



Annual Report 2021

Nepal



COVER: Nyimo Sangmo Lama is one of the entrepreneurs from Samagaun engaged in Goji berry production. UNDP-managed Global Environment Facility Small Grant Programme supported a group of women in Samagaun to improve food security through innovative agricultural practices. 📍 Tergar Charity Nepal

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MESSAGE

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) has played an instrumental role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals in Nepal. UNDP's critical support in helping develop national policies, building capacities and their sustained assistance in the implementation of the same is invaluable.

I would like to recall the agency's contribution to promoting an enabling policy environment for a pro-poor development process, an inclusive plan that aims to leave no one behind. The programme's ongoing support in strengthening and monitoring the nascent federal system in Nepal is particularly commendable.

As Nepal is undergoing graduation from a least developed country to a developing one, UNDP will have an essential role in helping the government ensure a smooth transition. We anticipate the change that will facilitate

the government to materialize an economic transformation, which will be both resilient and equitable. We seek the active assistantship of our partners during this phase.

I am pleased to read from this report that our partnership with UNDP is indeed moving in this direction. The report is a testimony to the fact that some crucial achievements have been made through our collaboration in reducing poverty, building resilience, promoting access to justice, the rule of law and gender and social inclusion.

As one of the most climate-vulnerable countries, Nepal's primary challenge is to build climate resilience. I want to thank UNDP for its notable contribution to supporting Nepal in managing and containing disaster risks by appropriately addressing climate vulnerabilities, including at the municipal level. While continuing its focus on lifting

hard-to-reach people out of poverty, UNDP needs to emphasize further addressing climate vulnerabilities through tailored support at all levels of the government in priority areas in consultation with the Government of Nepal.

I want to thank UNDP for its support to the Government and people of Nepal in responding to various needs during the difficult phase of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate UNDP for its achievements in 2021. The Ministry looks forward to working together with UNDP to promote an inclusive, resilient, and sustainable economy.

MADHU KUMAR MARASINI

Secretary
Ministry of Finance



FOREWORD

It was an eventful year: exciting, stressful, rewarding and fulfilling in unequal measures.

With the Government of Nepal and the unfailing support of our partners, the UNDP Country Office overcame the many obstacles that another year ravaged by the pandemic presented. This was thanks in no small part to the extraordinary determination and dedication of our colleagues. We held tight, personally and professionally.

The COVID-19 pandemic's second wave hit the country far harder than the first.

Political, economic and social conditions meant that programme delivery targets were often repurposed and adjusted, then tailored to rapidly evolving demands to health systems' support and recovery of livelihoods. Our teams encouraged and inspired each other as they explored ideas, always positioning them tactfully and managing risks in a quest to respond effectively to the changing needs of the hour.

By December, Nepal had recorded 11,000 deaths from COVID-19. That was on top of falling economic growth, widening disparities, and more gender-based violence and mental health issues. Our foremost priority for the year was therefore the duty of care, particularly in respect of people's wellbeing, and business continuity.

We engaged with the government and the UN family to support vaccination drives. Our

support to health systems benefited more than three million people. We provided urgently needed, critical support to enhance the response capacities of provincial and local health institutions. We also directly supported crisis communication, for which there was a vast need due to the gaping hole that had suddenly opened in coordination between government health units.

Our integrated offer sought to achieve socio-economic recovery. Through support to microenterprise development, farmers, cooperatives, temporary basic income and short-term employment in productive sectors, this benefited vulnerable populations with much-needed household income while also contributing to net-zero emission ambitions.

UNDP was among the first to join with the Nepal Tourism Board to develop a recovery strategy for affected tourism operators. We further partnered with the private sector to provide cash relief and, by promoting cycling as a means of clean transport, reducing emissions.

The year also saw completion of the massive post-earthquake reconstruction. That now ensures that new structures can withstand future quakes. On climate change, meanwhile, UNDP helped Nepal to access international climate financing.

Over 3,100 civil servants were trained in accountable governance, strengthening

electoral institutions, and enhancing service delivery and rule of law. This particularly benefits the most vulnerable people. And all provincial centres for good governance became operational.

Through our support of the government's micro-enterprise development programme, UNDP's gender equality and social inclusion work continued apace. And the introduction of temporary basic income support not only helped thousands of ultra-poor women to weather COVID-19's economic storm, but linked them with the government's health insurance. That boosted their longer-term resilience.

Through yet another extraordinarily challenging year, we have been able to count on the support of the Government of Nepal and government at all levels, along with Parliament, law enforcement agencies, development partners, the private sector and CSOs. Particular thanks go to the Ministry of Finance, the National Planning Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for coordination support. Together, all are part of a tremendous effort to get back on track to deliver the SDGs.

AYSHANIE MEDAGANGODA-LABÉ
UNDP Resident Representative

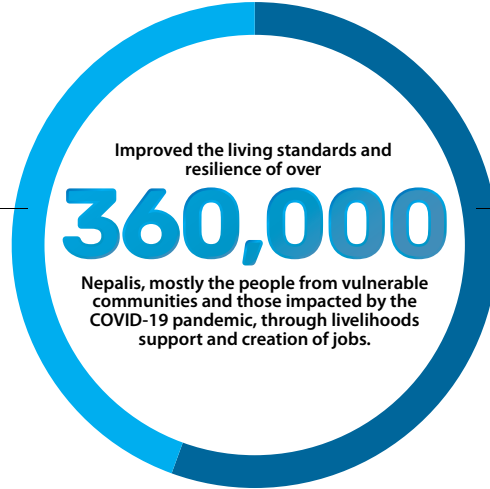
2021

RESULTS BY NUMBER

INCLUSIVE GROWTH

160,000

people benefitted from 38,600 jobs



200,000

people benefitted from livelihoods* support

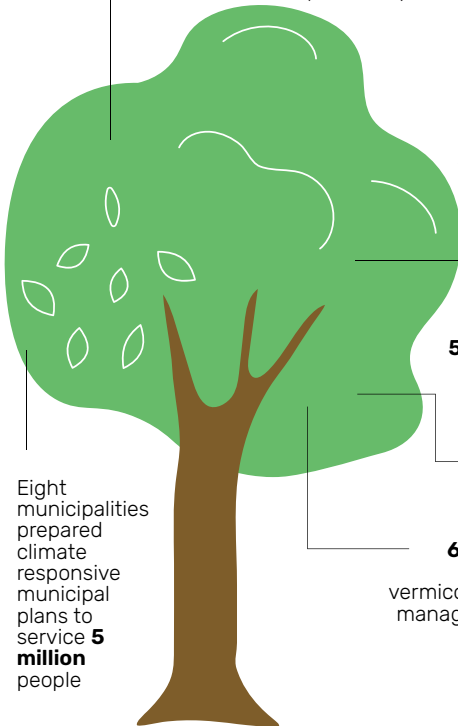


* Cash for work, temporary basic income, cooperative market support, agricultural tools support

BUILDING RESILIENCE



Provided homes to **157,000 people** by assisting in the construction of 31,500 quake-safe houses in Gorkha, Sindhupalchowk, and Dolakha in the past four years



6,000 people gained access to clean energy through micro-hydro and solar

Incentivized **51,000 km** of cycle rides, reduced 26 tons of CO2

6,075 people adopted vermicomposting to manage household waste

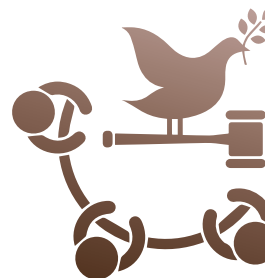
Eight municipalities prepared climate responsive municipal plans to service **5 million** people

FOSTERING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE



11,000 vulnerable women and men got access free legal aid services

All seven Provincial Centers for Good Governance are operational



NHRC monitored the human rights situation during the pandemic by mobilizing 12 monitoring missions in **35 districts** (24 HR monitors deployed)

2,350 women gained access to temporary basic income and enhanced their financial literacy

PANDEMIC RESPONSE

Over **3 million people** benefitted from health system support



Improved waste management systems of seven hospitals, servicing **2.5 million patients** annually

Supported in delivering digital vaccine certificates to **600,000 people**



Connected over **3 million people** with local government representatives through live phone-in radio programmes during the pandemic

- Inclusive and Gender-friendly Budgeting
- Fiscal Transfers System in a Federal Nepal
- Case Management by Judicial Committees
- Pro Bono Legal Aid Service
- Reducing Fiduciary Risks
- Civic Engagement & Voter Education

GOVERNANCE

- Micro Enterprise Development
- Cooperatives Market Development
- SDG-Aligned Local Level Planning
- Tourism Development and Recovery
- SDG Budget Code
- National Frameworks for SDG 2 & SDG3

INCLUSIVE GROWTH

POLICY SUPPORT

To foster inclusive governance, growth, and resilience, UNDP articulated its support around

70*

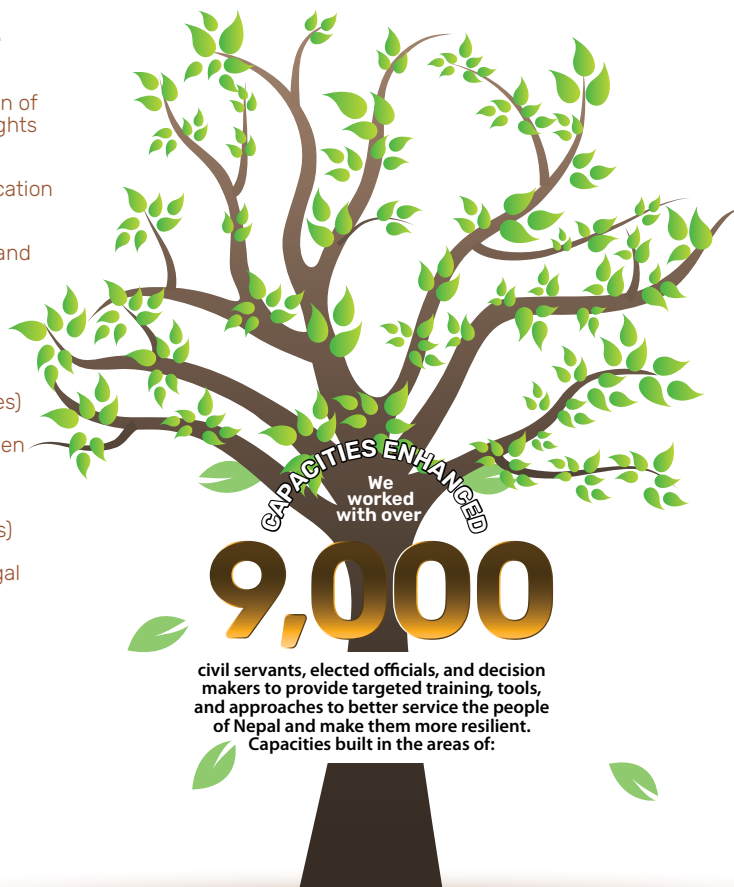
distinct interventions bolstering policymaking, planning and implementation capacity at all levels of the government. They were in the areas of:

**This is not an exhaustive list of policy related support provided by UNDP.*

RESILIENCE

- Green Recovery and Sustainable Waste Management
- Disaster Risk Reduction, Preparedness & Relief
- Risk Sensitive Land Use Planning for Municipalities
- Climate-Friendly Watershed Management
- Private Sector Financing for Climate Smart Projects
- NDC Implementation and Net-Zero Emission

- Accountable governance (civil servants)
- Monitoring & Investigation of Human Rights Abuse (Rights monitors)
- Reporting and communication (youth volunteers)
- Parliamentary oversight and SDGs (MPs)
- Voter education & volunteerism (youth)
- Digital accessibility (CSO/NGO representatives)
- Elections reporting (women journalists)
- Use of social media (District Elections Officers)
- Law drafting process (legal officers)
- Legal procedures (law graduates)



civil servants, elected officials, and decision makers to provide targeted training, tools, and approaches to better service the people of Nepal and make them more resilient. Capacities built in the areas of:

- Microenterprise development (civil servants & elected representatives)
- Postharvest loss management (vegetable farmers)
- Cooperatives management (members of cooperatives)
- SDGs and their localization (civil servants)
- Monitoring and evaluation of development plans (civil servants)
- Commercial operation of micro-hydro (users, cooperatives)
- Climate Action (Federal & provincial law makers)
- Watershed management (civil servants & NGOs)
- Healthcare waste management & climate action (youth)
- Electrical hazard and safety (users of micro-hydro)
- Vermicomposting for household waste management



Women constructing a hiking trail in Nagarkot.
© Shahin Sunuwar Rasaili, UNDP Nepal

Towards Inclusive Economic Growth



Protecting livelihoods of the people, specially the vulnerable ones, when the overall economy is tempered in response to a global health emergency is a huge challenge.

But despite the continued impact of COVID-19, Nepal made progress towards its national development goals and the SDGs (1 and 2) by increasing jobs and livelihood opportunities for poor and vulnerable communities. Throughout the year, UNDP focused its efforts on livelihoods—creating short-term employment opportunities and encouraging microentrepreneurial development in close partnership with the government.

The Government of Nepal allocated \$18.6 million in the national budget for the Micro Enterprise Development for Poverty Alleviation programme. This followed strong national ownership of the micro-enterprise model, building on two decades of investment by UNDP and its partners to foster national capacity in this arena.



"Sustainable agricultural production and expanded market access are imperative to ensure the well-being of people in Nepal. Together with UNDP, KOICA Nepal takes an innovative approach to help secure food security and incomes even in difficult times by initiating distance extension services and mobilizing agri-ambulance."

MR. SUNG HOON KO,
KOICA COUNTRY DIRECTOR



"UNDP is committed to complement Nepal's efforts to foster inclusive and resilient economy. Through VCDP, UNDP is providing specialized assistance to develop and disseminate efficient post-harvest technology, cooperative marketing infrastructure, and capacitate local governments and the farming communities. I believe these interventions will help to sustainably increase incomes of small and marginal farmers and strengthen institutional capacity of agriculture institutions and their linkages to promote resilient and inclusive growth of the fruit and vegetable value chain in Nepal."

MR YADAV PADHYOUTI,
SENIOR AGRICULTURE ECONOMIST MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT, NATIONAL
PROGRAMME DIRECTOR, VCDP

WITH UNDP'S SUPPORT:



26,000 people, 82% of them women, became microentrepreneurs, benefitting about 120,000 people.

Short-term employment opportunities provided to **5,600 tourism workers**, 24% of them women, affected by COVID-19 through the Strengthening Tourism and Livelihood Recovery Project, in partnership with Nepal Tourism Board.



Capacities of over **4,000 local government officials and elected representatives**, 44% of them women, enhanced on SDG localization and accountable governance.



Over **34,000 farmers**, 52% of them women, empowered with agriculture inputs, production technology, post-harvest loss skills, and access to markets.



1,096 people, 38% of them women, trained in vocational skills, such as house-wiring and electricity hazard and safety training.

A six percent increase enabled in the production of foods and vegetables by 5,900 farmers and a **79 percent** growth in sale, as a result of the Value Chain Development Project, supported by the Korea International Cooperation Agency.





COVID-19 impact assessments carried out. That contributed to the government's allocation of more resources for employment creation and poverty reduction. As a result, **173,837 employment opportunities** were created through PM's Employment Programme, and **NPR 13 billion** was allocated in the national budget to provide concessional loans to enterprises.



Annual household income of farmers increased by 10.1% (compared to the baseline) and raised the capacity of cooperatives for collective marketing of fruits and vegetables with improved facilities. That brought sales of **58,975 metric tons of produce** – 6.7 times more than the baseline.



The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology developed and began the operation of a web-based National TVET-MIS by integrating detailed profiles of **299,414 trained** graduates, 51% of them women.



Local planning guidelines for SDG localization and the **SDG 16 Plus report** published. This took stock of the prevailing situation and opportunities in peace, justice, and strong institutions.

Capacity of **120 civil servants** enhanced in SDG-aligned Monitoring and Evaluation and National Accounts.

Nepal Multidimensional Poverty Index Report 2020 published.

Local plan formulation guidelines revised in order to align SDGs in the local planning process.

Integrated **National Evaluation Action Plan 2021-2025** for National Planning Commission prepared.

Gap Analysis of Complementary and Special Grants being disbursed by the federal government carried out.



“With UNDP, we have been successfully implementing the Cooperative Market Development Programme (CMDP), which involves substantive government co-financing. This is a unique partnership between the Ministry and UNDP. We are very happy to see the concrete results achieved from the project in 2021 and we look forward to expanding the partnership in the coming years.”

- **NIRAJAN GHIMIRE**,
JOINT SECRETARY, Ministry of Land Management Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation



Dhurba Pokharel had spent seven years in Saudi Arabia as a supervisor in a gas plant when he was forced to return home due to the global pandemic. He is now proud to work at his own farm in Syangja. © Richa Ranjitkar, UNDP Nepal

FINDING A BETTER PLACE AT HOME

FEATURES

UNDP's Value Chain Development of Fruits and Vegetables Programme and SKILLS programme are presenting livelihood opportunities to returnee migrants at their doorsteps

Dhurba Pokharel, 31, had spent seven years in Saudi Arabia as a supervisor in a gas plant when he was forced to return home due to the global pandemic. Dhurba had mixed feelings on his way back to Putalibazar, Syangja—happy because he was reuniting with his family, but worried about supporting them without a steady income.

Saraswati Marasini, 40, a mother of two, was working in India as receptionist when COVID-19 started ravaging the country. She shares a hometown with Dhurba and, like him, had no choice but to return. Jobless and economically distressed, Saraswati found herself in urgent need of new income generation opportunities to keep her family afloat during the pandemic.

A recent study by ILO (2020) suggests that most migrant workers are willing to drop their plans to rebound to foreign countries if they can find employment opportunities at home. The chief employment options were found to be agriculture and domestic work.

In a bid to help address this issue, UNDP reprogrammed two projects and worked with returnee migrants to help pave the way for new opportunities.

With the support of local governments, the Value Chain Development of Fruit and Vegetables Project (VCDP)—a

joint initiative between the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), and UNDP—identified returnee migrants who wished to take up agri-entrepreneurship. Saraswati and Dhurba were among them.

The project provided future entrepreneurs a comprehensive support package. They were given a business planning training to help them decide on the commodities they wanted to sell, and to make investment/return plans. It was then followed by technical training on commercial farming and polyhouse cultivation.

VCDP reviewed each business plan and provided needed in-kind resources, such as seeds, polyhouses, and mini tillers. So far, 16 returnee migrants have successfully produced tomatoes and recorded seasonal revenue streams of anywhere between NPR 12,000–100,000 each.

Another UNDP initiative was the Support to Knowledge and Lifelong Learning Skills (SKILLS) programme, which supported the federal Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology and the Ministry of Social Development of Sudurpaschim Province to conduct a skill-mapping survey. The exercise, the first of its kind, forecasted that 51,542 skilled human resources would be required in Sudurpaschim

Province for the next three years: (i) 15,860 in engineering/construction (ii) 10,306 in agriculture/forestry/fisheries, 8218 in tourism and hospitality, (iii) 5407 in health, (iv) 3962 in secretarial management, (v) 2277 in handicrafts, 787 in education/pedagogy, and 4725 in other sectors.

To help meet this demand, in October 2020, SKILLS and the National Youth Council joined hands for the Workplace Based Learning and Earning Programme. The initiative supported 87 migrant returnees of two local levels each in Kalilali and Kanchanpur districts of Sudurpaschim Province to engage in self-employment opportunities in agriculture and livestock-related occupations, while using the skills, knowledge, and experiences they had gained working abroad to benefit their communities.

Through these initiatives, UNDP works to widen the choices of migrants if they decide to return and potentially to stem the outflow of young talent. UNDP's support is meant to lay the foundation for longer term economic recovery and social cohesion for migrant returnees.

"Now that I have knowledge about commercial farming, I have a dream," said Dhurba. "I want to build an agriculture learning centre in my village and share what I have learnt, so that others can benefit as well."

Young lawyers raising legal awareness in remote areas of Dailekh.
UNDP Nepal



Promoting Democratic Governance



Five years since the first federal elections in 2017, federalism is gradually taking root in Nepal. Despite several challenges, there have been significant strides in implementing federalism as envisioned in the 2015 Constitution. In 2021, UNDP continued supporting federalism, building the capacity of national and subnational governments, strengthening electoral institutions, and enhancing service delivery and rule of law, particularly for the most vulnerable.

Nepal made some significant strides on the human rights front. The Government of Nepal implemented 140 of the 151 recommendations in its last Universal Periodic Report cycle (2015–2020). UNDP supported national human rights institutions and conflict-affected groups to develop alternative Universal Periodic Review reports, and continued dialogues with stakeholders for the effective implementation of the recommendations. The government accepted 195 of 233 UPR recommendations made by the Human Rights Council.



“A strong justice system will not only allow justice to be accessible to all, it will also support Nepal’s acceleration towards the Sustainable Development Goals.”

