

March 2021



UNITED  
NATIONS  
NEPAL  
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# 2020 UN COUNTRY

ANNUAL RESULT REPORT, NEPAL

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AMIS	Aid Management Information System	IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
BOS	Business Operation Strategy	ILO	International Labour Organization
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics	IOM	International Organization for Migration
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations	LDC	Least Developed Country
CPSWs	Community Psychosocial workers	LAPA	Local Adaptation Plan of Action
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education	LDCRPs	Local Disaster Climate Risk Management Plans
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	LIRC	Land Issues Resolving Commission
CPRP	Nepal COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan	CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CMIS	Crisis Management Information System	MEDPA	Micro Enterprise Development for Poverty Alleviation
DFTQC	Department of Food Technology and Quality Control	MoALD	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
DIMS	Disaster Information Management System	MoCIS	Ministry of Commerce Industry and Supply (MoCIS)
DHIS-2	District Health Information System	MOEST	Ministry of Education, Science & Technology
DPRP	Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan	MoFAGA	Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration
DRM	Disaster Risk Management	MoFE	Ministry of Forest and Environment
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	MoHP	Ministry of Health and Population
ECN	Election Commission, Nepal	MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
FCDO	UK/Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	MoLJPA	Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs
FCHVs	Female community health workers	MoLMCPA	Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion	MoWS	Ministry of Water Supply
GIS	Geographic Information System	MOWCSC	Ministry of Women Children and Senior Citizen
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting	MSNP	Multisectoral Nutrition Plan
GCM	Global Compact on Migration	MUS	Multi-use water system
GDP	Gross Domestic Product		
HA	Hectares		
HEOCs	Health Emergency Operation Centres		

# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

mVAM	mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
NPC	National Planning Commission	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
NRA	National Reconstruction Authority	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
NMICS	Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
OCMC	One-Stop Crisis Management Centres	UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
OMT	Operation Management Team	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
PCGGs	Provincial Centers for Good Governance	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
PLGSP	Provincial and Local Governance Support Programme	ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
PMAT	Sanitation Policy Monitoring Assessment Tool	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
SOP	Operation Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedure	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
RMNACH	Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health	UPR	Universal Periodic Review
RWEE	Rural Women Economic Empowerment	UNRCPD	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition	UNV	United Nations Volunteers
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal	UNWOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedure	VSP	Visiting Service Providers
TSU	Technical Support Units	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
UN	United Nations	WFP	World Food Programme
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund	WHO	World Health Organization
UNCT	United Nations Country Team		
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework		
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme		

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# FOREWORD

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On behalf of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), I am pleased to share with you the 2020 Annual Results Report of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Nepal. This report outlines the results of the partnership of the UNCT and the Government of Nepal towards achieving national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) during a most unprecedented year. 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 pandemic put Nepal's achievement of several SDGs at risk of stagnation or even regression. As such, reorientation to the new scenario was key to safeguarding as much as possible of the progress that has been made in Nepal, especially with regards to inclusive economic growth and ensuring basic social services for all. Consequently, 2020 saw the repurposing of resources and the reorientation of programs to address the needs of those left most vulnerable by the pandemic and to take the measures necessary to mitigate the spread of the virus. The UN support to the government-led COVID-19 response was composed of both additional interventions directed at the pandemic, and interventions complementary to the original UNDAF priority areas. The UN's efforts contributed to a coordinated, effective, and multi-sectoral response to COVID-19 while protecting development gains and the continued delivery of and access to basic services.

Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, it is important not to lose sight of the SDGs and Agenda 2030. It is encouraging that

Nepal remains committed to graduating from being a Least Developed Country by 2026 and achieving Middle-Income Country status by 2030. During the reporting year the Government of Nepal submitted its second Voluntary National Review Report to the High-Level Political Forum and developed its first SDGs Progress Assessment Report 2016-2019. The Nepal Planning Commission finalised a Policy Costing and Financing Framework of the 15th Plan of the Government of Nepal, and resources and guidelines that will take forward local level SDG-based planning. These achievements form a strong foundation for moving forward. The UN remains committed to contributing, to SDG implementation in Nepal.

The principle of leaving no one behind has been crosscutting to all the work. As also recognised in the Nepal Constitution 2015, there remains a need to ensure that development benefits all people equitably. Targeted efforts are needed to ensure that no one is left behind.

This 2020 annual UNDAF results report represent 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, partners, and to the Government of Nepal for the close cooperation.



