools and at least 692,338 young people were reached through social media ensuring learning continuity on the various topics related to sexuality, menstrual health and hygiene and SRHR. 3,278 teachers were

trained on psychosocial support and 318 teachers (110 female) from 152 schools were provided with the technical capacity for the quality delivery of CSE in

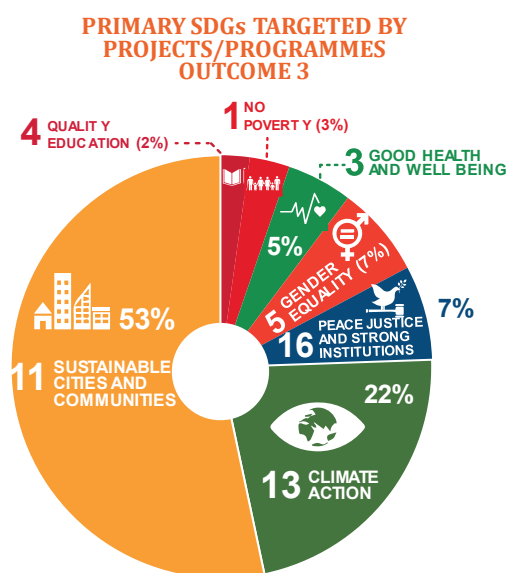
schools. Furthermore 984 learning support groups through the engagement of parents.



*Photo credit: © L.P Ngakhusi, UNICEF*

### Outcome 3: Resilience, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change

*By 2022, environmental management, sustainable recovery and reconstruction, and resilience to climate change and disaster are strengthened at all levels.*



Adaptation In 2021, long-term disaster and climate change resilience and preparedness in Nepal was significantly enhanced through a number of positive developments.

Nepal made significant progress in its international commitments to combat climate change by developing a Long-Term Strategy highlighting its commitment of achieving 'net-zero emission' by 2045, in line with the enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) submitted to the UNFCCC in 2020. Provincial NDC implementation plans and climate strategies

have also been drafted with UN support, and implementation will continue in 2022.

The achievement in post-2015 earthquake housing reconstruction was impressive with 100% of the house owners in Gorkha and Nuwakot completing resilient reconstruction and 100% receiving the third tranche of financial support. The UN contributed to this through its ongoing owner-driven housing reconstruction projects, which in 2021 supported the completed reconstruction of 50,000 houses. A total of 152 GESI sensitive disaster resilient critical public facilities were built or retrofitted across the seven provinces.

Seven provinces and at least 71 local governments continued to identify key risk-reduction priorities and actions for implementation in the immediate, medium, and long-term (till 2030) through disaster and pandemic-related plans and strategies. Further, a DRM Localization Training Manual was developed and is being rolled out in all 753 local governments. This was achieved with technical and financial support from the UN in drafting and implementation of the plans and manuals.

**Output 3.1:** The national government enhanced its capacity to establish and operate the National Disaster Information

Management System (NDIMS), through development of related databases, tools and strategies, with UN support. This included development of an Information Management Unit app (IMU Nepal app) for real-time COVID-19 case reporting, a COVID-19 portal. The IMU enabled more accurate information dissemination and decision-making. The WHO also supported in the trainings on the use of the IMU application, provided to a total of 4003 focal persons of the Integrated Health Information Management System (IHIMS), case investigation and contact tracing (CICT) facilitators, health workers, medical data recorders of designated COVID-19 health care facilities both from public and private sectors, and 334 volunteers of the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), further contributed to effective data management and collection at federal, provincial and municipal levels. with reliable COVID-19 related information, and a disease surveillance system for six climate sensitive diseases, with WHO support. Further, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and

Management Authority (NDRRMA) was supported to develop a strategy on data governance on DRR, setting up of data protocols and standards and developing a national level DRRM architecture, with UNDP support. One of the components is to promote digital application and services, including introduction of software applications for automated operations and decision making (e.g., mass SMS system for early warnings) and support for ICT infrastructure. In the case of preparedness for responding to other emergency or disaster within the context of COVID-19, the procurement of protective equipment for medical staff in the global situation of shortages was supported by WHO. Preparedness activities such as the strategic prepositioning of supplies helped local government when, for example, overnight and with no prior experience, they needed to establish quarantine and isolations centers as part of the COVID-19 pandemic response.



Photo credit: © UNRCO

**Output 3.2:** National and provincial institutional mechanisms and actions for climate change, disaster preparedness, response and recovery that are GESI-sensitive and guided by new policies and legislation were substantially improved in 2021, with UN support. In line with Nepal's ambitious second NDC (2020), the Government of Nepal endorsed the Long Term Strategy highlighting for the first time a strong commitment to achieving 'net-zero emission' by 2045. The Strategy was developed with support from UNDP. A strategy for enhancing capacities of provincial government on implementing

NDC and climate strategies has been prepared, and a National Private Sector Financing Strategy for Climate Smart Project was prepared, also with UNDP support. For the first time in Nepal, climate impacts on children and young people are integrated into national plans.

As a part of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process, seven Provincial Climate Change Coordination Committees (PC4) and 12 working groups, including eight thematic working groups (TWGs) and four cross cutting working groups (BWGs) were formed, all with UNEP support. These

bodies, integrated into the current Government structure, are key to integrating Climate Change Adaptation into the sectoral development plans. A training manual on Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA), guideline to mainstream EbA in community forestry operational management plan was prepared (82 operational management plan revised to integrate EbA). With UNEP support, about 70 ha of degraded forest were restored (195,94 saplings planted), nearly 100 ha of rangeland restored (147,390 sapling), 46 ha of terraces improved, 18 infiltration dams and 18 conservation ponds constructed, and 10 rainwater harvesting systems installed. Nepal successfully complied with its obligations under the Montreal Protocol and achieved the phaseout target for the year 2020-2021. HCFC consumption phaseout exceeded the target phaseout of 35% for 2020.

The construction of Provincial Humanitarian Staging Areas (PHSAs), a designated area to receive, store, repackage, deliver and distribute search, rescue, emergency relief and early recovery materials after a disaster, were completed in Surkhet, Birjung and Bhairahawa. The construction of a FMTC 1,000 mt warehouse was completed in Nepalgunj. 400 personell (19 percent female) from security forces and various government and humanitarian organizations were trained through emergency logistics

trainings. A Trail and Community Infrastructure Mapping was completed in Bajhang, Bajura, Kalikot and Dolpa. The information has been uploaded in the OpenStreetMap platform.

Continued support was provided to operationalize the federal Health Emergency Operation Centres (HEOC) and seven provincial HEOCs, as well as 25 hub hospitals, all with WHO support. WHO supported strengthening Emergency Medical Deployment Teams (EMDTs) in hub-hospitals and mobilizing them according to the needs of provincial and other hospitals.

Provincial HEOCs have helped coordination for preparedness and response readiness at the provincial and districts levels, including coordination with the Hub and Satellite Hospital Network and relevant health and non-health sector partners.

WHO supported COVID-19 hub hospitals in the development of hospital preparedness and response plans for COVID-19.