H. E. MS. TORUN DRAMDAL,
NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR TO NEPAL



WITH UNDP'S SUPPORT:



11,000 people,
60% of them
women, gained
access to free legal
aid services.



**22 young law
graduates,**
particularly women
and representatives of
marginalized groups,
deployed to the
provinces to raise legal
awareness in remote
areas and support 12
Judicial Committees.

Capacities of over **500 parliamentarians**, 58 percent of whom were women, enhanced to discharge their mandate, making governance institutions more accessible, transparent, and accountable. Informed and strengthened the COVID-19 response through 30 provincial oversight visits by parliamentarians.

Technical and logistics provided to human rights networks in the provinces. The National Human Rights Commission resolved **188 cases of human rights violations**, while **186 new cases were registered this year**.

The Office of the Attorney General and Nepal Bar Council finalized their strategic plans for integrated legal aid services, a victim-centric criminal justice system, and legal internships for newly certified and young lawyers representing marginalized groups.



Research and consultations carried out to finalize the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs' draft Legal Aid Act. This is an important step in the implementation of the Integrated Legal Aid Policy adopted by the government. Endorsement of these frameworks is expected to standardize the legal aid system in Nepal.

The Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security drafted the national action plan on business and human rights (B+HR). That plan is ready for extensive consultation. It aims to standardize the grievance handling system as a pillar of action in access to justice in the private sector.



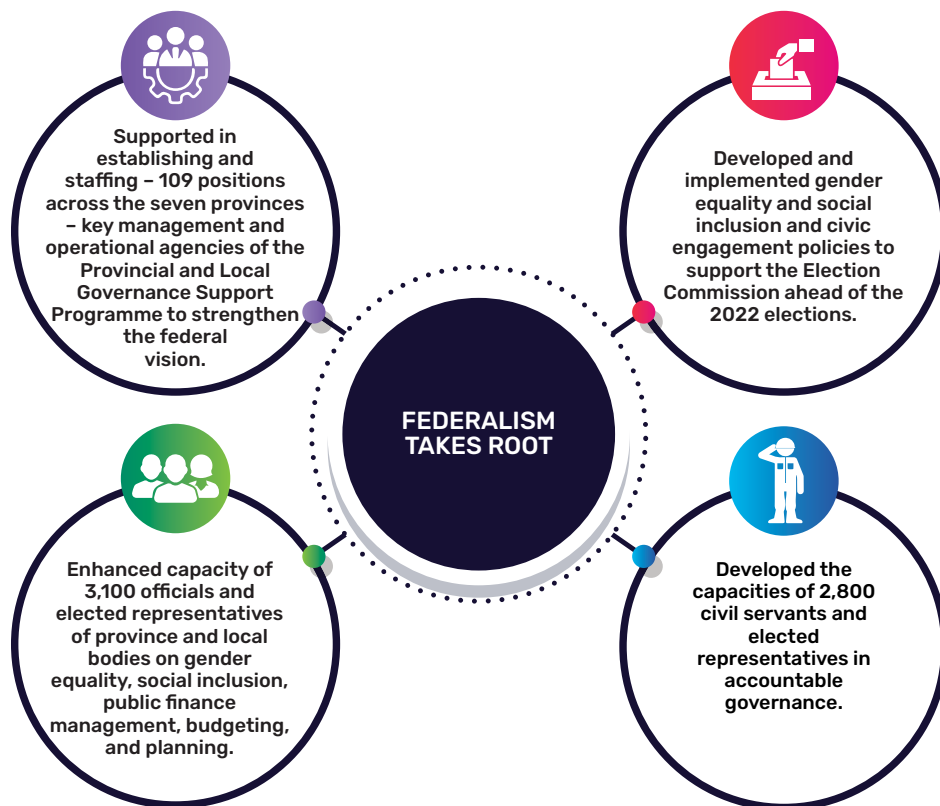
The national human rights recommendations improved progressively, following UNDP's ongoing support for monitoring capacity. Of the recommendations, 13.5 percent were put into effect, and 37 percent partially implemented. The Election Commission formulated, adopted, and began implementing policies on election operations, voter education, civic engagement, gender equality and social inclusion, and social media. These policies are expected to enhance the Election Commission's outreach in the forthcoming elections, and ensure compliance by political parties to constitutional provisions on the representation of women and excluded groups.



“UNDP has been a trusted partner of the Government of Nepal for a long time. UNDP has a crucial role in supporting the government in accelerating the achievement of the SDGs and the targets of 15th Plan through needful policy support and the capacity development at all levels of government.”

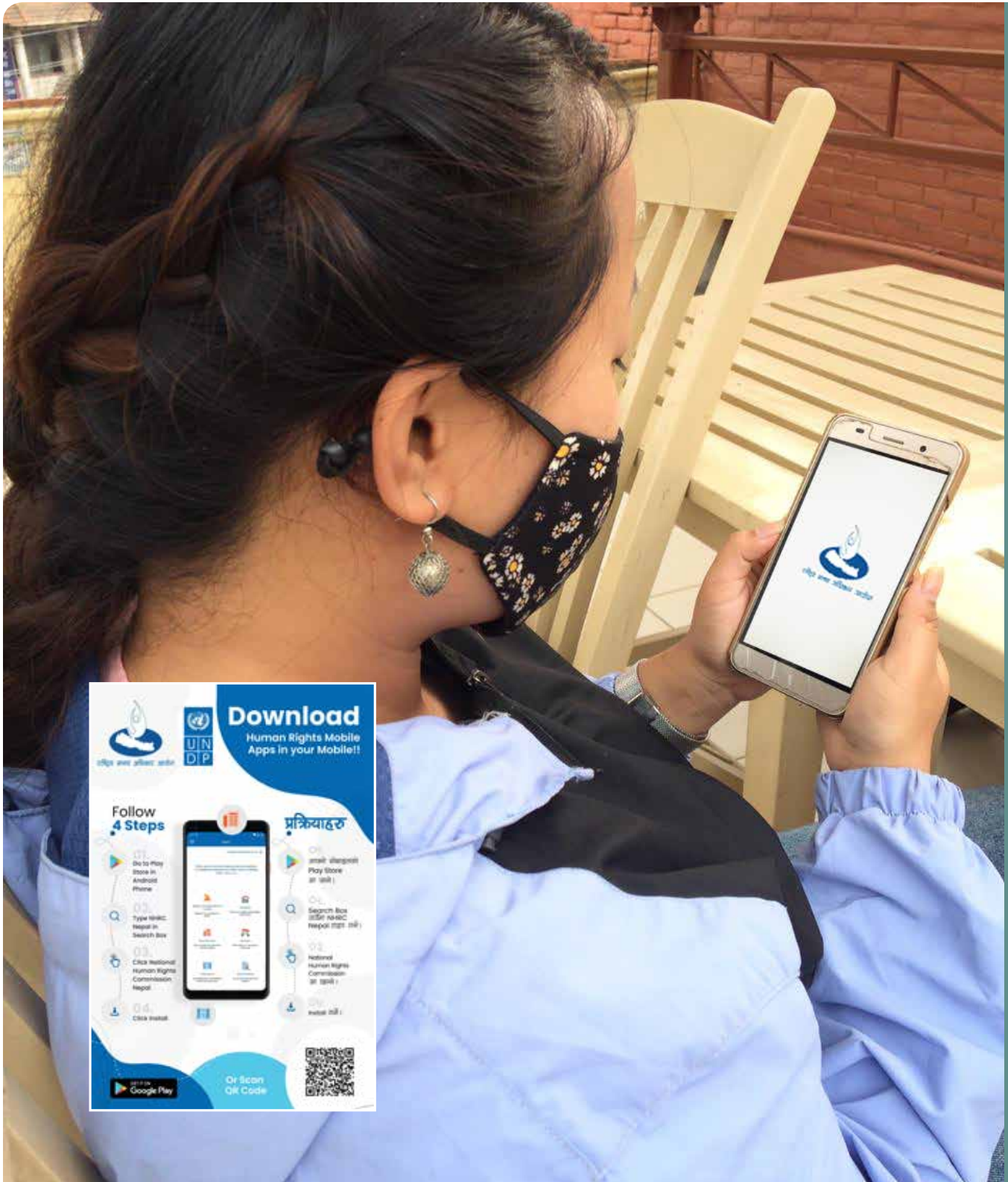
**- Kewal Bhandari, Secretary,
National Planning Commission**

Following the promulgation of the Constitution of Nepal in 2015, UNDP has been providing critical policy and implementation support to ensure the country's smooth transition into a federal system which focuses on inclusive and people-centric service delivery. In 2021, UNDP supported the government to craft 8 critical policies, tools, and guidelines to strengthen functioning of the three tiers of the government.



“From the lens of the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MOFAGA), we see UNDP as one of the key partners in strengthening provincial and local governance in a federal Nepal,”

-GOPI KRISHNA KHANAL,
JOINT SECRETARY, Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration



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प्रक्रियाहरू

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HUMAN RIGHTS DURING COVID-19: ADOPTING DIGITAL SOLUTIONS IN NEPAL

FEATURES

With support from UNDP, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has been easing people's access to their rights—even bringing it right to their fingertips

After working in Qatar for half a decade, 32-year-old Dinesh Mahatara (name changed) had to return to his home village in Kalikot in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. He had hoped to soon go back and resume work.

Dinesh's plans, though, had to be deferred—the Nepal government did not grant him a final labour permit, and withheld explanation for the denial. As the COVID-19 lockdown continued, his demand remained unaddressed.

Panicked and stressed, Dinesh approached the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

"I realized it was a violation of my human rights," said Dinesh. "So, I registered my complaint through the NHRC Nepal mobile app."

The Commission then took prompt action.

In March 2020, Nepal enforced the first lockdown, which lasted for four months. Most government offices remained

closed and rights bodies, including the NHRC, could not operate fully. Rights monitors were unable to reach out to potential victims, who, in turn, could not register their complaints.

It was in this scenario that the NHRC launched its mobile app.

"It has helped us reach out to victims, and connected the NHRC with every household," said Lok Nath Bastola, head of the investigation division of the NHRC.

The NHRC Nepal app is available both in Nepali and English on Android and iOS platforms. Complaints can be registered in written or oral form, after which cases are registered formally by human rights officials. Then, the NHRC initiates investigations into the complaints. Audio recordings are forwarded by the NHRC's investigation division to concerned authorities for further action.

According to Saman Manandhar, an official at the NHRC, the app has replaced the old paper-based approach, and access to the commission has

increased despite back-to-back lockdowns and restrictions.