Sara Beysolow Nyanti,  
United Nations Resident Coordinator, Nepal  
March 25, 2021

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# UNDAF PRIORITIES AND COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS

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The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2018-2022 sets out the UN partnership with the Government of Nepal (GoN) aimed at supporting Nepal as it carves out its development agenda over the aforementioned five-year period. At the core of this UNDAF are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Government of Nepal's 14th and 15th Five Year Development Plan, and international commitments and norms to which Nepal is a party. Based on the lessons learned from the previous UNDAF (2013-2017), this framework builds upon successes, incorporates emerging issues and agreements, and serves to address Nepal's larger economic, social, and environmental objectives.

The UNDAF (2018-2022) has defined four priority areas:

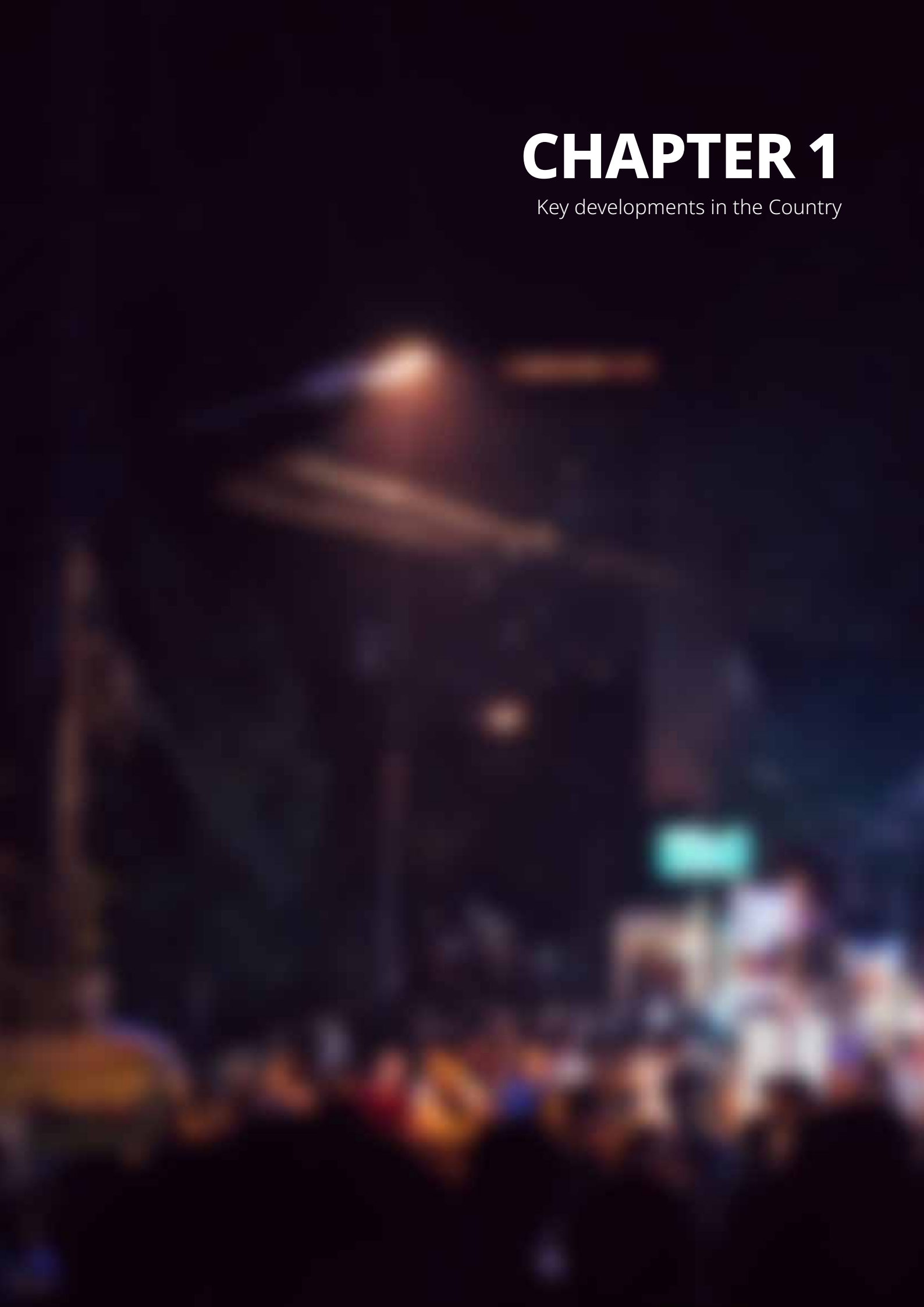
1. Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth;
2. Social Development;
3. Resilience, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change; and
4. Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights.