A GESI Checklist to Strengthen the Assessment of Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) in the Point of Entry to be used by Health Desks in 20 land border crossings was developed with UN Women support.



The health cluster co-chaired by WHO continuously advocated for the strict application of public health and social measures (PHSMs) and played a key role in developing the prototype of health desks at PoEs.

UN Women supported the development of “A Practitioner’s Guide on Prioritizing Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls Financing in Cluster-Based Humanitarian Response” Programming. Provincial monsoon emergency response plans were developed in four provinces, and a DRRM Policy and Strategy was formulated in Province 1, Madhesh Province, Bagmati Province and Gandaki Province with IOM support.

A GESI sensitive DRM Fund Mobilization Guideline was developed in Lalitpur Metropolitan City, Lalitpur with IOM’s technical support.

IOM completed 19 Provincial Training of Trainers (PToT) training events in all seven provinces under the PARIWARTAN Project under the leadership of Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA), with 349 (304 males and 45 females) skilled provincial trainers were trained. The trainers will facilitate DRM localization trainings at all 753 local levels.

A CCCM video updated with information about COVID-19 preventive measures to be

considered in camps and camp-like settings was developed to support local levels and other stakeholders in preparing to better respond to 2021 monsoon affected population that are at risk of COVID-19.

The Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE) developed a Critical Ecosystem Restoration Plan (CERP) preparation guideline, with FAO support for the preparation of CERPs in 26 river systems of province 1, Madhesh Province and Bagmati Province. The Plan is aimed at enhancing climate resilience of the Churia region through restoration of critical ecosystems and scaling up of Climate Resilient Sustainable Natural Resource Management (SNRM). Further, One Health Action Plans/Strategies for three provinces (Province 1, Gandaki, and Sudurpaschim) have been developed by Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) together with respective provincial ministries, with FAO support. The plans/strategies will support to improve public health by minimizing the risks of disease spill-over, food safety issues, and other potential problems occurring at human, animal-environment- interface, through a One Health approach. Likewise, a total of 761 government officials (186 women) have been trained in one health, zoonotic disease, antimicrobial resistance, and rapid response for control of highly

pathogenic avian influenza and epidemiology.

The reconstruction of 50,000 houses damaged by the 2015 earthquakes was completed this year, in collaboration between the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA), UNDP and UNOPS. The households were provided with socio-technical support for earthquake resistant construction methods, and access to Government resources for reconstruction. A total of 152 GESI sensitive disaster resilient critical public facilities were built or retrofitted with support from UNOPS, UNICEF, UNDP and UNESCO. This included UNESCO support for rehabilitation of two cultural heritage sites and preparation of a Handbook of Disaster Preparedness for World Cultural Heritage. With UNOPS support, 24 schools, 22 police units, as well as minor health infrastructure were constructed across the seven provinces. UNICEF supported to implement more than 90 mitigation actions through development of Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plans to reduce disaster risks in 14 municipalities, as well as supported the establishment of flood warning systems and operationalization of Local and District Emergency Operation Centers. Further, school disaster management plans were developed for 128 schools, and 15 schools were supported with non-structural mitigation measures. Three additional

Municipal Emergency Operation Centers were operationalized with UNDP support, as well as technical support from UN Volunteers who assisted as Geomatics and Computer Engineers.

**Output 3.3:** Local governments continued to gain enhanced capacity for risk-informed GESI sensitive planning and implementation of CCA and DRR actions with UN Support.

Through multi-sectoral COVID-19 response with a focus on risk communication, continuity of essential health, WASH, education, nutrition and child protection services, with technical support from WHO, UNICEF partnering with Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) provided health response mainly in vulnerability assessment (VA) to identify COVID-19 at risk population in community and receiving a self-health isolation kit for maintaining infection prevention and control (IPC) measures, community-based surveillance (CBS)/event based surveillance (EBS) of any unusual events (death of persons, animals or any new symptoms), supporting municipal case investigation and contact tracing team (CICT) to identify the close contact and follow-up at home isolation through mobilization of volunteers, and supporting in COVID-19 vaccination in 32 Municipalities of Madhesh, Bagmati and Lumbini, provinces. In total 298,353 people were reached through vulnerability assessment,

571,807 COVID-19 infected and close contacts were followed up as a part of CICT, 207 events were reported as a part of community-based surveillance/event-based surveillance and 970,400 people assisted in COVID-19 vaccination. Additionally, about 13,000 people (7,837 male, 5,313 female) were reached for improvement of IPC measures including improvement of WASH facilities and healthcare waste management supplies in 68 most needy health facilities during the second wave of COVID-19. UNICEF reached a total of 727,671 people (371,112 women) including around 304,000 children (155,040 girls). UNICEF supported the roll-out of a Cash PLUS emergency COVID relief through the government system, reaching 9000 COVID-19 affected marginalized families.

50 local governments updated and implemented COVID-19 preparedness and response plans, strengthened and operationalized Crisis-Management Information Systems (developed by MoFAGA), and established coordination and information management systems for timely and effective response. Additionally, two municipalities developed disaster information management systems (DIMS). 19 municipalities conducted multi-hazards vulnerability risk assessment, and updated/developed GESI sensitive Local Disaster and Climate Resilient Plans (LDCRPs), Additionally, five municipalities

developed Flood Preparedness and Response Plans, mainstreamed into local annual plans, all with UNICEF support.

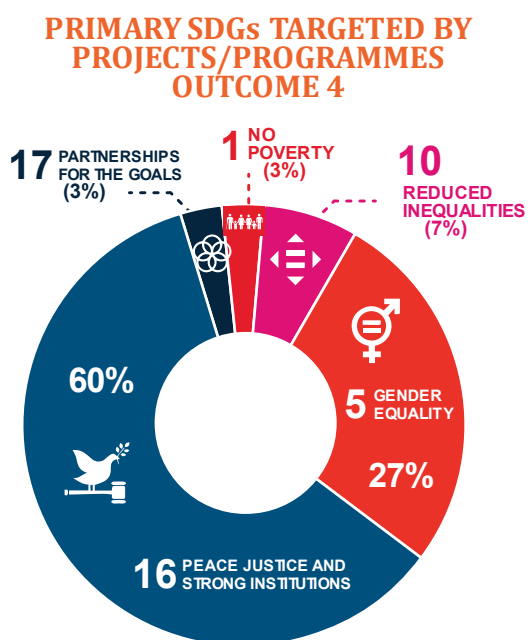
Further, a DRM Localization Training Manual was developed with IOM support, and is now being rolled out in all 753 local governments. Three municipalities and five districts developed disaster preparedness and response plans with UNFPA support, incorporating the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health in Crisis Situations, which includes GBV response services. One municipality developed an Urban Resilience Framework, and three municipalities prepared comprehensive solid waste management plans, with UNDP support.

A total of 1,282 (347 women) health and other essential service providers, government authorities, district and local disaster management committee members, and Nepal Red Cross Society volunteers from all provinces and 24 highly disaster-prone municipalities benefitted from capacity building activities supported by UNFPA. The initiatives contributed to enhance preparedness and response efforts and integrate the specific health and protection needs of women and girls, including access to essential sexual and reproductive health and GBV information and services during emergencies.