The NHRC Nepal app has also enhanced accessibility, especially for persons with various disabilities. Users can easily get legal information and services; learn about their rights, laws, and precedents; and stay updated on the latest human rights news, particularly those related to COVID-19 and response measures.

Through the Strategic Plan Support Project (SPSP), UNDP supported the NHRC in mobilizing human rights networks (85 watchdogs and 450 rights monitors) across the country during the COVID-19 pandemic, and set up video conferencing systems to connect its main and branch offices. The SPSP also carried out assessments on due diligence of business and human rights in the private sector and compliance of business communities during the crisis. Additionally, it developed a human rights monitoring network in 77 districts, in collaboration with civil society organizations.



Increasing Resilience



*Sherpa women during an interaction programme
"Voices from the Everest" at Namche.
© UNDP Nepal*

Ranked fourth in terms of vulnerability to climate change, one of Nepal's major challenges is to build resilience against disasters that run the risks of reversing hard-earned development gains achieved over years. As climate change impacts increase, Nepal's vulnerability continues to grow. In this context, in 2021, UNDP continued to support the government to institutionalize disaster risk reduction and management at all three levels through policy support and institutional strengthening. As the journey to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic continued, 2021 also offered an opportunity for green recovery. To that end, UNDP introduced several pilot initiatives related to environmental malmanagement. They included urban disaster preparedness, renewable energy and green businesses, clean city transport, healthcare waste management, and conversion of degraded land.

Ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference – COP26 – the Government of Nepal demonstrated its commitment to combating climate change by developing a long-term strategy to realize Nepal's

vision of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045, and a gender-responsive nationally determined contributions implementation plan (2022-2030). At COP26 and preparatory regional

and national dialogues, the government advocated for climate justice and increased climate finance to support resilient and sustainable development in mountain regions. UNDP

WITH UNDP'S SUPPORT:

2 mini hydropower plants installed that provide **6,000 people** with access to affordable renewable energy and power 83 enterprises. These two power plants help reduce annual CO2 emissions by some 1541.73 tonnes.



Disaster risk reduction enhanced in seven municipalities by developing and implementing long-term resilience plans and piloting measures to mitigate risks.



Grid interconnection of micro hydropower projects in Nepal promoted through policy and technical support, which contributed to maximum utilization of energy generated from micro hydro plants.



In Belhi village of Dhanusha district, more than **1,200 people** benefitted from reliable drinking water supply and improved irrigation system through installation of a solar powered integrated water supply and irrigation facility.



New Renewable Energy Subsidy Policy finalized with provisions of up to **90% grants** for the last mile population to install mini/micro-hydro and solar mini-grids.



The Ministry of Finance improved its readiness to access international climate finance with the accreditation of 2 national entities with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and prepared a Country Programme Document outlining Nepal's priorities for climate action.



contributed to these results with technical and financial support to the Ministry of Forest and Environment. With UNDP support, the newly-established National Disaster Risk Reduction and

Management Authority and the National Reconstruction Authority continued efforts to enhance capacity and outreach for disaster risk reduction and resilience. UNDP also completed its

four-year-long Gorkha Housing Reconstruction Project, reconstructing over 31,500 houses with support from the Government of India and the European Union.





Ahead of COP26, UNDP Nepal organized a regional dialogue at Namche (3600 m above sea level), engaging eight Asian countries. The event led to a joint statement calling on world leaders to take bold actions to ensure climate justice for highly vulnerable developing states.

© Kamal Raj Sigdel, UNDP Nepal



“There are two main points that Nepal would like to convey during the COP26 Climate Summit. The first is that we are experiencing the impact and effects of climate change, the primary cause of which is global warming. According to the Paris Agreement, our collective goal is to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius. There should be explicit expression of international commitment towards the issue which might help us to decrease the cost of loss and damage during adaptation in the future. That is one measure for which we seek commitment. Secondly, we have established different climate change programs, including the NDC, National Adaptation Plan, and other Local Adaptation Plans, all of which are related to the Climate Change Programme. And in order to implement this, required financial, technical, and capacity development plans must be ensured.”

- Dr. Radha Wagle, Joint Secretary and Chief of Climate Change Management Division, Ministry of Forests and Environment (At the Climate Dialogue organised at Namche on 28th October 2022)



Greenway is a unique partnership that UNDP has forged with Nepal's private sector to promote cycling as an alternative mode of transport. Users can download the Greenway smartphone app from Google's Playstore to track their cycle rides and join a group competition that provides incentives and rewards. By the end of 2021, over 6,000 cyclists took part in this campaign, which is managed through both manual and automatic cash incentive systems. Co-funded by UNDP

and Ncell Axiata Limited, Greenway has so far incentivized 51,000 kilometres of cycle rides, particularly for students and workers, leading to the reduction of 26 tonnes of carbon. The project, which is implemented by Cycle City Network Nepal, has partnered with Kantipur Media Group, NMB Bank, IME Pay and various municipalities. The Greenway campaign is also partnering with over half a dozen schools across the country to encourage and incentivize students to cycle to schools.



"We are pleased to join hands with the United Nations for this green cause—to promote cycling as a sustainable means of urban travel. This campaign has the potential to transform the way we travel in cities."

ANDY CHONG,
CEO, NCELL AXIATA LTD

The Government of Nepal's National Plan for Electric Mobility (NPEM) envisions improving air quality through a 50 percent reduction in the use of fossil fuels, among several other means, by 2050 and to decrease air pollution through the proper monitoring of sources of pollutants from old and unmaintained vehicles and industries. Promoting cycling in cities is a low-cost and sustainable method to reach that target.

Thir Bahadur Khadka and Ganesh Shrestha during a search and rescue mission in Melamchi.
© Abhushan Gautam, UNDP Nepal



UNITED YOUTH: TAPPING INTO YOUTH VOLUNTEERISM FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

FEATURES

Youth volunteers in Bhimeshwor, Dolakha, are at the forefront of disaster preparedness and response initiatives

On the night of 15 June 2021, 30-year-old Thir Bahadur Khadka received a distressing news alert about a massive flash flood at Melamchi in Sindhupalchowk district. The flood had swept away more than half of Melamchi Bazaar, a bustling market area along the banks of Indrawati river, displacing hundreds of people and severing road access to many villages.

Outside, the heavy downpour showed no signs of stopping. A member of the Nepal Scout and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)—trained with support from UNDP and EU Humanitarian Aid—in Dolakha District, Thir Bahadur grew anxious with each passing minute. He immediately contacted the director of Nepal Scout and requested to be deployed with his team for the search and rescue efforts in Melamchi.

Two days later, Thir Bahadur and his fellow scout member, Ganesh Shrestha, were carrying out the rescue of people trapped in houses and the flood debris. They had received clear instructions to coordinate with the Emergency Service Rescue Unit and the Nepal Army, and rendezvous with other members of Nepal Scout from

Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, and Lalitpur for the joint rescue efforts.

“A few months earlier, we had participated in advanced training in search and rescue and firefighting. So, we were quite confident about putting our newly gained skills and knowledge to work,” recalls Thir Bahadur. “When we reached Melamchi, we felt proud to see relieved faces among the grief-stricken local residents.”

Ganesh Shrestha is another Nepal Scout and trained CERT volunteer from Bigu. Involved in community service from a young age, he has been shadowing Thir Bahadur and working alongside him to train other youths in Bhimeshwor and adjoining areas in disaster preparedness and response.

“We are proud of Thir Bahadur and Ganesh who have been actively conducting disaster preparedness and response programmes here,” said Bhimeshwor Municipality Mayor, Bharat Bahadur K.C. “We look forward to supporting and working jointly with them and the security agencies to improve the municipality’s overall disaster preparedness and response mechanism.”

Thir Bahadur and Ganesh now aspire to form various rapid disaster response teams comprising of capable and dedicated youth from schools and colleges around Bhimeshwor.

Besides the community-level trainings, through the Urban Disaster Preparedness project, UNDP has supported Bhimeshwor Municipality with various firefighting and search and rescue equipment worth NPR two million (approx. \$17000). Now, the onus lies on the municipality to add to this and assume full ownership of keeping the municipal- and ward-level disaster preparedness and response mechanism active.

The Urban Disaster Preparedness project has trained more than 850 CERT volunteers in core urban areas of Bhimeshwor, Bharatpur, and Lalitpur. At least 30 percent of the volunteers are women, many of them from socially and economically marginalized groups.



Gender Equality and Social Inclusion



UNDP continued to promote Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) through the economic empowerment of women and marginalized communities. The Micro-Enterprise Development Programme for Poverty Alleviation created 26,352 micro-entrepreneurs, of whom 82 percent were women and 72 percent were young women.



Women take part in firefighting training organized in Bhatatpur. In 2021, more than 3200 women, 300 persons with disabilities, 160 LGBTQ+ persons and 178 Muslims were trained on urban disaster risk reduction and response. @Abhushan Gautam, UNDP Nepal



“Urban disaster preparedness is very urgent and crucial in Nepal. We are happy to see Bharatpur Metropolitan city take ownership of our initiatives to strengthen systems at all levels to effectively respond to disasters in the urban pockets and save lives.”

H.E. NONA DEPREZ,
EU AMBASSADOR TO NEPAL

Cooperatives of Nepal, which have immense potential to promote women's economic empowerment, continued to receive UNDP support, particularly in their efforts to access the market. UNDP prioritized cooperatives with women and ethnic minority members in selection processes, resulting in 16 out of 71 exclusively women-led cooperatives. 68 percent of the selected cooperatives were women, while two percent were persons with disabilities, seven percent Newar, 34 percent Janajati, five percent Dalit, three percent Chepang, and one percent Muslim, Madhesi, and others. The cooperatives received marketing support, such as vehicles, cooling chambers and collection centres, which catered to their special needs.

UNDP supported the publication of GESI-disaggregated data in the Integrated Technical and Vocational Education and Training Annual Report, along with skill mapping, factsheets, and infographics to inform GESI-friendly policies, plans, and strategies at all levels.

In partnership with Rastriya Banijya Bank and UN Women, UNDP also supported marginalized and vulnerable women with temporary basic income. They were also

empowered on financial literacy.

UNDP's vulnerability mapping and participatory approaches helped to cater to the needs of vulnerable populations. In Lalitpur, for example, siren systems designed for persons with hearing and speaking impairments were installed.

UNDP also engaged skilled and unskilled labourers from vulnerable communities in short-term employment.



"I wanted to learn sewing-cutting to financially support my family. But I would have needed training, which my family would not have been able to afford. So, I could not have let this bag-making training pass me by."