The UN has established UNDAF Outcome Working Groups (OWG) for each outcome, which are co-chaired by the Heads of Agencies (HoAs) to facilitate effective implementation of the UNDAF. UNDAF Coordination Arrangements 2020

Outcomes	Co-Chairs Chair of OWG	Contributing Agencies
Outcome One: Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth	WFP, ILO	FAO, IFAD, IOM, UN Habitat, UN Women, UNCDF, UNDP, UNHCR, UNIDO, WFP
Outcome Two: Social Development	UNICEF, UNFPA	FAO, IOM, UN-Habitat, UN Women, UNESCO, WHO, WFP
Outcome Three: Resilience, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation	UNDP, UNOPS	FAO, IFAD, IOM, UN Women, UN-Habitat, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, WFP
Outcome Four: Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights	UNDP, UN Women	IOM, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNODC, UNOPS, UNCDF, UNV, UNRCPD, UNHCR

# CHAPTER 1

Key developments in the Country



Globally the COVID-19 pandemic has had an adverse effect on various aspects of development; mitigating the negative impact it has had on Nepal's progress towards Agenda 2030 requires innovative and holistic solutions.

Nepal is committed to graduating from Least Developed Country -status by 2026 and achieving Middle-Income Country status by 2030. While Nepal was experiencing a steady growth rate of 7.3 per cent annually from 2017 to 2019 (measured in gross domestic product), the Central Bureau of Statistics has estimated that the growth rate will fall to 2.3 per cent in 2019/20.<sup>1</sup> The lockdown measures and other restrictions imposed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 have significantly affected important income-generating sectors such as manufacturing and hospitality. The reduction in economic activities has also had a spill-over effect on public infrastructure works, which tend to generate employment for low-skilled labour. Additionally, workers in Nepal's large informal economy, who have little or no access to safety nets, have faced a loss of employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. In 2020, about one million Nepali migrant workers returned to their places of origin during the pandemic,<sup>2</sup> leading to a significant reduction in remittances and high unemployment.

While all the factors mentioned above pose challenges to achieving targets set under Sustainable Development Goal 8 (the SDG on decent work and economic growth), they also have a domino effect. With economic stress, food security (SDG 2) is also at grave risk, further impacting SDG 3 on good health and well-being.

The 2020 Nepal Human Development Report estimated Nepal's Human Development Index in 2019 to be 0.587. There had been progress in both gender equality (SDG 5), life expectancy, and years of schooling (SDG 4) in 2019. Still, there remained vulnerabilities and inequalities in access to schooling and to social services, as well as to provision of healthcare – all of which have been compounded by COVID-19,

in 2020. With the digital divide, in 2020, access to long-distance and online classes remained a challenge particularly for those already most at risk of being left behind. The health sector was faced with a burden it had not faced before; as battling the adverse effects of the virus took priority, other treatments were impacted.

Amidst all the challenges, the government made strides to lessen the burden of COVID-19 on the public, especially those left most vulnerable by the pandemic. Stimulus packages (inclusive of kind, cash, loans and/or subsidies) were provided by the government to various groups of individuals impacted by the pandemic (including daily wage workers, farmers, micro-entrepreneurs, and migrant workers), and efforts were made to create employment-generating activities, which the UN supported. Interim guidelines for the delivery of lifesaving treatments and services were developed by the government, with UN's assistance. The government's efforts to establish different forms of distant learning, integrated with innovative ways to ensure the wellbeing of children during this transition, for example by replacing school meals with take home rations, which the UN contributed to.

When the impact of the pandemic becomes clearer in 2021, the UN's support to the government will be adjusted accordingly to the needs of the country and priorities of the government. However, considering current trends and predictions related to poverty and economic growth, it is evident that in the years to come, innovative solutions and partnerships between the government and UN will be required to achieve the SDGs in Nepal. While addressing the specific, particularly health, education and economic consequences of COVID-19, the threats that Nepal faces due to climate change cannot be ignored, especially while restoring development efforts back on track. It is also an opportunity to rebuild the economy and social services better, in line with the principle of leaving no one behind.

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1 National Review of Sustainable Development Goals, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal, 2020, hereinafter referred as National Review of SDGs 2020

2 Annual Report 2020, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal

# CHAPTER 2



## 2.1

### Overview of the Cooperation Framework Results

Nepal made demonstrable progress in national ownership of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the 15th Five Year Development Plan (2019/20-2023/24) of the Government of Nepal (15th Plan), the government has translated the SDGs into national goals and strategies. UN support to Nepal, as such, contributes to the achievement of both the 15th Plan and the 2030 Agenda. The interventions in the 15th Plan for economic growth, employment creation, infrastructure development, industrialisation, and advancing sustainability in consumption and production all support the achievement of SDGs 8 (decent work and economic growth), 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and 12 (responsible consumption and production). Apart from support to the national level translation of Agenda 2030 targets, in the current United Nations Development Assistance Framework cycle (UNDAF, 2018-2022) the UN has also supported the seven provinces to carry out SDG baseline surveys and develop guidelines for the integration of the SDGs into local planning and budgeting.