COVID-19 and monsoon preparedness and response contributed to DRR actions outcomes. With UNFPA support, essential SRH and GBV services including essential commodities and supplies reached service delivery points and an estimated 516,921 people (502,679 women and girls) beneficiaries including in the high-risk disaster-prone districts. \

### Outcome 4: Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights

*By 2022, inclusive, democratic, accountable and transparent institutions are further strengthened towards ensuring rule of law, social justice and human rights for all, particularly for vulnerable people.*



### Outcome Level Progress

Despite the challenges presented by the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, progress

continued towards establishing inclusive, democratic, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels of government this year.

Out of the 151 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations accepted by the government of Nepal in 2015, a total of 140 have been implemented. The government has accepted 195 of the 233 UPR recommendations made by Human Rights Council (HRC) in 2021. A draft Post-UPR Implementation Strategy, outlining overall guidance, oversight and monitoring responsibilities was finalized this year. The strategy was finalized by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in consultation with stakeholders and with UN technical support. The UN also supported national human rights institutions and conflict affected groups to develop alternative UPR reports and has continued dialogue with stakeholders for effective implementation of recommendations.

Constitutional Commissions continued to enhance capacity and implement human rights commitments this year. The National Women’s Commission (NWC) developed a CEDAW Concluding Observations (COs) Monitoring Framework tool and a monitoring status report of the 2018 CEDAW COs based on the tool. The National Judicial Academy finalized and published a GESI Strategy for the judiciary. Multiple provincial

and local governments endorsed GESI policies, Child Marriage Strategies, Child Rights and Promotion Procedures, and GBV policies. Through UN-supported capacity

development initiatives, the capacity of local elected representatives and officials was further enhanced.



Photo credit: © K.P Pandey, UNICEF

The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) successfully conducted the Population and Housing Census in 2021, with preliminary results disseminated in January 2022 and the complete results expected later in 2022.

UNAIDS supported the Blue Diamond Society, a sexual minority organization, to conduct orientation of the census enumerators and supervisors on LGBTIQ rights. In addition, a pocket booklet to help

enumerators respond to LGBTIQ rights issues during the census was developed.

Three provinces finalized their first SDG Baseline Reports. These results were realized with substantial technical support from the UN through its ongoing efforts to support SDG implementation.

### Progress at Output Level

**Output 4.1:** The federal government, national parliament and select national commissions have continued to enhance their capacity and tools to implement national commitments (including implementation of the Constitution and support to the transition to federalism), advance human rights and ensure inclusive governance. This is demonstrated by the development and endorsement of multiple policies, acts and strategies, including on child protection, GESI, legal aid regulation, caste-based discrimination, tourism, the right to information, disaster risk management, information and technology, fiduciary risk and local government operations. The Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens enhanced their capacity and confirmed their commitment to implement gender-responsive budgeting at the federal, provincial and local levels.

**Output 4.2:** With UN Support, Provincial and Local Governments have continued to improve systems and capacity to deliver inclusive services in a transparent and accountable manner in line with the SDGs. UNDP's support to the Provincial and Local Governance Support Programme (PLGSP) enabled the development and implementation of multiple systems and tools for the effective functioning of sub-national governments. The seven Provincial Centres for Good Governance (PCGGs) are now fully functional and deliver capacity development support to provinces, as well as to local officials and elected representatives. Training modules and resource materials were developed on PFM, IPF, procurement, leadership, judicial committees, and GESI. With the support of the UN more than 4,000 elected women representatives and officials have benefited from enhanced government capacity.

**Output 4.3:** The voice, agency and engagement of civil society was strengthened in order to create a broader civic space in line with the principle of leaving no one behind (LNOB). The UN supported more than 30 dialogues, campaigns and networks for the most excluded and vulnerable groups, as well as journalists, to promote advocacy around key issues. These included transitional justice, voter education, disability rights, youth empowerment, and volunteerism. A LNOB

Funding Mechanism was established, and the UN supported a total of 49 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) with grants to advance inclusive governance and the principle of leaving no one behind.

**Output 4.4:** The justice sector and law enforcement institutions were strengthened to provide greater access to justice, including transitional justice, in accordance with the Constitution and human rights standards. The UN contributed to enhancing the capacity of 896 (285 women) justice and law enforcement actors. This included increased capacity on strengthening justice for children, GESI-sensitive investigations, GBV, the roles of the judicial committees, sexual harassment and human rights. During 2021, 6,762 people (4,173 women) benefitted from legal aid services, including GBV survivors. While the UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan Phase-II has not yet been endorsed by Parliament, some progress has been made in terms of moving this forward.

**Output 4.5:** During 2021, progress was made in making high quality disaggregated data available for policy formulation and programme planning, monitoring and implementation. With support from UNFPA, CBS held the Population and Housing Census in 2021. The preliminary results include data on population and household

size, growth rate, density, sex ratio and absentee population disaggregated by place of residence (rural-urban), ecological belts, provinces, and local levels. In line with the LNOB principle, UNFPA supported consultations with hard-to-reach / hard-to-count communities in the Terai. This raised awareness and encouraged participation during enumeration in these communities. UNFPA also supported CBS to ensure that GESI issues were incorporated across all census materials and activities in 2021. The intended outcome is a more representative and fully disaggregated census data set which raises the opportunity for better-informed policy making and development planning in the future. Further, with the support of UNDP three provincial SDG Baseline Reports were finalized this year, all including disaggregated data. The Nepal Multidimensional Poverty Index, and the 'Gender Equality in Numbers: Progress and Challenges in Achieving Gender Equality in Nepal' were also published in 2021, with support from UNDP and UN Women respectively.

## 2.3. Support to the partnerships and financing the 2030 Agenda



Photo credit: © UNRCO

In 2021, the UNCT—UNDP, UN Women, and UNCDF—launched the implementation of the Joint Programme supported by the UN SDG Joint Fund Component 1 on Financing Strategies. In 2021, the JP achieved three key milestones: First, in partnership with Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MOFAGA), the JP developed a resource book to support local governments to develop SDGs based Medium Term Expenditure Frameworks (MTEF). This resource book guides local governments in integrating SDGs in MTEF

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preparation process, which will be piloted in 14 local governments in 2022. Second, a national level review workshop on preparation of SDG based MTEF was organized with line ministries of the Federal Government where major issues pertaining to MTEF preparation and its integration with SDGs has been discussed thoroughly. the workshop identified several priorities to integrate SDGs in MTEF at federal and sub-national level. Third, a draft of compendium of best practices on MTEF and gender integration have been prepared with the



objective to learn from different models and plan strategies that can be effectively customized to the country context.

UNDP expanded partnership with the private sector, such as Ncell and NMB Banks, to advocate for green recovery and SDGs. With Ncell Axiata Limited, UNDP launched Greenway, a cycle campaign to promote cycling as an alternative model of transport through gamification and cash incentives that uses smartphone app to incentivize cycling, which rewarded 51,000km of cycle rides, particularly of students and workers engaged 6000 users and reduced 26 tons of carbon.