- Sajina Bika, 25



Women in Mustang take part in a community hospitality programme as part of UNDP's leave no one behind (LNOB) initiative.

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KEY RESULTS IN THE AREAS OF GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION:

Over **26,000** people, of whom 82% were women and 72% were young women, became micro-entrepreneurs



5,400 farmers, of whom 53% were women, assisted with production technology, post-harvest loss reduction skills, and access to local markets

Over **2,350 women** received temporary basic income and financial literacy training to help them cope with the COVID-19 crisis



Gender equality and social inclusion policy formulated, and capacities of civil servants enhanced to promote inclusive provincial and local governance

Key institutions, including Election Commission, National Human Rights Commission adopted gender and social inclusion policy





Dev Kumari Sada from Saptari is one of the 2,350 recipients of emergency cash assistance.
© Sudin Bajracharya



DEV KUMARI SADA'S DREAM HAS COME TRUE

FEATURES

At a time when girls her age were going to school, Dev Kumari Sada was already married off. Like most of the women from her community in Madhesh Province's Saptari district, Sada, at a young age, learned to cook, feed her five children, keep the house clean, wash clothes and dishes, work the fields and collect firewood. Now 28, Sada cannot remember waking up late after dawn or going to bed when the night was still young.

Tired of the incessant daily chores, Sada wanted to make something of her life and get a job that would pay her a salary. She decided that she would join a sewing course that would provide her with the skills required to run a small business. Unfortunately, the training course cost money that she didn't have.

"The course cost Rs 5,000, which was impossible for me to pay," she said.

But Sada persevered and managed to collect the required sum of money by borrowing from her husband and her neighbors. She joined the course and had planned to open up a small tailoring shop in her village when the COVID-19 pandemic struck. Her husband lost his job and the family struggled to make

ends meet. They resorted to catching and selling fish from the nearby river in order to survive.

"By selling fish, we were able to buy some food and somehow stay alive," said Sada. "I thought that our lives were going to end if the famine-like situation continued."

That, however, was not to be. Though the lockdown continued, Sada's family received some relief through UNDP's Prayash programme's Temporary Basic Income for Marginalized and Excluded Women in Nepal. The programme provided support to vulnerable women like Sada, who received Rs 13,500 as a grant. She bought a sewing machine with the money and fulfilled her dream of operating a tailoring shop.

She now earns enough money to feed her family.

"This help came as a great rescue for me. It helped me realize my dream," said Sada. "I don't have to rely on my husband for money anymore. That freedom has empowered me."

The programme was supported by UN Women and Rastriya Banijya Bank,

both of whom were thanked by UNDP's Resident Representative Ayshanie Medagangoda Labe.

"We were able to support vulnerable women in a time of crisis, when they need our help the most," said Labe. "We are pleased to see that women are able to fulfill their basic needs and also earn a decent income."

Kiran Kumar Shrestha, chief executive officer of Rastriya Banijya Bank, appreciated the role of the programme in bringing more people into the banking system and promoting financial literacy.

"A marginalized woman who was struggling for her livelihood is now self-dependent and has started building her own identity. What can be more satisfying than that?" said Shrestha. "We are very happy to be part of this project and are looking forward to be part of other similar projects as well."

The Prayash programme is a joint intervention of UNDP, UN Women and Rastriya Banijya Bank. In 2021, the project supported over 2,350 women from marginalized communities obtain and sustain new livelihoods.

COVID-19 Response: **Strengthening the Health Support System**



The year brought little respite from the onslaught of COVID-19 and measures to contain its impact. Not least among these were the effects felt by a heavily burdened health sector under pressure from demand and scarcity of essential supplies.

UNDP complemented the work of specialized agencies in bolstering the management and capacity of the country's health system. Support continued to all three tiers of government—by providing vital health

equipment and help to strengthen the subnational capacity and readiness for COVID-19 response. The UNDP Country Office repurposed \$3 million: \$1.6 million for health support and \$1.4 million for early recovery. UNDP joined WHO to support the Government of Nepal's Ministry of Health and Population in vaccine digitization. UNDP also helped to improve vaccine waste management, which emerged as a major challenge of the pandemic.

During the year, UNDP

Supported the Government of Nepal in registering over **600,000 people** in the online COVID-19 vaccine portal.

Enhanced the livelihoods of over **2,350** marginalized and vulnerable women through the UNDP-UN Women Temporary Basic Income initiative.

Response capacity of provincial and local health institutions boosted through provision of **emergency medical equipment**.



Improved healthcare waste management systems in seven hospitals, servicing over **2.5 million** people.

Aided Nepal's socio-economic recovery of COVID affected people by creating and supporting over **8,600 new 'green' entrepreneurs** in partnership with 13 municipalities.

Short-term opportunities employment provided to **5,645 people** (1,304 women) in the tourism sector in partnership with Nepal Tourism Board. (Total 76,900 paid work days)

Connected **three million people** with their local representatives through a live phone-in programme, **Jeevan Rakchya**.



"We sincerely hope that Nepal can benefit from the Promoting Green Recovery Project and China will continue to provide assistance to Nepal to the best of its ability. Let us join hands and stand shoulder-to-shoulder, firmly advance international cooperation against COVID-19, and defeat the pandemic in concerted efforts."

H.E. HOU YANQI,
CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO NEPAL

MAINSTREAMING YOUTH FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Despite the challenges brought on by COVID-19, UNDP Nepal, in collaboration with other UN agencies, youth-led organizations, government, academia, and the private sector engaged the youth as key actors of sustainable development in 2021.

To encourage meaningful youth engagement, UNDP worked on youth-led campaigns, dialogues, and empowerment programmes on thematic issues such as gender equality, mental health, entrepreneurship, innovation, civic engagement, and climate action.



In 2021, UNDP Nepal also developed its Guiding Principles on Youth Mainstreaming and Participation, which is guided by its National Youth Strategy 2018–2022 and UN Framework for Responding to the Socio-Economic Impacts of COVID-19 in Nepal. The document aims to lead programmes and strategies to ensure youth engagement not only as beneficiaries but also as partners and agents of change for good governance, economic prosperity, climate action, and beyond.

As part of the response to COVID-19, youth also helped in disseminating information about healthcare waste management at households, and responsible disposal at the grassroots-level. In addition, they organized clean-up campaigns in eight distinct locations across six districts: Lalitpur, Hetauda, Kailali, Achham, Surkhet, and etc.

This year, UNDP and UNICEF in Nepal collaborated for the Generation Unlimited (GenU) youth

challenge and Adolescent and Youth Friendly Local Governance (AYFLG) programme. GenU aims to enhance the capacity of adolescent girls for campaigning against different social problems, whereas AYFLG strives to enhance the capacity of local representatives to develop adolescent- and youth-friendly programmes.

Engaged over **10,000** youth as beneficiaries, and indirectly reached **5.6** million young people across the nation.



Mobilized over **300** volunteers for the “Sachetana” campaign, representing 300 different local levels from all 77 districts. Reached out to 6.5 million people through digital platforms for the campaign.



Organized interactions to encourage youth to enrol in the voter list. Initiated the Nirwahan Sikya (Android and IOS) app as a civic and voter education youth outreach tool.



Engaged youth of model/public schools through a poetry competition, in collaboration with Rato Bangala Foundation.



Helped **500+** young people from Nepal and Thailand benefit from a knowledge exchange series on issues such as entrepreneurship, mental health, e-learning, climate change, youth innovation, and cultural values, together with Youth Council in Action for Nation (YOUTH CAN).



Reached **98,500** people through different online and offline platforms, and created awareness about mental wellbeing among youth.



Commemorated International Youth Day bringing together **20** participants from diverse backgrounds to discuss and share their perspectives regarding the challenges facing the food system in Nepal.



Organized International Mountain Day with students of the Institute of Forestry (IoF) Pokhara, and Youth Hike in partnership with other UN Agencies, IoF Pokhara, and Nepalese Youth for Climate Action (NYCA).





PROMOTING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS: 2021 IN REVIEW

Snapshots of promising and creative approaches to solving pressing issues

How do we address the increasingly complex development challenges that confront our society today? With resources that are already limited, and certain to get scarcer in the future, finding smart ways out have become the need of the hour. UNDP believes in the human ability to innovate efficient and effective solutions that can aid those affected by development challenges. In 2021, UNDP was able to introduce a number of unique solutions in areas of waste recycling, clean mobility, agriculture, housing safety, legal aid services, and market access. Many of these have the potential to be scaled up further to substantively ease concerns faced by the government, the private sector, local communities, and the general public.

NOT JUST ANOTHER BRICK

In 2021, UNDP Accelerator Lab introduced a new technology to make bricks out of non-recyclable plastic waste. Developed and tested by Green Roads Waste Management Private Limited (GRWM), with technical and financial support from the UNDP Accelerator Lab, the technology aims to help sustainably reduce and manage multi-layered plastic waste while also providing a viable business opportunity for the private sector. Adding one percent plastic to the brick mixture reduces the overall weight of a brick by nearly 10 percent, making them lighter than conventional ones. A technical team from Pokhara Metropolitan City Office has recommended the use of these bricks for non-load-bearing structures. In terms of volume, around 40,000 pieces of noodle and biscuit wrappers were utilized in a demonstration toilet that was handed over to Pokhara Metropolitan City on 1 September 2021. One normal size room can consume up to 100 kg of non-recyclable plastic waste. More importantly, this process can be easily adopted by brick manufacturing companies.



RETROFITTING TO EFFECTIVELY MANAGE EARTHQUAKE RISKS

UNDP Nepal, with funding from the Government of India, supported the development of a 20-tonne shock table facility at the Tribhuvan University Institute of Engineering's Pulchowk Campus. The facility allows engineers to test the resilience of different models of Nepali houses against shocks from earthquakes in a controlled environment. Model houses that need testing are built on the shock table, which is mounted on six rollers to allow longitudinal movement of the platform. While testing, a two-tonne pendulum installed at one end of the platform imparts the desired acceleration through an impact. Springs installed at the far end force the table to move back-and-forth, mimicking the movement of the ground during an earthquake. The table generates scientific and engineering data that will assist in proving the effectiveness of retrofitting techniques specific to materials used traditionally in Nepal. During the first test, which was conducted on 29 November 2021 with two house types, the shock table demonstrated that retrofitted houses are capable of withstanding major impacts, whereas non-engineered houses succumb to even minor ones.