As committed through the current UNDAF, in the last three years the UN has continued to support the government with the transition to the federal system of governance. Nepal entered a three-sphere federal governance system with the promulgation of the Constitution in 2015 by the Constituent Assembly. The elections of all three spheres of government were successfully held in 2017, as per the Constitutional requirements. The government also carried out a Federalism Capacity Needs Assessment (2019) with joint support from the UN and the World Bank.

Nepal is committed to graduating from Least Developed Country -status by 2026 and achieving Middle-Income Country status by 2030. In terms of sustainable and inclusive economic growth, the government identified the generation of quality employment (in line with the SDGs), particularly for youth and women, as an important precondition for the achievement of this goal, while also acknowledging the role of remittances. Accordingly, the government allocated 10 million USD for the Micro Enterprise Development for Poverty Alleviation (MEDPA) programme, which is being implemented in all 77 districts of Nepal,<sup>3</sup> with the UN's technical assistance. The government and UN have also jointly advanced ways to enhance safe and efficient work-based foreign migration to further boost remittances.

The Nepal Labour Force Survey (NLFS) in 2018, and the Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (NMICS) in 2019, reflect an important partnership between the government and the UN, and a shared commitment to seek evidence-based solutions. These surveys, carried out by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) with UN support, provide important data and information to monitor progress towards the SDGs and identify areas requiring policy reform and programmatic interventions. The NLFS 2018 specifically provides data on labour force participation and employment, facilitating the formulation and reformulation of policies for the creation of decent employment opportunities in line with SDG 8. The NMICS 2019 on the other hand provides data to help ensure that basic social services are delivered to the most vulnerable and marginalised populations, as per the commitment enshrined in the 2015 Constitution and the principle to leave no one behind.

In 2019, the UN provided support to the National Planning Commission (NPC) to host the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Global Movement Gathering. This was the first high-

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3 Annual Budget Report 2018/2019, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Government of Nepal

level gathering on nutrition organised in South Asia. The global gathering endorsed the “Kathmandu Declaration”, a strong high-level political commitment to end all forms of malnutrition and hunger in all SUN member countries, including Nepal, by the year 2030. The commitment is particularly relevant in light of the remaining, unacceptably high rate of wasting among children under five years of age. This also contributed to the advancement of the Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan II, the sector wide approach where the UN contributes technical expertise and policy support to advance SDG 2.

The United Nations Country Team’s (UNCT) work throughout 2020 was heavily affected by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the UNCT reaffirmed its focus on the priorities of the UNDAF, a repurposing and reorientation of efforts and resources towards vulnerable groups at particular risk during the pandemic was necessary. The repurposing was complimentary to the original UNDAF issue-areas with additional key efforts implemented that were directly focused on and defined by the necessities of the COVID-19 response. The pandemic’s impacts put the achievement of several SDGs at risk of stagnation or regression, and as such, reorientation to the new scenario was a key component in safeguarding some of the progress that has been made in Nepal.

Accordingly, in 2020, the UN agencies collaborated with the government on a wide range of measures to address and alleviate the impact of COVID-19. One intervention area was to create inclusive employment and income generating activities to mitigate the adverse effect of the pandemic on the economy. A collaborative effort of the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure Development (MoPID) and UN agencies resulted in the creation of approximately 97,000 workdays<sup>4</sup> for all genders in the construction and maintenance of rural roads and other community assets. The UN also supported the government’s efforts

to detect, confirm and manage COVID-19 cases from the very beginning of pandemic and to ensure that the delivery of essential health services was not gravely endangered by the diversion of resources to the pandemic response. With UN’s support through the nationwide surveillance of priority vaccine-preventable diseases, Nepal has been able to maintain the required global surveillance performance standard. During the pandemic, the UN has supported the government in its efforts to ensure the continuity of quality education as well as access to basic sanitation and quality water. Disseminating critical messages on hand washing and hygiene, a collaborative effort of the UN and the government had a very positive impact. Although this was implemented to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus, it undoubtedly has had a significant positive impact on other outcome indicators as well. The UN continued to support the government in sustaining and strengthening Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response across Nepal throughout COVID-19 through dedicated interventions for service delivery for GBV survivors and by supporting national helplines. Additionally, keeping in mind that Nepal’s geography makes it prone to natural disasters, the UN continued to support the government with its efforts to reduce the adverse effects of disasters and climate change particularly during the pandemic. With the UN support, the National Disaster Information Management System that was set up in 2019 has been expanded to the provincial level in 2020, in order to guide response and recovery activities based on evidence from the local level.