In partnership with Nepal Tourism Board, private sector tourism associations viz. Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN), Trekking Agencies Association of Nepal (TAAN), Nepal Association of Tour & Travel Agents (NATTA) and Nepal Association of Rafting Agencies (NARA), and local governments created short term employment for the tourism workers. The partnership nurtured local ownership and participation for reviving tourism in Nepal. Working with tourism workers unions and associations helped to mobilize workers systematically and harmoniously for short-term employment in short time. Similarly, engaging the Federation of Cooperatives (NEFSCOV) facilitated for operationalization of satellite cooperative markets in bigger cities.

Partnership with Society of Economic Journalist (SEJON) and Cooperative Journalist Society Nepal (CJN) contributed to raise awareness about cooperatives and visibility of the project thereby promoting trust and transparency.

In 2021, the UN (UNDP) partnered with private sector such as Yeti Airlines to promote environment friendly business. As a part of this partnership, Yeti Airlines continued to implement UN's four-step approach (Measure, Reduce, Offset and Report) to carbon neutrality. Yeti Airlines and UNDP renewed their partnership agreement to continue the ongoing collaboration on climate action and expand joint efforts to conserve the environment. Under the partnership, Yeti Airlines and UNDP will collaborate to implement joint programs in the areas of solid waste management and tourism in the Everest region, and tree plantations. The UN also engaged with private sector, particularly, Federation of Nepali Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FNCCI) to orient investment towards underserved SDG areas. In 2022, the UN will further engage with banking and financial institutions to restructure their investment sectors and orient their investment more towards SDG friendly sectors.

In support of the overall UN Development System reform process and the

repositioning and reinvigorating of the Resident Coordinator system, the Nepal Development Framework Multi-Partner Trust Fund was established in December 2019 with the objective of enhancing the achievement of the results of the current UNDAF. The Fund has strengthened coherent resource mobilization, allocation to under-funded cross-sectoral areas where the UN has a comparative advantage in implementing together, promoted inter-agency cooperation and reinforced the “Delivering as One” principles. Up to now, seven UN agencies (IOM, UNDP/RCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP and WHO) have implemented two joint programmes, in close partnership with the Government of Nepal, Civil Society Organizations, the Private Sector and the UK/FCDO. Among others, the Fund has been key to: Flexibly articulating and implementing a concrete UN response to COVID-19 in line with the Nepal COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP); strengthening ownership, coordination, networking and capacity building for humanitarian preparedness and response at the local level; and facilitating a more holistic approach to humanitarian preparedness and response by, for example, merging the Health and Nutrition clusters at the provincial level or integrating Protection in the Health cluster. Joint implementation of UNDP and WHO in design and Implementation of Pre- and

Post-Vaccination Data registration for COVID Vaccination in selected Palikas of each Province thus, ensured the equitable allocation of COVID-19 vaccination across population and local communities. Joint efforts included design of assessment checklist to assess the requirement of IT equipment, internet, HR capacity of piloting sites, joint monitoring visits with Government officials and involved in Advocacy and Coordination meeting with Local Governments and Provincial Health Officials to support the project.

In 2021, Nepal has completed 10 food systems dialogues (3 national and 7 provincial) under the leadership of the National Planning Commission (NPC) and with the active participation of 1,300 participants representing a wide range of stakeholders. These dialogues examined the food systems in terms of key vulnerabilities, opportunities and identified actions to transform them into more equitable, resilient and sustainable food systems. Nepal actively engaged and participated in the pre-summit of the UN Food Systems Summit and in the Summit itself in July and September respectively. Further, the Government of Nepal has expressed its firm determination to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030 and ensure transformative investments in agriculture including harnessing modern technologies and making high yield seed variants

available in the country. Nepal has identified key actions on Right to Food, improved food governance, protecting mountain food systems, school meals, localizing food systems, evidence-based planning, youth engagement, increased investments in the infrastructure as some of the key actions to transform the Food Systems in Nepal. The Government of Nepal is committed to implementing the outcomes of the Food Systems Dialogues. Under the overall leadership of the UN RC, WFP has been the focal/lead UN agency. Additionally, FAO, IFAD, UNICEF and WHO have been heavily engaged and positively contributed to make the food dialogues a real success.

## 2.4. Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency

In August 2021, the UNCT in partnership with the Government of Nepal, launched the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027 (UNSDCF) development process with the signing of the UNSDCF Roadmap by the UN Resident Coordinator and the Secretary of the National Planning Commission (NPC). The UNCT jointly drafted the Common Country Analysis (CCA) to provide the foundational analysis for the UNSDCF and initiated the UNDAF Evaluation process, in order for the

evaluations results and lessons learned to inform the same.

In 2021, the UNCT revised and streamlined its inter-agency coordination structures, established the Programme Management Team (PMT) to guide the UNSDCF process; brought together the SDG and M&E working groups; and expanded the scope of the Gender Theme Group, establishing the LNOB WG in an effort to cover broader questions of inclusion and promote linkages between the three UNCT accountability scorecards.

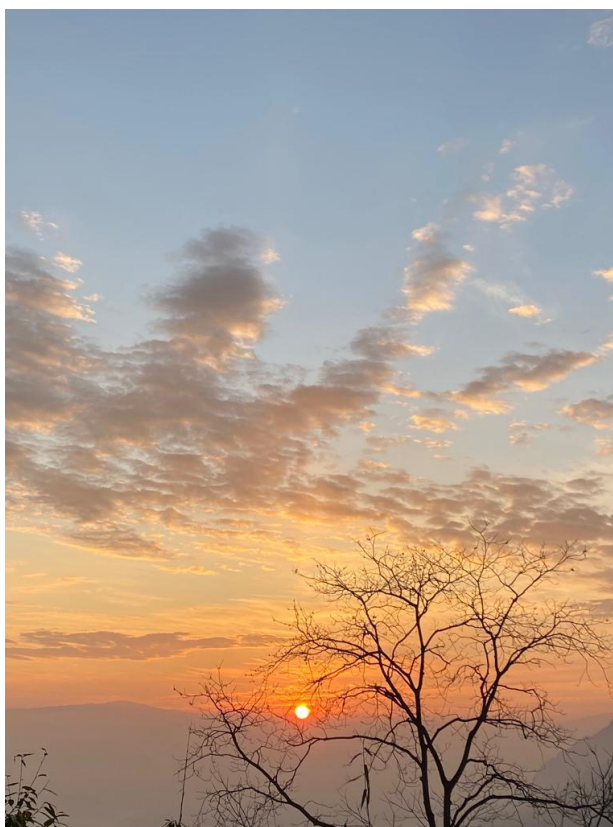
In 2021, the UNCT utilized global and regional expertise particularly in support of capacity development of UN personnel in relation to the UNSDCF process. This included the development of a set of learning sessions together with regional and headquarter offices on Results Based Management; Resilience and Sustainability; gender equality and women's empowerment in programming; and a joint session on the three UNCT Accountability Scorecards and the UNSDCF (the first globally). The joint session was developed in an effort to promote further thinking on common opportunities and barriers in taking forward our commitments on LNOB.