PROMOTING CYCLING THROUGH GAMIFICATION

Greenway is a unique partnership that UNDP has forged with Nepal's private sector to promote cycling as an alternative mode of transport. Users can download the Greenway app from Google's Playstore to track their cycle rides and join a group competition that provides incentives and rewards. In the first year of its launch, over 6000 cyclists took part in this campaign, which is managed through both manual and automatic cash incentive systems. Co-funded by UNDP and Ncell Axiata Limited, Greenway has so far incentivized 51,000 kilometres of cycle rides, particularly for students and workers, leading to the reduction of 26 tonnes of carbon. The project, which is implemented by Cycle City Network Nepal, has partnered with Kantipur Media Group, NMB Bank, IME Pay, and various city municipalities.



“We are pleased to initiate a new municipal waste management project, in partnership with UNDP. It will demonstrate how waste management can support green recovery and, at the same time, provide economic opportunities to the needy.”

**- Dilip Pratap Khand,
Mayor of Waling Municipality**



EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL

Free legal aid for the marginalized and the poor is key to ensuring equal access to justice for all. UNDP, through its Enhancing Access to Justice through Institutional Reform Project (A2J), supported justice sector institutions to formulate the necessary policies and guidelines to formalize free legal aid services, including the Integrated Legal Aid Policy and a special protocol for lawyers from the Nepal Bar Association to provide free legal aid. In line with these provisions, the government has been providing free legal aid services to women and vulnerable populations through its District Legal Aid Committees (DLAC) in 48 districts. The free legal aid services are provided by lawyers supervised by the DLAC. However, in the absence of an efficient online

system, service seekers were facing several problems, including delays, document losses, lack of uniformity, and difficulties in content management and sharing of information.

Through the A2J project, UNDP in 2021 supported the Ministry of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs (MoLJPA) to develop an online reporting system to centralize reporting of free legal aid services from across the country. Legal aid lawyers from 48 districts can now enlist their work in the centralized database and track progress. This year, lawyers from 45 districts were able to report more than 2000 cases from the field. The online system is expected to support the government’s effort to implement its constitutional obligation to guarantee the right to free legal aid for the vulnerable and needy.

EARTHWORMS: UNEARTHING LIVELIHOODS AND MANAGING WASTE

Waste management has been a major challenge for many of Nepal’s newly emerging urban settlements. In Tilottama Municipality, a fast-growing city in Lumbini, UNDP introduced vermicomposting—a simple technology for converting biodegradable waste into organic manure with the help of earthworms—as a sustainable and eco-friendly solution to household waste management. Local farmers have received basic training and logistical support to help them start vermicomposting at the household-level. Over 1000 local farmers (67 percent of them women) are currently practicing vermicomposting, supporting Tilottama’s plan to become a green city. Funded under UNDP’s Rapid Financing Facility, the Promoting Green Recovery Project (PGRP) has been working with five municipalities, including Tilottama, to improve household and municipal waste management systems.



CHALLENGED BY COVID-19, NEPAL INNOVATES AN ONLINE COURSE FOR LEGAL OFFICERS

Confronted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Nepal came up with a new digital solution to make its bureaucracy more efficient. The Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs (MoLJPA) unveiled an online course on the basics of law drafting for entry-level professionals who will support legislation at all levels of government: federal, provincial, and local. Government officials said that the course would not have been initiated had it not been for COVID-19 and its impacts on people's mobility.

Developed with support from the Enhancing Access to Justice through Institutional Reform Project, a collaboration between the MoLJPA and UNDP, the online training package is expected to benefit over 2000 legal officers.

MULTI-LAYER FARMING TO RECLAIM DEGRADED LAND

With the support of UNDP and local governments, a large swath of degraded riverside and riverbed land in Mahottari, Sarlahi and Dhanusha districts have been turned into lush green productive fields, directly benefiting over 2100 people, most from poor and historically marginalized groups. The project also provides seeds, compost fertilizers, technical know-how, and irrigation facilities to support families engaged in riverbed farming.

In Mahottari, an area of over 55 hectares on the banks of the Soni River has been fenced, plotted, and distributed for agricultural use. Plots were divided into 130 sections and allocated to individual farmers to grow vegetables and fruits. Socially and economically marginalized communities living around Kusmadhi village in Gaushala Municipality in Mahottari have been directly benefiting from the programme as they now have secured a stable source of income.



NOTHING FISHY: INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY AND INCOME THROUGH AQUAPONICS

With support from the UNDP-managed Global Environment Facility Small Grant Programme, the Manahari Development Institute (MDI) introduced aquaponics, an innovative technique that combines agriculture with fishery in ponds and wetlands. Aquaponics is a combination of aquaculture (fish farming) and hydroponics (raising plants without soil), where plants are grown with minimal or no soil. Plants grown under this system use waste from fish farming as their nutrient source. As a result, the system has multiple advantages: it uses less water than traditional agriculture and the waste generated by the fish is recycled. The plants do not need chemical fertilizer and they also serve as cleaning agents. This system can help clean water sources while, at the same time, addressing food security and providing healthy food supplements. Aquaponics has been tested successfully in Makwanpur and is expected to help increase productivity and income for Nepal's fish farmers.

FARMERS' COOPERATIVES GO DIGITAL

In 2021, the Government of Nepal and UNDP's Cooperative Market Development Programme (CMDP), with technical support from UNDP Accelerator Lab, developed a digital platform: KrishiCoopBazaar.com (Agriculture Cooperatives Bazaar). CMDP is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives, and Poverty Alleviation (MoLCPA) and UNDP.

The digital portal is helping facilitate transactions between farmers and customers while addressing issues related to food security by ensuring greater access to and more reliable supply food. It is also available as a mobile app on both Android and iOS platforms. The platform aims to link farmers' cooperative markets directly with consumers. It can help safeguard the livelihoods of farmers by directly supplying fresh fruits, vegetables, and other agro-based commodities to consumers. It is expected to help bring farmers' cooperatives into the e-commerce sector so that they can build digital connections for greater outreach.



A CHANCE TO GO GREENER

UNDP Accelerator Lab, together with Avni Ventures and the Centre for Energy and Environment Nepal (CEEN), was able to test the potential of refuse-derived fuel (RDF) from non-recyclable plastic waste from cement and clay-craft factories. Feeding in plastic as fuel at the Ghorahi Cement Factory showed a 7500 Kcal calorific value, providing the potential to replace at least five percent of imported coal in the future. Similarly, RDF from non-recyclable plastics and paper in a 1:1 ratio has a calorific value of around 5500 Kcal and, thus, the potential to replace firewood in pottery factories. As these show the viability of using waste as fuel, the RDF samples have been submitted to the Department of Environment for further analysis so that they can be promoted at an enterprise scale. Together with CEEN, the Accelerator Lab was also able to develop a locally-made shredding machine to complement this entire process.

HELLO CHIEF MINISTER!

UNDP Nepal launched an initiative to support and develop the Government of Nepal's existing Hello Sarkar and Hello Chief Minister programme. It aims to allow governments to measure, monitor, and respond to grievances through digital technology, such as machine learning, chatbots, and data analytics tools. The project will work with Hello Sarkar and Hello Chief Minister to not only receive complaints but also secure data to measure and monitor the sources and types of grievances, mobilize justice actors to enhance the responsiveness of the concerned government bodies, and engage

with various civil society organizations and interest groups to encourage inclusive public services. In 2021, the initiative identified baseline needs and capacities of local and provincial governments in its recent needs assessment in Karnali and Sudurpaschim provinces. Furthermore, it will provide technical support to map corruption at the provincial and local levels through data digitization, disaggregation, and analytics tools. Women and marginalized groups, especially at the local-level, will have better access to information about public services and grievance mechanisms while building the capacity to use them.

DIGITIZING IMMUNIZATION

UNDP Nepal, together with WHO, supported the Ministry of Health and Population in digitizing the COVID-19 vaccine management process, particularly pre-registration, bringing efficiency to what was the largest-ever vaccine drive in the country. In a period of six months starting June 2021, the project helped digitize the vaccine registration of over 500,000 people

in seven municipalities. The project aims to ensure that no one is left behind from accessing the COVID-19 vaccine, guarantee equitable allocation of the COVID-19 vaccine across the country's population and communities, reduce hassles and crowds during vaccination sessions, ensure vaccine safety monitoring for long-term care of risk communities, and instantly provide globally acceptable certification of vaccination.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS 2021

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



Nepal Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021

The report shows Nepal's success in lifting 3.1 million people out of multidimensional poverty between 2014 and 2019. Launched by the National Planning Commission, the report was prepared with technical support from the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, UNDP, and UNICEF. While it reveals a marked reduction in multidimensional poverty, 4.9 million people—17.4 percent of Nepal's population—remain multi-dimensionally poor.



Behavioural Insights Impact Study of Pocket Park

This study by UNDP Accelerator Lab measures the effectiveness of a wheelchair-friendly prototype pocket park in Lalitpur. It covers a wide range of responses from park visitors, the nearby community, and government officials. One of the major purposes of the study was to collect the lessons learnt and recommend concrete steps for the betterment of similar infrastructural developments.



A Report on Digital Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in Gandaki Province

This report examines the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on the study population: households, farmers, daily wage earners, and service sector enterprises (hotel and transportation). It attempts to reveal the extent of vulnerability experienced by those directly impacted by COVID-19 in Gandaki Province.



Exploring the avenues for plastic waste management

The study conducted by UNDP's Accelerator Lab assessed the current scenarios to explore and map the priorities of the Urban Municipalities and private sectors on their stake towards managing plastic waste.



GESI Policy 2076-Kirtipur Municipality

The Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Policy 2076 was prepared by Kirtipur Municipality to strengthen institutional arrangements to integrate GESI in policies, and provide GESI responsive programming, planning, budgeting, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. It was prepared with technical assistance from UNDP Nepal.



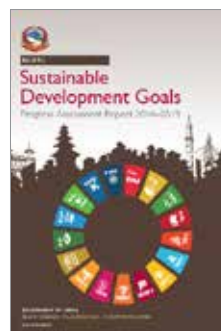
Parliamentary Oversight on Implementation of SDGs: A Handbook with Checklist

This handbook is a guiding document for members of parliament to oversee the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For doing so, the book provides a set of thematically divided checklists to scrutinize the multiple SDG areas, including resources, legal frameworks, mechanisms, and reporting. UNDP provided technical support to the Sustainable Development and Good Governance Committee of the National Assembly to prepare the product, in collaboration with the National Planning Commission.