In summary, 2020 was a challenging year. The COVID-19 pandemic caused massive disruption to the work of the Government and the UN, and negatively impacted many people, especially marginalised communities. Further, there have been significant challenges in the implementation of planned programming and resources remove had to be repurposed.

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4 Cumulative figure from various UN agencies annual and/or progress reports, 202

Another challenge has been the weakened supply chains system, including difficulty in logistics management, monitoring systems, and inadequate infrastructure. Nonetheless, while there is much to learn from the overall response, the UN system, in coordination with the government, responded well and in an inclusive manner to these challenges. Planned programs were remodelled to move online; applications were developed to ensure the continuity of capacity development and contactless awareness programs became prevalent and had positive results. UN agencies and the government ensured that beneficiaries of pre-planned programs were reached during this period by reorienting their programs (for example by modifying school meals to take home rations). The digital divide became apparent during the pandemic and the need to bridge that gap in the future became more pressing; not only to implement and monitor UN supported programs but also to achieve SDGs and ensure that no one is left behind. Much was achieved, and some potentially large negative consequences were avoided. It is essential to maintain focus on priority areas of the UNDAF, with a specific attention on the areas of development most affected by the pandemic, the priority of the country as identified by the government, during the upcoming UNDAF period, as there remain long-term negative effects of the pandemic that must be mitigated and achievements that must be safeguarded.

## 2.2

### Cooperation Framework Priorities, Outcomes and Outputs

#### Outcome 1 – Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth

##### Outcome level progress

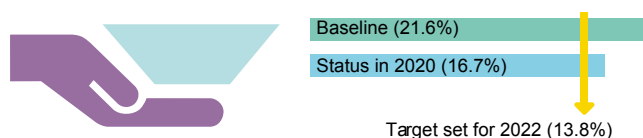
With the support of the UN in 2020, the NPC completed the first National Human Development Report (NHDR) since the adoption of the new Constitution 2015. This is particularly significant for developing a strategy for graduating from Least Developed Country (LDC) status, as well as for an inclusive and sustainable economic recovery process that is being undertaken by the government. According to the NPC, the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to have created a disruption for approximately one million jobs in Nepal.<sup>5</sup> The government has worked to mitigate the adverse effects of these disruptions by providing stimulus packages (inclusive of cash, loans and/or subsidies) for various groups of individuals rendered most vulnerable economically due to the pandemic (such as young entrepreneurs and migrants); the UN has supported these efforts by assisting some of these groups to access packages available to them. In 2020, the government continued to expand its MEDPA program in all 753 local governments,<sup>6</sup> with UN support.

Over the years the UN has contributed to the government efforts to reduce poverty, improve food security, and ensure an inclusive economy. In 2020, more than 50,000 smallholder farm households experienced increased farm production, increased employment, and more income generating opportunities contributed to by various programs carried out by the UN in collaboration with various government counterparts; around 50 to 70 per cent of the

<sup>5</sup> Annual Report 2020, Nepal Planning Commission, Government of Nepal

<sup>6</sup> MEDPA website

## Proportion of population living below the national poverty line

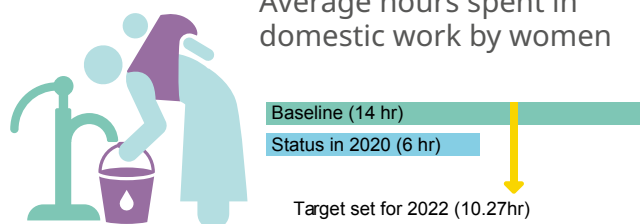


Baseline (2017, Nepal SDGs Report, NPC)  
Status in 2020 (SDG Progress Report, NPC, 2020)

beneficiaries were women. A collaborative effort of the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure Development (MoPID) and UN agencies resulted in the creation of approximately 97,000 workdays in the construction and maintenance of rural roads and other community assets. This partnership served to transfer USD 828,000 (NPR 99 million) to 6,000 rural households with 60 per cent of the direct recipients were women.<sup>7</sup>

The SDG progress report published by the NPC in 2020<sup>8</sup> shows that the government has exceeded the target set for 2019<sup>9</sup> for several indicators under this outcome. While the target set for prevalence of undernourishment was 20.6 per cent, the SDG progress report (2020) shows the current rate to be 8.7 per cent. Similarly, the average hours spent in domestic work by women per day is reported to be 6 hours by the 2020 SDG progress report; the target was 10.27 hours per day. The SDG progress report (2020) also reflects a positive development for the proportion of the population living below the national poverty line, currently at 16.7 per cent, which is steady improvement from the 21.6 per cent in 2017.<sup>10</sup> It is important to note that the SDG progress report contains data from 2019. Hence there is a very high chance that the data for the indicators discussed above would have regressed in 2020 due to the disruptions

## Average hours spent in domestic work by women



Baseline (2017, Nepal SDGs Report, NPC)  
Status in 2020 (SDG Progress Report, NPC, 2020)

caused by the pandemic and measures taken to mitigate the spread of the virus.