Continued efforts by the UNCT and development partner programs worked to ensure that refugees and those without

citizenship certificates are included in all initiatives - in line with the “Leave No One Behind” principle. As a result, refugees have benefited from the COVID vaccination en par with host community. Through the “Legal Identity and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Working Group” marginalized groups including refugees and persons without citizenship certificate are included in significant UNCT planning documents including the Socio-Economic Response Framework. UNCT seeks to support with the various line Ministries of the Government of Nepal a holistic model that ensures a mechanism is established for conferring legal identity to all in a continuous, universal, and inclusive manner, from birth to death.

In 2021, Nepal served as an early roll-out country of the UNCT Accountability Scorecard on Disability Inclusion. UNCT Nepal took our collective commitment to LNOB forward by strengthening the awareness and capacity on disability inclusion of UN personnel and took concerted efforts to improve the accessibility of UN Common Premises. Some key results include the development and roll-out of a training on disability inclusive HR, procurement and M&E; improving accessibility of UN Common premises through the construction of ramps, hand railings, and tactiles; conducting a digital accessibility assessment of RCO managed

websites and social media content; having sign language interpretation for joint online advocacy and communications events; and the organization of learning sessions for UN personnel on mental health and sign language.



*Photo credit: © UNRCO*

Under the leadership of the UNCT Nepal, the Delivering as One (DaO) principles and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been effectively implemented through joint programmes and enhanced common services for cost effective operations, utilizing the best practices from agencies. In 2021, the Nepal Business Operations Strategy (BOS) was implemented under the leadership of the Operation Management

Team (OMT), with 18 UN agencies taking part in the BOS. The BOS comprehensive review is ongoing and thus, detailed information on increased efficiencies will be reported in the 2022 UNCT annual report. However, key joint activities to be highlighted include the continuation of the UN Traineeship programme, providing young professionals from historically marginalised groups an 11-month traineeship within the UN; taking forward monitoring, reporting and action on gender parity and staff diversity; multiple initiatives on duty of care in relation to COVID-19; and increasing capacities on disability inclusion.

A key area of focus for the UNCT has been the promotion of stronger coordination and coherence on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) within the context of UN reform. The objective has been to position PSEA as a UNCT-wide agenda, owned and understood at all levels of the organisation, supporting the realisation of our commitment to ensuring a victim-centred approach throughout. The UNCT has appointed a Victims' Rights Advocate (VRA), first of its kind in a non-mission or humanitarian setting and has a full-time PSEA Coordinator in the RCO.

UNCT Nepal understands PSEA to be integral not only to our humanitarian response, but all programming and thus in

2022, will be working towards the integration of PSEA into the new UNSDCF.

2021 saw the UNCT coming together on a number of communications campaigns particularly focusing on making the UN more accessible to the general public; diversifying our communications and audience; holding true to our commitment on LNOB in communications; and promoting the SDGs. The RC office in Nepal became the first office in the UNRC network to utilise the #TikTok platform - DevTokWithSara was a creative approach for the Resident Coordinator to engage youth on development questions and SDGs. The approach received a great deal of positive media coverage and was well received by the public. With the intent of using indigenous art practices to make the SDGs accessible the UN collaborated with the Government to develop a set of postal stamps depicting the 17 SDGs in Mithila art. The art was created by locally renowned women artists in Janakpur. The successful two-year collaboration resulted in the Nepal Ministry of Communications and Information Technology issuing five million copies of 17 SDG postal stamps in 2021. Recognising that women, and those from historically marginalized groups, such as gender minorities, persons with disabilities, persons from the Dalit community, youth, and ethnic minorities, continue to be underrepresented in public forums, thus reinforcing singular

narratives and beliefs, the UNCT developed the 'Diversity in Dialogue' pledge and brought together the UN and 16 development partners to commit to ensuring diverse representation in all events and campaigns.

## 2.5. Evaluations and Lessons Learned

UNCT Nepal started an evaluation of the UNDAF (2018 – 2022) in December 2021 as the UNDAF approaches its end in 2022. The UNDAF evaluation aimed to draw lessons from the ongoing work and inform the next UNSDCF. As a strategic level evaluation, it focused on achievement of the development results and the role UNDAF played in the processes. The evaluation also focused on crosscutting issues such as gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) and Leave No One Behind (LNOB) considerations.

The evaluation had two main objectives as stipulated in the ToR:

- To generate evidence on performance and adaptability of the UNDAF (2018 – 2022) based on selected criteria to contribute to greater learning of the UNCT in Nepal. This purpose **emphasizes on what worked, what did not work, and why as well as adaptability** allowed by

the UNDAF for developing and implementing complementary strategies to respond evolving needs/contexts.

- To support greater accountability and transparency of UNCT in Nepal to UNDAF stakeholders. By objectively verifying results achieved within the framework of the UNDAF and **assessing the effectiveness of the strategies and interventions used**, the evaluation will enable the various stakeholders, including national counterparts and donors, to hold the UNCT and other parties accountable for fulfilling their roles and commitments.

UNDAF 2018-2022 was found adequately aligned to the GoN's 14th and 15th plans and sectoral plans. The provincial plans were developed after the formulation of the UNDAF, and therefore the current UNDAF is not adjusted to them. The Pandemic has shown that UNDAF provided sufficient space for flexibility and adaptation. This is a lesson on how the agencies can align backwards to the new plans by their counterparts. Drawing lessons from how the UNDAF missed the opportunity to align with provincial plans and how it was adjusted to the pandemic, the cycles of the framework both create enough space for flexibility as

well as align with both national and sub-national plans. To ensure alignment with provincial plans, there is a need to work with federal and provincial governments to ensure that communication flows smoothly across different tiers of governments. UN Agencies need to engage with both federal and provincial governments and identify how they can align the next CF with both provincial and federal plans.

While UN agencies have made progress towards coherence and coordination, federalism has created new challenges: the obstacles for smooth communication between the three tiers of government has complexified the UN agencies' tasks. This also impacts on the capacity to deliver locally demand-led interventions and create synergy between agencies. This can be redressed through stronger coordination mechanisms for all three levels, federal-provincial-local levels by mobilizing effectively various existing mechanisms such as provincial coordination mechanisms. These mechanisms should also be strengthened to maintain a better flow of information between stakeholders, stimulate provincial government ownership of the development oversight process. In addition, differences in mandates, process,

procedures, and reduced funding limit coherence across agencies, impacting initiation of additional joint programming. This can be reduced ensuring that agency staff have adequate incentives to collaborate across agencies.

Data to fully assess UNDAF's contributions to results as well as to efficiency was not sufficient to provide clear cut answers to these evaluation questions. Data reflects the aggregation of UN agency results but the role UNDAF itself plays in the realisation of these outcomes is unclear. This is due to the absence of organisational indicators to measure changes in processes to work as one, rather than to a lack of contribution itself. A process-oriented ToC with clear pathways of change to achieve results as well as to support the UN reform would strengthen UNDAF's effectiveness.