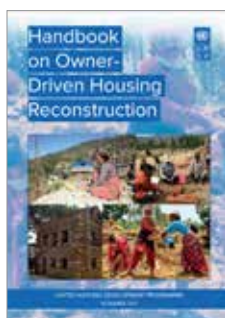
Human Rights Due Diligence Assessment of Business Sector in COVID-19 Response

The Enhancing Access to Justice through Institutional Reform Project, a joint undertaking of UNDP Nepal and the Ministry of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs (MoLJPA), in collaboration with the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), initiated an assessment of human rights due diligence. Its objective was to assess the human rights compliance situation in the business sector during the COVID-19 pandemic, and to develop strategic approaches for necessary intervention. The assessment provides evidence-based analysis of eight specific areas of business and its practices in occupational health and safety.



SDG Progress Assessment Report 2016-2019

The report reveals macroeconomic stability during the 2016-2019 period, with about 6.8 percent annual economic growth, and reduction of income poverty to 16.7 percent. This achievement follows periodic plans that are focused on promoting growth, employment, infrastructure, human development, and resiliency. The 15th Plan (2019/20-2023/24) has been fully aligned with the SDGs and provides a clear roadmap towards prosperity over the next 25 years. The roadmap includes graduating from least developed country status by 2022 and achieving the SDGs by 2030.



Handbook on Owner-Driven Housing Reconstruction

This Handbook is designed to serve as a guide for those tasked with responding to post-disaster housing reconstruction using an owner-driven housing reconstruction (ODHR) approach. It details the various processes, tasks and interventions involved in designing and managing ODHR programmes. The Handbook focuses on two critical aspects of ODHR: principles and key processes, and methods of facilitation. Although it is based on UNDP experience in Nepal, the Handbook has been designed as a guide for post-disaster housing reconstruction programmes in any context.



Whip System Concept and Practices

The publication provides information about the concept and the practice of the whip system in Nepal with a comparative study in reference to the system in other countries. It encompasses both the theoretical and the practical aspects of the whip system in the Nepali parliamentary system and its challenges. Additionally, this knowledge product gathers useful information with relevant examples from parliaments of different times, which offer a point of reference for drawing a comparative analogy among systems.



THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS



1. Data on UNV in 2021:

- 114 UN Volunteers
- 55 percent women and 45 percent men
- 46 percent increment in mobilization compared to 2020
- 12 UN host agencies
- 50 partners
- 52 digital volunteers
- 80 percent national and 20 percent international UN Volunteers
- International UN Volunteers: 12 percent from the global north and eight percent from the global south
- 600 volunteers reached directly through UN Volunteers' programmatic interventions

2. Data on UNV and UNDP partnership in 2021:

- 67 UN Volunteers with UNDP CO, field offices, and projects
- 45 percent women and 55 percent men
- 30 years as the average age of UN Volunteers
- Major expertise as health professionals, economists, statisticians, engineers, information management officers, and disability-inclusion workers
- Piloted the first ever UNDP-UNV Tandem Initiative.

Qualitative data from a UN Volunteer deployed at UNDP:

"Working as a UN Volunteer at the Promoting Green Recovery Project with UNDP Nepal, I feel privileged to be part of a strong team that has helped me gain in-depth knowledge

and learning on climate-related issues and SDG 13 (Climate Action)."

- Sandeep Shreevastav, Community UN Volunteer (Field Support associate), PGRP, UNDP in Nepal

3. Major milestones for UNV (Globally):

- UNV reaches 50 years
- Launch of the State of World Volunteers Report (SWVR 2022) with case studies from Nepal on volunteer-based institutions like Guthi and Barghars
- New Strategic Framework (2022-2025) finalized

4. Major UNDP programmes in partnership with UNV (and other UN agencies):

- Organized the Youth Innovation consultation of food systems on International Youth Day, along with UN Youth Group
- Conducted dialogues regarding the role of youth and volunteers

in advocating for the prevention of gender-based violence and violence against women, with UN Youth Group

- Conducted orientations on Voter Registration
- Published an article written by an International UN Volunteer at UNDP on Mood café, a platform for mental health discussions among UN personnel

5. Major UNV programmes in 2021:

- Organized an introduction to wildlife conservation to youth
- Conducted a virtual discussion on the theme "Literacy for a human-centered recovery: narrowing the digital divide" on World Education Day
- Hosted a webinar, "Learning to un-learn: Sexual orientation and gender identity"
- Organized the Country award on International Volunteers Day, in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports

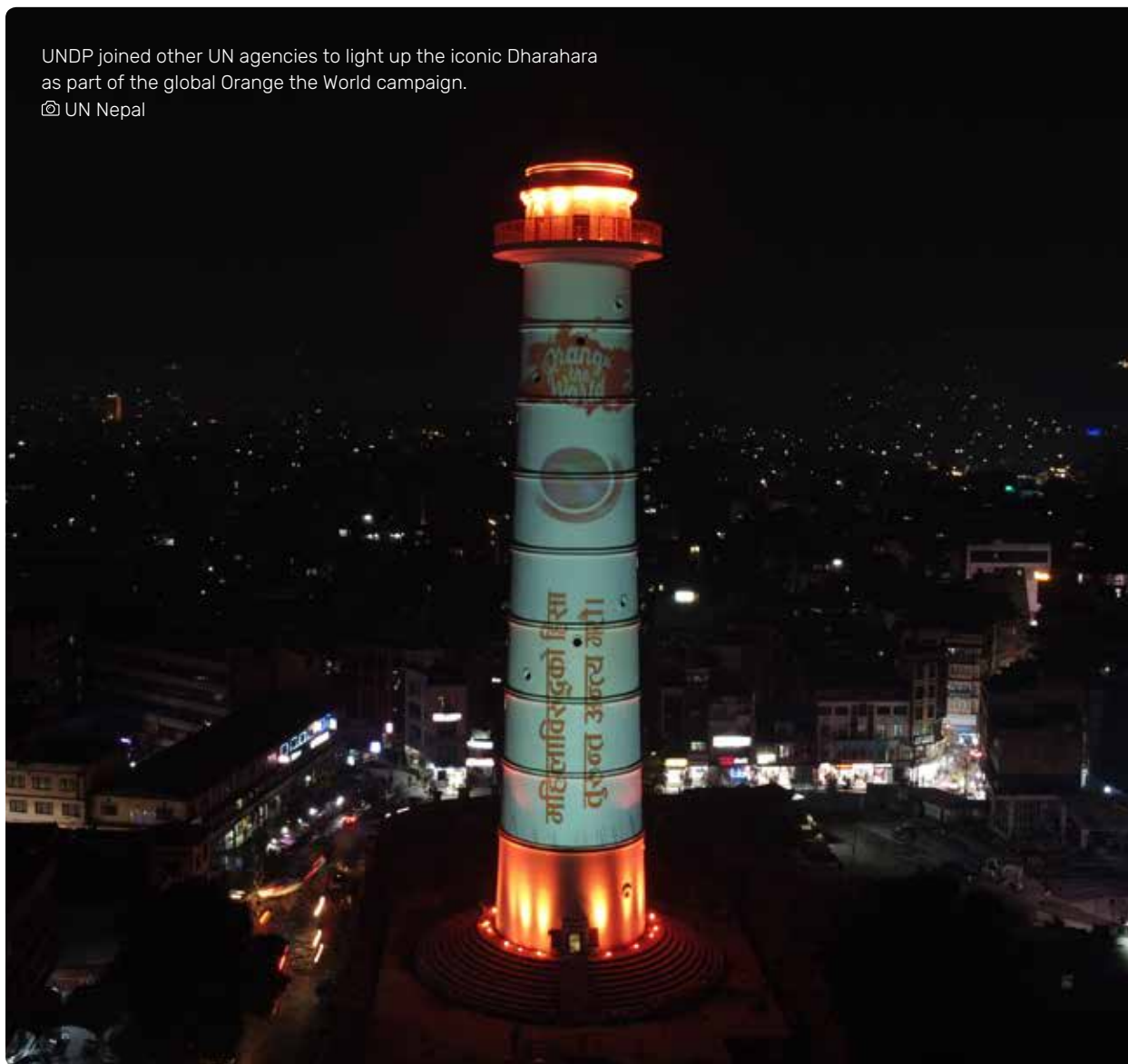


UNDP NEPAL & THE UN SYSTEM



UNDP joined other UN agencies to light up the iconic Dharahara as part of the global Orange the World campaign.

📍 UN Nepal



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

UNDP's programming in Nepal is guided by its Country Programme Document (2018-2022) and the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). In 2021, UNDP actively engaged and co-led various thematic groups, such as the SDG Working Group, the Gender Theme Group, and the LNOB Working Group. Various events and programmes were organized in partnership with other relevant UN agencies.

UNDP, in cooperation with WHO Nepal, supported the Ministry of Health and Population to digitize vaccine certification—through joint advocacy in the pre-registration campaign, and distribution of vaccine certificates to 600,000 individuals. UNDP led the coordination support to vaccinate 15,000 UN personnel, dependents, partners from the most excluded groups against COVID 19, in partnership with IOM, RCO and the Ministry of Health and Population. UNDP also provided support in developing public service announcements, which helped people get information about the COVID-19 vaccine pre-registration process. In the provincial level, health officials were trained on post-vaccine data management.

UNDP continued its support of vulnerable groups in 2021. Together with UN Women, UNDP implemented the "Prayash" project, through which over 2350 vulnerable women received temporary basic income, and were empowered on financial literacy.

Then, in a symbolic stance against gender-based violence as part of the 16 Days of Activism, UNDP together with UN agency

lit iconic Dharahara and Patan Durbar Square orange.

Working with the UN family, UNDP engaged young people and youth organizations through youth-focused and youth-led activities. For instance, UNDP and UNICEF in Nepal collaborated for the Generation Unlimited (GenU) youth challenge and the Adolescent and Youth Friendly Local Governance (AYFLG) programme. GenU aims to enhance the capacity of adolescent girls for campaigning against various social problems, while AYFLG strives to enhance the capacity of local representatives to develop adolescent- and youth-friendly programmes.