Nepal's Voluntary National Review of SDGs 2020 shows that the share of the bottom 40 per cent in total income was 20.4 per cent in 2020. While this could be perceived as a positive result, as the government exceeded its target set for 2022, the data from the joint household survey conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) and WFP in August 2020 revealed a negative trend for "households with inadequate food consumption". The percentage of households with inadequate food consumption increased to 20.2 per cent from the baseline of 15.5 per cent in 2016/17.<sup>11</sup> Considering the sudden increase in employment disruption and food insecurity, it is possible that there has been a decrease in the total income share of the top 60 per cent rather than an increase in the share of the bottom 40 per cent. However, various joint interventions were undertaken by several Ministries in collaboration with the UN in 2020 to ensure that food insecurity and unemployment, were addressed, especially in hard-to-reach places, in line with the principle of leaving no one behind and with the intention of getting back on track to achieve SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger), and SDG 8 (inclusive and sustainable economic growth).

<sup>7</sup> Cumulative figure from various UN agencies annual and/or progress reports, 2020

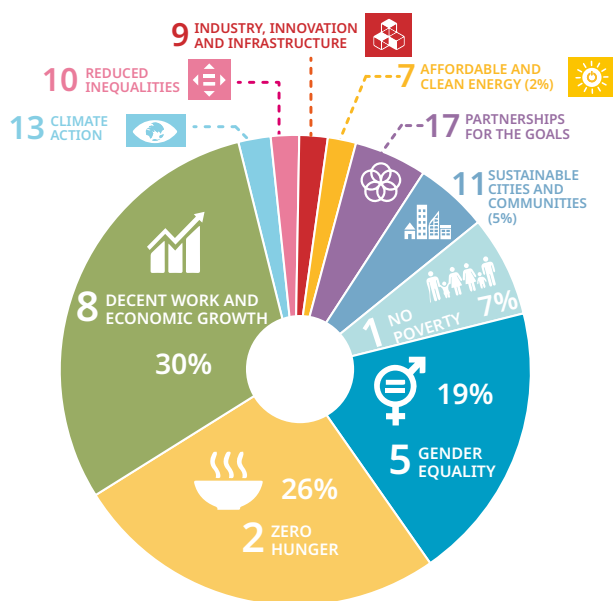
<sup>8</sup> Sustainable Development Goals, Progress Assessment Report 2016-2019, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal, 2020, hereinafter referred as SDG progress report (2020)

<sup>9</sup> Same as target set for 2022

<sup>10</sup> Sustainable Development Goals Report, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal, 2017

<sup>11</sup> Annual Household Survey, 2016/17, Central Bureau of Statistics, Government of Nepal

## PRIMARY SDGs TARGETED BY PROJECTS/PROGRAMMES



## Progress at Output level

### Capacities of smallholder farmers for increased farm production and marketing

In 2020, despite the challenges created by the pandemic, UN agencies were able to strengthen the capacities of smallholders for increased farm production and income. The joint programme of FAO, IFAD, UN Women and WFP on “Accelerating progress toward the economic empowerment of rural women in Nepal” (RWE) supported 3,002 rural women farmers in kitchen gardening and commercial fresh vegetable production. This resulted in a 306 per cent increase in their annual harvest (in comparison to the baseline), with a total annual harvest of 2,849 metric tons. Through the collaboration of UNDP and the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation (MoLCPA), 19,331 farmers (9,931 women) had improved access to markets, where these farmers were able to sell 20 tons of agriculture produce.

The IFAD projects Rural Enterprises and Remittances Project - RERP (16 districts, Provinces 1, 2 and Bagmati), and Agriculture Sector Development Programme - ASDP (10 districts, Karnali Province) promoted supply chains on milk, fish, fresh vegetables, essential

oils from medicinal and aromatic plants, vegetable seeds, and goats. In 2020, these two projects enabled over 18,000 households (6,177 headed by women) to increase their respective farm products and increase their income. Under the vegetable supply chain, 825 farmers affiliated with 33 vegetable production groups and linked with 12 traders sold a total of 1,110 metric tons of vegetables, earning a total of 463,400 USD. During the reporting period, 4,921 (1,725 women) were ensured employment through the assistance of the local training institutes supported by the RERP.