*Photo credit: © UNRCO*

## 2.6. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

### 2.6.1. Financial Overview

In 2021, the expenditures for the UNDAF Outcomes were approximately 28 million USD, 25 million USD, 33 million USD and 6,5 million USD respectively for Outcomes 1, 2, 3, and 4. UNCT Nepal has made a commitment to track budgeting and expenditures for gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) since the roll-out of the Gender Equality Marker (GEM) Coding tool in 2020. In total gender expenditures across UNDAF Outcomes was 32% of total).

Total expenditure for Outcome 1 was 28 679 608 USD with 12 709 771 USD going towards GEWE. Total expenditure for Outcome 2 was 25 016 532 USD with 11 170 032 USD going towards GEWE. This can be broken down into the five focus areas under Outcome 2:

- 1) RMNCAH total expenditure was 8 978 137 USD with 3 329 861 USD for GEWE.
- 2) Education total expenditure was 4 021 476 USD with 1 714 043 USD for GEWE.
- 3) Nutrition total expenditure was 3 003 267 USD with 220 113 USD for GEWE.
- 4) GBV total expenditure was 5 271 015 USD with 4 495 673 USD for GEWE.
- 5) WASH total expenditure was 3 742 637 USD with 1 410 342 USD for GEWE.

Total expenditure for Outcome 3 was 33 593 324 USD with 5 967 098 USD going towards GEWE. Total expenditure for Outcome 4 was 6 505 166 USD with 2 018 000 USD going towards GEWE.

The figures below provide an overview of expenditures per SDG and GEWE across all four outcomes.



Figure 1: Total Expenditure per Primary SDG (Outcome 1)

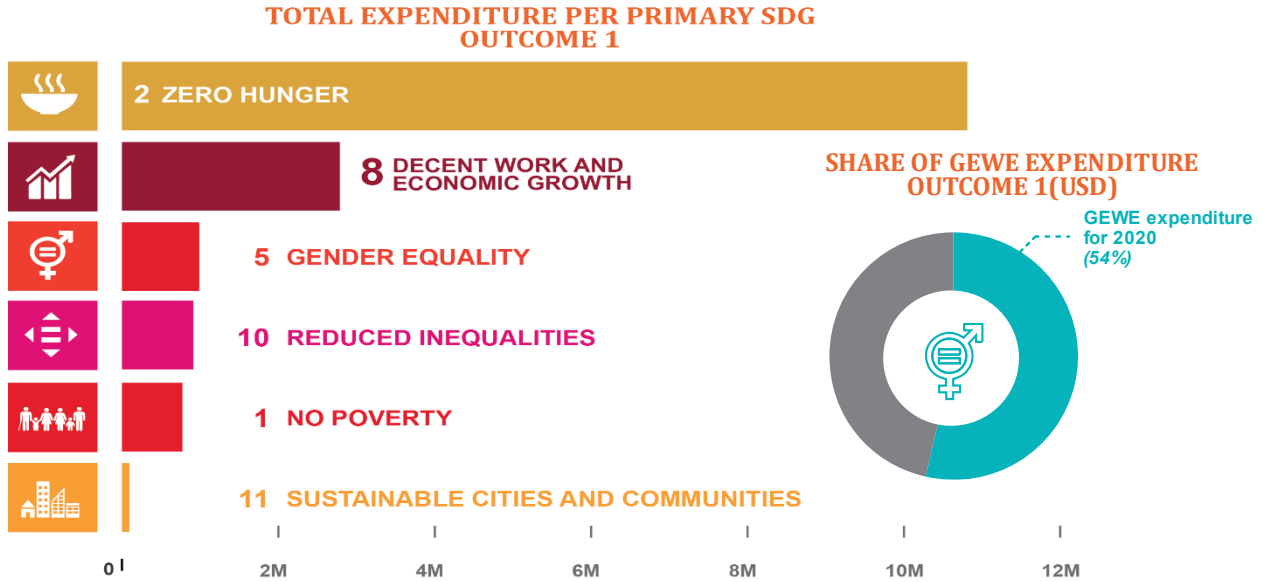


Figure 2: Total Expenditure per Primary SDG (Outcome 2)

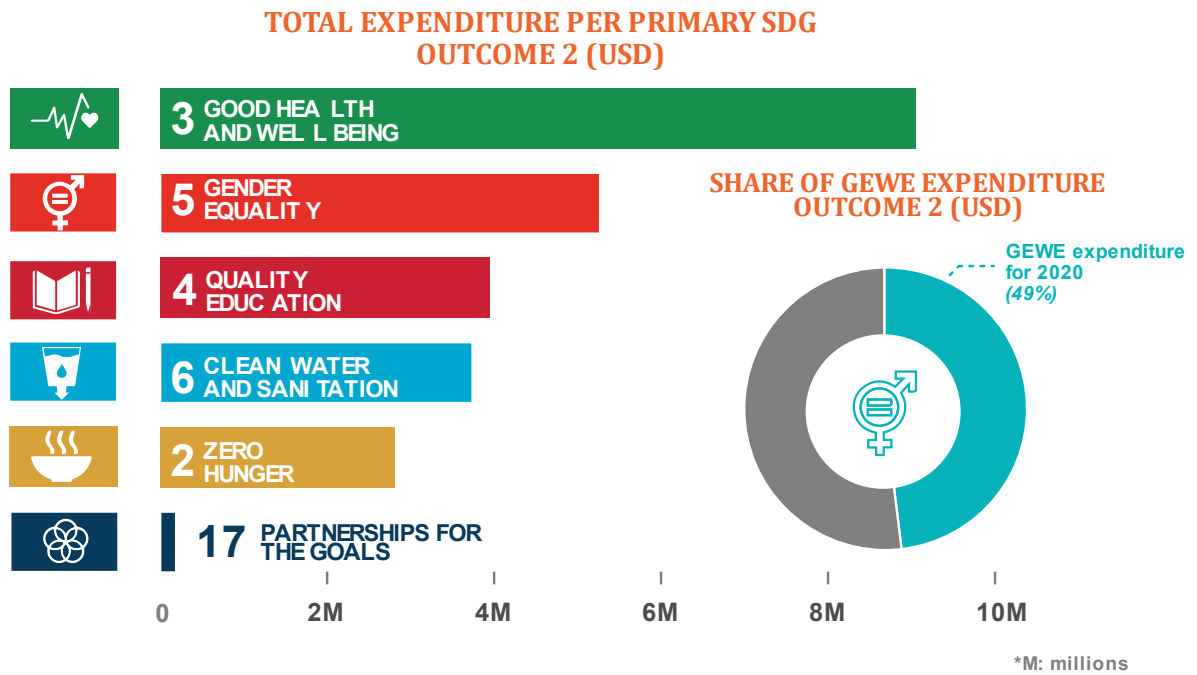


Figure 3: Total expenditure per Primary SDG (Outcome 3)

