

UNDP NEPAL'S GUIDING PRINCIPLE ON YOUTH MAINSTREAMING AND PARTICIPATION 2021



The document is guided by UNDP Nepal's National Youth Strategy 2018-2022 and UN Framework for Responding to the Socio-Economic Impacts of COVID-19 in Nepal.



UNDP NEPAL'S GUIDING PRINCIPLE ON **YOUTH MAINSTREAMING AND PARTICIPATION** 2021

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BACKGROUND

Nepal is one of the most youth populated countries in the Asia Pacific. According to the National Census Report 2011, people aged between 16-40 constitute 40.35% of the national population. However, the ratio of youth representation in decision-making and governance is not even close to the population. Following the promulgation of the new Constitution in 2015, Nepal began its transition to a federal democratic republic and as part of the series of polls conducted in 2017 to elect representatives to the new provincial and local-level government bodies, many young

people filed their candidacy and even triumphed on numerous counts. According to the Election Commission of Nepal, nearly 40 percent of those elected to public office at the local level were youth. However, that figure dropped to 26.63 percent in provincial assemblies, 14.09 percent in the House of Representatives, and even lower to 6.77 percent in the National Assembly. The numbers thus show a clear decline as we move from local to national-level politics—indicating a need to engage young people throughout the different levels of political processes and decision-making.

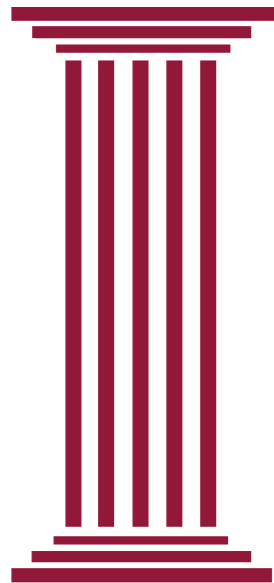
In Nepal, youth will continue to constitute the dominant demographic cohort until 2035, covering the entire period of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—from 2015 to 2030—and beyond. ¹ UNDP, in supporting the implementation of the SDGs in Nepal, is guided by a roadmap that incorporates strong engagement with youth. Several youth organizations and networks are active in Nepal, and UNDP aims to engage with them while working for youth as beneficiaries and supporting them as leaders and agents of change.

Globally, UNDP supports policy and programming aiming to ensure that youth are informed, engaged and empowered to contribute to sustainable human development and resilience of their communities. The combination of youth and innovation has the potential to create solutions to development challenges and to transform societies.



¹ <https://www.np.undp.org/content/nepal/en/home/library/gender-equality-and-social-inclusion/UNDP-Nepal-Youth-Strategy-2018-2022.html>

The Youth Strategy 2018-2022, guided by the UNDP Global Youth Strategy and focuses on following three pillars or outcome areas which are very much aligned to the outcomes of UNDP Nepal's Country Programme 2018-2022 :



A
**INCREASE
 THE ECONOMIC
 EMPOWERMENT
 OF YOUTH**



B
**ENHANCE
 YOUTH CIVIC
 ENGAGEMENT**



C
**STRENGTHEN
 YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
 IN RESILIENCE
 BUILDING**

**Increase
 the economic
 empowerment
 of youth**

This outcome focuses on enhancing the number and quality of jobs for young people, helping boost their productivity and facilitating their movement into more productive sectors. Besides the financial implications, improved youth employment also has important societal benefits, including the promotion of social justice and gender equality.

**Enhance
 Youth Civic
 Engagement**

Enhance Youth Civic Engagement: It recognizes the need to support young men and women in understanding their civic and political rights and the channels through which they may exercise these rights and contribute to decision-making processes that impact their lives. This outcome encourages and promotes meaningful youth participation in decision-making, political processes and institutions.

**Strengthen
 Youth
 Engagement
 in Resilience
 Building**

This outcome is centered on the mobilization and empowerment of youth as positive agents of change, particularly in post-crisis and natural disaster contexts. UNDP Nepal recognizes the importance of enhancing the capacity of young men and women to anticipate, prevent, recover from, and transform in the aftermath of shocks, stresses and change.





UNDP offers added value to the UN system's work on youth, drawing on its multidisciplinary approach towards development in policies and programming. For the UNDP Nepal Youth Strategy, a four-pronged approach has been adopted which seeks to :



UNDP Nepal's Guiding Principles on Youth Mainstreaming and Participation

Guiding Principles: Lead the programmes and strategies that ensure youth (16-40) are engaged not only as beneficiaries but also as partners and agents of change for good governance, economic prosperity, and climate action and beyond.

1. PARTICIPATION



Promote meaningful participation of youth as an essential condition for all the relevant programmes and initiatives led by UNDP in Nepal.

- Prioritize youth not only as beneficiaries but encourage their meaningful participation by providing them with an opportunity to lead campaigns/interventions initiated by UNDP Nepal.
- Promote that youth can not only be the followers but also an equal partner at the table of decisions making by ensuring their presence in the relevant programmes/policy making processes led by UNDP.
- Link youth participation to all sectors including post COVID response.

2. POLICY



Support policy reform and implementation that address the needs of youth.

- Support the National Youth Council in effective implementation of National Youth Policy 2072 and Youth Vision 2025 by mapping the progress and status of the documents and taking collaborative actions.
- Enhance the capacity of existing national, provincial, and local youth forums/organizations for the implementation of existing youth policies through need based training/workshops and dialogues.

3. PARTNERSHIP



Promote partnership within UN agencies in Nepal and beyond to ensure youth is mainstreamed in all the programmes/projects UNDP does.

- Encourage collaborative approach of portfolios and programmes with youth programme to ensure youth is mainstreamed.
- Increase dialogues and opportunities for youth by partnering with stakeholders and relevant institutions.

4. LEADERSHIP



Enable youth leadership, ownership and accountability for good governance, economic prosperity, and resilience.

- Explore the emerging young leaders to learn from and provide essential support to boost their capacity.
- Facilitate mechanism for communication (dialogues/interactions amongst local leaders, community people and youth leaders) to support youth leaders to be accountable to their communities.
- Bridge the gap between the policy makers and youth leaders and help them in creating an enabling environment to practice leadership.
- Facilitate on creating a favorable environment to the youth leaders to be able to partake in decision making platforms.

5. COMPETENCE



Support in enhancing knowledge, skills, competencies of youth through innovative approaches.

- Identify the youth from diverse and marginalized backgrounds through the support of local partners, UNDP field offices and local government and enhance their capacity and skills through programmatic interventions.
- Support the youth with entrepreneurial ideas (especially to those affected by COVID) and connect them with incubation and funding opportunities.



Working in partnership

UNDP is committed to working closely across the United Nations system as articulated in the common chapter of the strategic plan partnership with UNFPA, UNV, UNICEF and UN-Women is crucial.

1

UNDP will work closely with the government of Nepal at federal, provincial and local level to support their priority on youth.

2

3

UNDP will work at all levels in close partnership with civil society organizations (CSOs), youth and youth led organizations, community-based youth groups, including disabled persons' organizations and youths from the disadvantaged communities to advance youth engagement and youth empowerment.

4

UNDP will work with partners to expand collaboration with the private sector which is a critical partner in empowering youth through job opportunities and decent work.

5

As a thought leader, UNDP will work with academia, think tanks and the media to advocate for and support evidence-based research on youth empowerment and its critical linkage with the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.







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