WFP supported 18,950 smallholder farmers (54 per cent women) by providing climate-smart agricultural technology as well as sharing best practices. FAO provided 24,979 smallholding farmers (65 per cent women farmers) with in-kind technical support that contributed to increased farm production and income for these households. WFP’s Cash-based school feeding-programme, carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Science & Technology (MoEST), provided 2,000 smallholder women-headed farmer households a guaranteed market for their products. 450 women smallholder farmers and landless laborers affected by COVID-19 partook in capacity-building activities that enabled them to start and manage rice nurseries. These ensured the supply of much needed rice seedlings during the paddy transplanting season for smallholder farmers affected by COVID-19. ILO also trained 150 youth and women on agri-machine operation, repair, and servicing to strengthen farm mechanisation service provision in the project areas. Similarly, by training 50 (11 women) Farm Business School Facilitators, 122 farmer groups and 3 cooperatives FAO added to the technical capacities of Farm Business Schools and helped establish local resource persons to expand basic business knowledge and skills to local farmers. Through UNHCR’s support a total of 682 (inclusive of 527 Bhutanese refugees, of which 281 were women) individuals involved in farming received guidance on business market opportunities, and financial literacy support, as well tools and equipment to enhance their farm production.

Support to smallholder farms is a key to economic empowerment of rural communities, particularly women. The combination of support for production, market access and capacities build the resilience of families and contributes to SDG 1 (end poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 8 (inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment, and decent work).

### **Increase inclusive employment – support Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME)**

Recognising that MSMEs play a significant role in allowing societies to achieve higher levels of economic productivity while also working as drivers of diversification and innovation, the UN continued its collaboration with the government to support the growth and development of MSMEs.

WFP supported 2,482 households (49 per cent women-led) to establish farm-based enterprises, provided small business/enterprises revival cash grants, and provided operating material support to 100 marginalised women-owned small enterprises which were completely shut down due to lockdown measures. ILO, in collaboration with the Industrial Enterprise Development Institute (IEDI), strengthened national capacity for entrepreneurship training by translating and adapting ILO's Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) generic manual into Nepali and training 70 youths (10 per cent women) as Trainers of Trainers. This manual is particularly adapted to meet the demand for entrepreneurship training by educated youth who are eligible for the government announced youth self-employment loan programs for MSMEs under the COVID-19 response stimulus package. ILO has further strengthened national capacities in entrepreneurship training by working with eight SIYB Level 1 Candidates who will be certified Master Trainers upon completion of the course. In partnership

with the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), ILO further developed an Enterprise Competitiveness and Assessment tool (ENCOMPASS) that will help FNCCI to extend a new service to its member organisations towards improving the competitiveness of their enterprises.

On its part, UNDP provided technical assistance to the government to revise the MEDPA Operational guideline for smooth implementation of MEDPA programmes at the local level, in the federal context. Through UNDP's support, 1,400 officials of all levels of government (provincial, district and local level) partook in trainings on the Micro Enterprise Development (MED) model to enhance their knowledge on MSME development and to strengthen their capacity for relevant policy formulation. Around 12,000 micro-enterprises (60 per cent women-led) were also established as part of the livelihood recovery interventions assisted by UNDP. Through Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Capability for Hindu Kush Himalaya, a collaborative project of UNIDO and International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), renewable energy options for resilient enterprise development were documented for various sector (including tourism) and shared regionally.

Four hundred and fifty (97 per cent women) home-based workers from urban settlements partook in training supported by UN-HABITAT to enhance their capacity for enterprise development. Similarly, UN Women supported the self- and wage-employment of 575 women from excluded groups (inclusive of women with disabilities, single women, indigenous women and Dalit women) by providing technical skills to design and produce market-oriented products, support for business development, and counselling support. Similarly, 670 adolescent schoolgirls and women were aided to start their own businesses through technical assistance and seed funds.

ILO and UNCDF jointly worked with e-commerce platforms to on-board MSMEs

and cooperatives for the continuity of their operations and marketing. A total of 652 retail MSMEs, of which 217 are women-owned, were on-boarded onto e-commerce platforms. Through the platform there were 54,762 Digital Financial Services (DFS) transactions amounting to USD 357,177 in 2020. UN Women also supported 200 vulnerable women, including victims of domestic violence, single women, and women with disabilities, to access a mobile app for marketing their products. While these contactless services are especially suitable in the COVID-19 context, e-commerce is more broadly an undeniably important platform for the future growth of MSMEs.