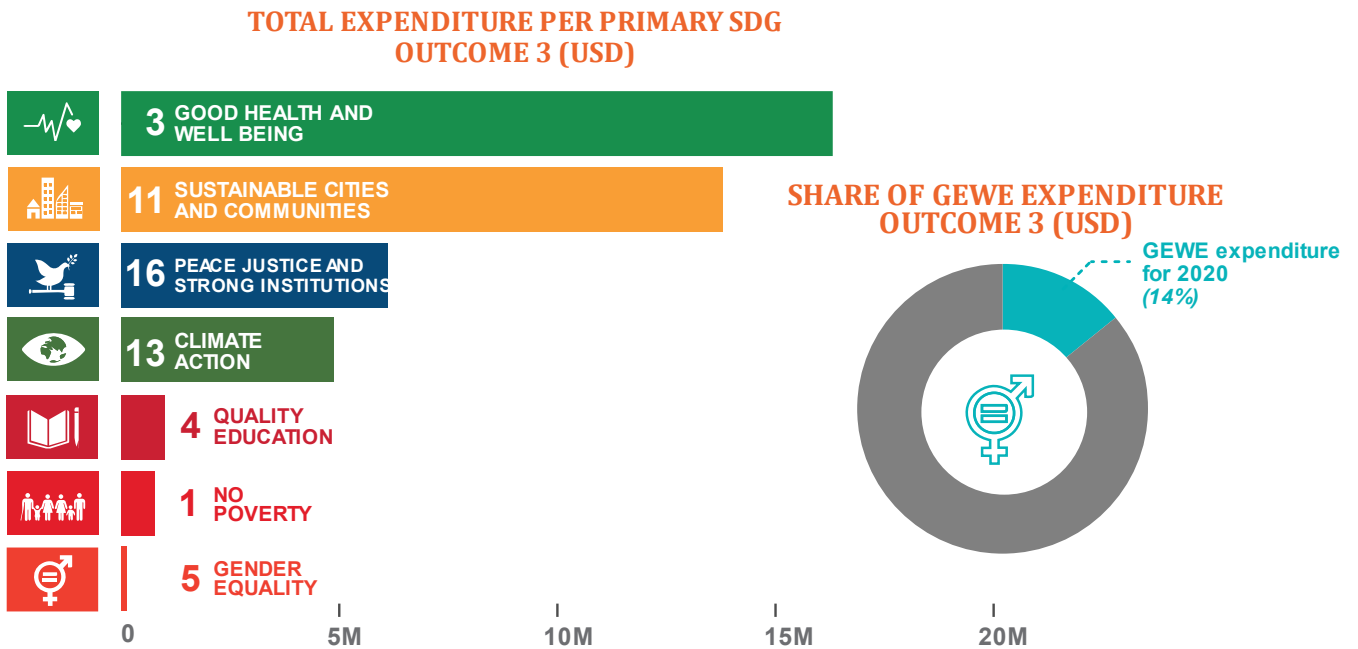
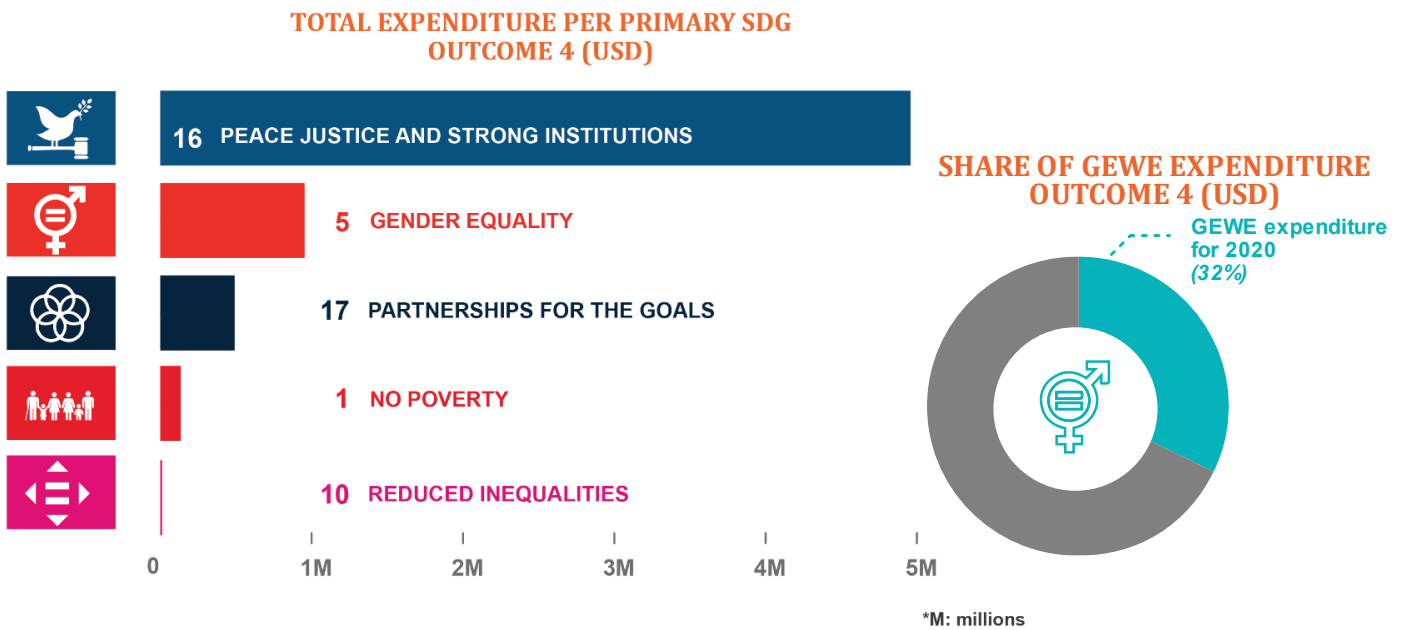


Figure 4: Total expenditure per Primary SDG (Outcome 4)



## 2.6.2. Mobilization of Funds for Joint Programmes

### Ongoing UNCT Nepal Joint Programmes (as of 31st December 2021)

Name of Joint Programme	SDGs mainly covered	Total Budget (in USD)	Participating UN Entities
Reorienting public finance for SDGs acceleration and leveraging additional resources in Nepal	2, 5, 17	1,189,996	UNDP, UNCDF and UN Women
Enhancing the quality of preparedness in Nepal: making preparedness pay-off	1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 11	882,868	WHO, UN Women, UNICEF and WFP (UNFPA participates via UNICEF)
Multi-Agency Programme: Preparedness and Response for COVID-19 in Nepal	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 16	5,712,231	WHO, UN Women, UNICEF, WFP, UNFPA, IOM and UNDP
Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage (Phase II)	5	6,150,000	UNICEF and UNFPA
Accelerating implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Nepal (AISN) (2019-2022) supported through the joint Poverty Environment Action for SDGs	8, 13, 15	2,000,000	UNEP and UNDP
Support Programme on Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land-use and Agriculture through NDCs and NAPs (SCALA)	1, 2, 5, 13, 15, 17	600,000	UNDP and FAO