UNDP also collaborated with the United Nations Youth Group in support of National Youth Council, WWF Nepal, and CREASION to commemorate International Youth Day 2021. The Youth Innovation Workshop was conducted over two days, bringing together 20 participants from diverse backgrounds to discuss and share perspectives regarding the challenges facing the food system in Nepal

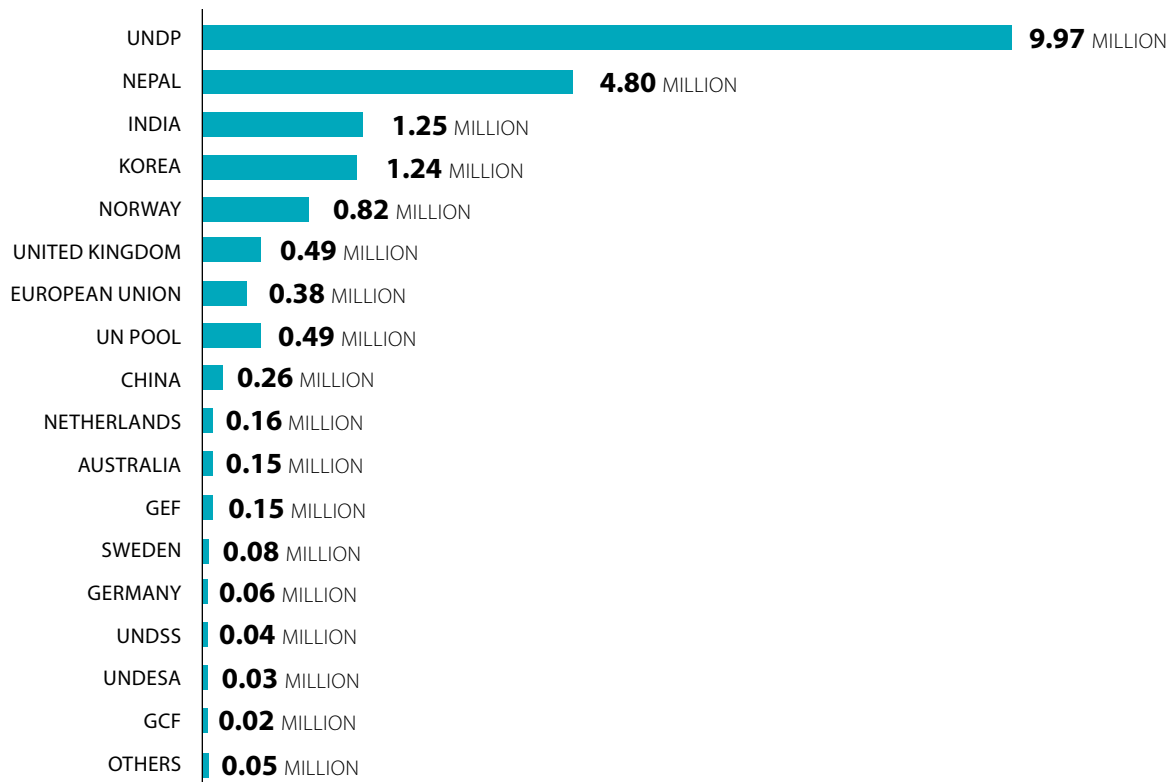


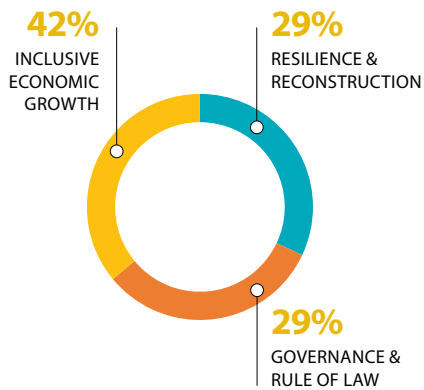
Funding Sources & Partnerships

In 2021, UNDP implemented development programmes across Nepal with a total expenditure of \$20.4 million, of which 49 percent was resources from UNDP core funding. The remaining 51 percent was mobilized from bilateral and multilateral donors and agencies, Global Environment Facility, Global Climate Fund, and other sources.

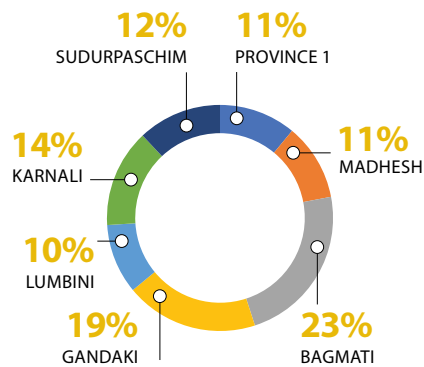
Breaking down UNDP's 2021 expenditure by thematic areas, the greatest investment by value was in inclusive economic growth at 42.1 percent followed by resilience and reconstruction at and democratic governance, both 29 percent. More than half of UNDP's total expenditures contributed directly or significantly to achieving gender equality and social inclusion.

FUNDING SOURCES IN 2021 IN USD

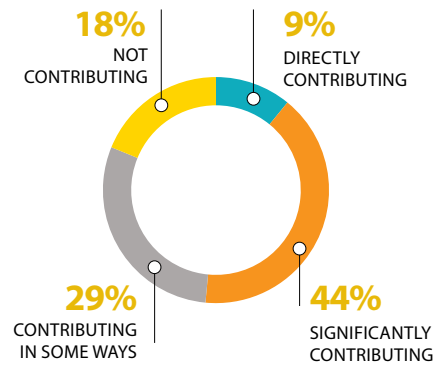




2021 OUTCOME WISE EXPENSES

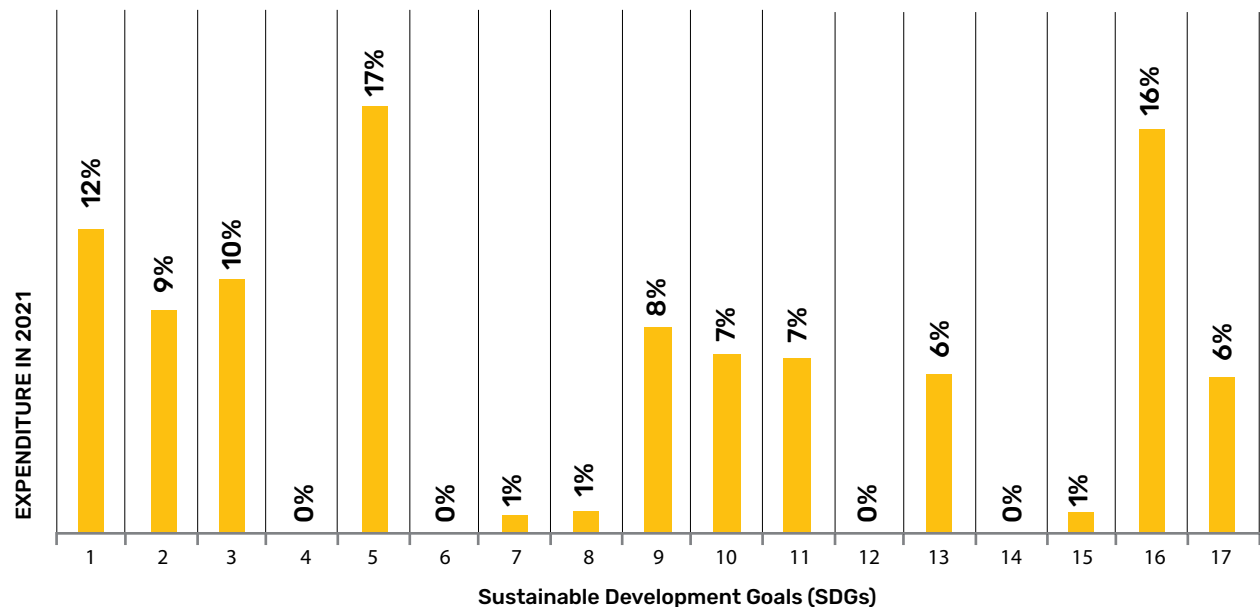


2021 PROVINCE WISE EXPENDITURES %



2021 EXPENDITURE CONTRIBUTING TO GENDER EQUALITY & SOCIAL INCLUSION

2021 EXPENDITURE BY SDG



LEGEND

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



A 1300m trekking foot trail has been constructed in Taplejung that passes through rugged mountain terrain at an altitude of 4200-4700 m above sea level. The trail is one of hundreds of small tourism infrastructures constructed under Sustainable Tourism for Livelihood Recovery Project, a joint initiative of Nepal tourism Board and UNDP Nepal. Photo: STLRP/UNDP Nepal

UNDP

Contributing Partners

Note: This list includes bilateral and multilateral donors only.

Please refer to "Funding Sources and Partnerships" page 54 for a full list of donors.



AUSTRALIA



CHINA



EUROPEAN UNION



GERMANY



INDIA



NEPAL



NETHERLANDS



NORWAY



REPUBLIC OF KOREA



THAILAND



UNITED KINGDOM

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

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AINN	Accelerating the Implementation of the SDGs	MEDPA	Micro Enterprise Development for Poverty Alleviation
A2J	Access to Justice	MPTF	Multi Partner Trust Fund
CDRMP	Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Programme	MoFAGA	Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration
CILRP	Community Infrastructure and Livelihoods Recovery Programme	MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
CMDP	Cooperative Market Development Programme	MoLJPA	Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs
COVID	Coronavirus Disease	MP	Member of Parliament
CSO	Civil Society Organization	NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
DFID	Department for International Development (United Kingdom)	NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
DMGA	District Micro-entrepreneurs Group Association	NHRP	Nepal Housing Reconstruction Project
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	NPC	National Planning Commission
DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management	PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
eBPS	Electronic Building Permit System	PPE	Personal protective equipment
ECN	Election Commission of Nepal	PSP	Parliament Support Project
EDFC	Effective Development Financing and Cooperation	RERL	Renewable Energy for Rural Livelihood
ESP	Electoral Support Project	RNA	Ribonucleic Acid
EU	European Union	SASEC	South Asia Sub Regional Economic Cooperation Programme
GCF	Green Climate Fund	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
GEF	Global Environment Facility	SKILLS	Support to Knowledge and Lifelong Learning Skills
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion	SPSP	HRC's Strategic Plan Support Project
GoI	Government of India	TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
GoN	Government of Nepal	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
HDI	Human Development Index	UNSCRC	United Nations Security Council Resolution
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency	UNV	United Nations Volunteers
LGBTIQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer	VCDP	Value Chain Development Programme
		VCF	Video conferencing facilities
		VNR	Voluntary National Review
		WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



This report is a snapshot of the results achieved in 2021. This was possible with the dedication of the entire team including the country office and project team. Here is the UNDP Nepal team in 2021:

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Bhattarai Krishna
Bhattarai Raju
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Bishwokarma Ganesh
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Neupane Min Raj
Ojha Himalay
Ojha Manoj Prasad
Pandey Satish
Pandit Shailesh Kumar
Pant Dila
Pantha Tika
Parajuli Bhes Bahadur
Paudel Bal Ram
Paudel Giridhari
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Sunuwar Pushpa
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Swarnakar Dharna
Tamang Dichhen
Tamang Krishna Man
Tamata Tek
Tamrakar Niranjana Man
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Thapa Alisha
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Tuladhar Pushpa
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