Name of Joint Programme	SDGs mainly covered	Total Budget (in USD)	Participating UN Entities
Prayash: Temporary Basic Income for Marginalized and Excluded Women in Nepal	1,2, 5, 10, 16, 17	773,504	UNDP, UN Women
Making Migration Work for Sustainable Development (Phase III)	2, 8, 10,	160,000	UNDP and IOM
Mainstreaming Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) in National Urban Policies and Programmes (SDGs 11 & 6) in South Asia (in 3 countries)	11, 6	539,000	UN-Habitat, UNESCAP, UN-OICT
Strengthening Urban Preparedness, Earthquake Preparedness and Response in Western Region of Nepal (SUPER)	TBC	2,116,106	UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women
Provincial and Local Government Support Programme (Technical Assistance)	16	10,000,000	UNDP and UN Women

# Chapter 3: UNCT Key Focus for 2022

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In partnership with the Government of Nepal, the UN Country Team in Nepal will be formulating the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027. The UNSDCF will articulate the continued support to the Government of Nepal in realizing its aspirations for achieving the SDGs as well as LDC Graduation with a strong emphasis on Leaving No One Behind. UN agencies funds and programmes, who have aligned their country programmes with the UNSDCF will also be undertaking their formulation processes, which will look at how to leverage the strengths of each UN agency to best support Nepal's development trajectory and ensure that development gains are not reversed.

2022 will bring a continued focus on COVID-19, both preparedness for potential variations as well as socio-economic recovery from the impact of COVID-19, which has had far-reaching consequences including on education, gender-based violence, and health. The local elections already scheduled for 13 May as well as the provincial and national elections yet to be announced

will influence the political and development landscape in Nepal.



*Photo Credit © UNRCO*

In the implementation of the last year of the UNDAF 2018-2022, the UN Country Team will continue the support to inclusive growth, social development, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, as well as governance, rule of law and human rights.

The UN is working on developing two joint programmes, that will commence in 2022. One of them will mainly address gender equality and social inclusion and the other will focus on disaster risk coordination and preparedness.

The UNCT will be supporting the Government of Nepal in the follow-up to the UPR through the revision of the National Human Rights Action Plan.

The UN Country Team, together with humanitarian partners, will be preparing for the second year of the Central Emergency Response Fund Anticipatory Action Pilot, which aims to mitigate the impact of floods in the Tarai. Further, the UN under the Strengthening Urban Preparedness, Earthquake Preparedness and Response in Western parts of Nepal project will be working at making emergency response plans to the provincial level and selected municipalities. The UN will continue the collaboration and partnership with SAJAG on comprehensive risk mapping for Nepal and the use of a scientific evidence base for emergency response and preparedness.

# Acronyms

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ADD	Abu Dhabi Dialogue	CJN	Cooperative Journalist
ADS	Agriculture Development Strategy	CPRP	Society Nepal Nepal COVID-19
AEPC	Alternative Energy Promotion Centre	CPSWs	Preparedness and Response Plan
AFIC	Adolescent friendly information corners	CSE	Community psychosocial workers
APEC	Alternative Energy Promotion Centre	CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
BFS	Business Farm School	CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
BOS	Business Operations Strategy	CSO	Civil Society Organization
BWGs	Cross Cutting Working Groups	CSV	Climate-Smart Villages
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics	DaO	Delivering as One
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation	DIMS	Disaster information management systems
CCA	Common Country Analysis	DRM	Disaster Risk Management
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
CERP	Critical Ecosystem Restoration Plan	DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
CHC	Custom Hiring Centres	EbA	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Ecosystem-based Adaptation

ECN	Election Commission Nepal	GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	GoN	Empowerment Government of Nepal
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	GRID	Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Development
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	HAN	Hotel Association of Nepal
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	HEOC	Health Emergency Operation Centre
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	HEOC	Health Emergency Operation Centres
FFP	Fit for Purpose	HH4A	Hand Hygiene for All
FFS	Farmer Field School	HH4A	Map for Hand Hygiene for All
FNCCI	Federation of Nepali Chamber of Commerce and Industries	HRC	Human Rights Council
GBSS	End Gender-based Sex Selection	HSA	Humanitarian Staging Area
GBV	Gender Based Violence	IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
GCM	Global Compact for Migration	ILO	International Labour Organization
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	IOM	International Organization for Migration
GEEW	Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women	JP RWEE	Joint Programme on Rural Women Economic Empowerment
GEM	Gender Equality Marker	JWP	Joint Work Plan
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion	KMC	Kangaroo-mother-care
		LAPA	Local Adaptation Plan of Action



LDC	Least Developed Country	MoFE	Ministry of Forests and Environment
LDCRPs	Local Disaster and Climate Resilient Plans	MoHP	Ministry of Health and Population
LG	Local Government	MoLESS	Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security
LGBTIQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Inter-sex Queer	MoWCSC	Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens
LIRC	Land Issues Resolving Commission		
LIRC	Land Issues Resolving Commission	MPDSR	Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response
LNOB	Leave No One Behind		
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation	MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
MED	Mirco-Enterprise Development	MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
MEDPA	Micro-Enterprise Development Programme for Poverty Alleviation	MSG	Mechanization Service Groups
MIS	Management Information System	MSME	Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
MISP	Minimum Initial Service Package	MSNP	Multi-sector Nutrition Plan
MOALD	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development	MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Frameworks
MoEST	Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology	mVAM	mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Monitoring
MoFAGA	Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration	NAP	National Adaptation Plan
		NARA	Nepal Association of Rafting Agencies

NATTA	Nepal Association of Tour & Travel Agents	OMT	Operations Management Team
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions	OTC	Outpatient Therapeutic Care
NDIMS	National Disaster Information Management System	PC4	Provincial Climate Change Coordination Committees
NDRRMA	National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority	PCGG	Provincial Centres for Good Governance
NEFSCOV	Federation of Cooperatives	PHSA	Provincial Humanitarian Staging Area
NFS	Nutrition Field School	PLGSP	Provincial and Local Governance Support Programme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization		
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission	PMT	Programme Management Team
NLC	National Land Commission	PPFP	Postpartum Family Planning
NMICS	Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey	PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
NPC	National Planning Commission	RMNCAH	Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health
NRA	National Reconstruction Authority	RWEE	Rural Women Economic Empowerment
NWC	National Women's Commission	SAS	National Safe Abortion Services
OCCMC	One-stop crisis management centres	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
OCT	Outpatient Therapeutic Care	SEJON	Society of Economic Journalist

SESP	School Education Sector Plan	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
SIYB	Start and Improve Your Business	UNCT-SWAP	United Nations Country Team -
SNRM	Climate Resilient Sustainable Natural Resource Management	UNDAF	System-wide Action Plan United Nations Development Assistance Framework
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure		
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
SYIB	Start and Improve Your Business		
TAAN	Trekking Agencies Association of Nepal	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
ToC	Theory of Change		
TVET-MIS	Technical, Vocation Education and Training – Management Information System	UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlement Programme
TWG	Thematic working groups	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
		UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services

UNRCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UNWOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
VAM	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping
VRA	Victims' Rights Advocate
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

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