MSME development is a crucial component of inclusive sustainable economic growth and it has potential for wide-reaching impacts to realize several SDGs, including SDG 1 (end poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment, and decent work), and SDG 9 (sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation).

### **Access to improved livelihood assets, rural infrastructure, and wage labour opportunities**

Sustainable rural development is essential to the economic, social, and environmental viability of a state. Considering the challenging geography of Nepal, the development of rural infrastructure and assets in remote areas has a direct contribution to access to services and sustainable livelihoods opportunities and is particularly important for leaving no one behind. To advance this target, WFP in collaboration with local government supported the construction of 53 community assets, which included multi-use water system (MUS) -based small irrigation schemes, water supplies, post-harvest storage facilities, rural trails, bridges, micro-hydro and irrigation schemes, landslide/slope stabilization structures, community service centres, water

collection and harvesting ponds, and improved water mills. As a result, 242 hectares (ha) of agricultural land was irrigated, 56 kilowatts of electricity generated, 35 ha of productive land was protected, and 14 kilometres of trail were improved, linking smaller towns to larger marketplaces. A total of 41,250 people (54 per cent women) benefited from the creation of these assets, namely the increased agricultural production and improved access to markets, which for example contributed to a 50 per cent reduction in prices of goods and services. In addition, 77,668 workdays were created during the construction and maintenance of these assets that provided additional income to 5,803 households (48 per cent women-led). UNDP provided renewable energy services to an additional 2,013 households through solar mini-grids. Over 100 entrepreneurs benefited from access to energy services.

In collaboration with the MoPID and Infrastructure Development Offices, ILO generated 529 (338 for women) short-term emergency rural road maintenance employment opportunities for road maintenance workers who lost their jobs due to COVID-19 in Province 2 and Lumbini Province. In addition to providing immediate livelihoods support and income generation, this also contributed to the improvement of the all-weather accessibility of over a total of 1,114 km of rural roads in the project areas. Additionally, 140 engineers from MoPID, Transport Infrastructure Directorate, and IDOs partook in trainings supported by ILO to enhance their knowledge on areas of infrastructure management and improvement. Furthermore, the capacity of the provincial IDOs in relation to occupational health and safety (specifically related to COVID-19) and performance-related wage payment systems was enhanced. UN-Habitat provided technical support to the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation (MoLMCPA), and the Land Issues Resolving Commission (LIRC) to support them in their efforts to ensure tenure security of the landless (Sukumbasi) and on informal land holdings.

Rural development is essential for poverty eradication due to the significant concentration of poverty in rural areas. Hence, the UN agencies' contributions not only support the government's efforts to achieve SDG 8 (inclusive and sustainable economic growth), but also SDG 1 (end poverty).

### **Fair and decent work for youths and migrant workers**

The COVID-19 pandemic forced a significant return of Nepali migrant workers from destination countries. As an immediate response to COVID-19, ILO provided employment services to 13,471 Nepali migrant workers (1,468 women) in destination countries, which included information, counselling support, awareness raising, facilitation for vocational training and job placement. This facilitated their decision-making as to whether to stay at their destination or return to Nepal. A total of 535 Nepali migrant workers (87 women) who were laid off by their employers in receiving countries were assisted to find new employers. ILO also submitted concrete recommendations to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for strengthening consular and welfare services to Nepali migrant workers in line with the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), objective 14: "Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle." Recommendations were derived from the ILO study "Capacity Gap Assessment Report of Nepali Diplomatic Missions in Countries of Labour Destination, 2020". ILO also documented and disseminated recommendations for promoting fair recruitment in the COVID-19 impacted environment through the study "Rapid Assessment of the Impact of COVID-19 on Private Recruitment Agencies in Nepal".

IOM supported the government in their preparation to draft the national voluntary review on the implementation of Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) to inform the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the

GCM, which the government has officially submitted to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Additionally, the ILO conducted a "Labour Market Assessment of Six High Potential Destination Countries for Nepalese Migrant Workers", which provides labour market information to assist the government in the diversification of international labour markets for Nepali workers. Around 300 aspirant migrant women were facilitated to identify self- and wage employment in the country, and 22,000 women were empowered with information on their rights related to work and mobility through various outreach methods in four different districts.

With IOM support, almost 3 million people were reached, through a radio program, on safer migration practices, migrant health, COVID-19, and disaster risk reduction (DRR) and displacement. Among them, almost 1,000 (537 women) migrants and members of migrant households affected by COVID-19 received direct support for self-employment opportunities including financial literacy and entrepreneurship training. Additionally, IOM partnered with CSOs and private sector banks to assist a certain portion of the project beneficiaries to open new bank accounts linked to collateral-free, discounted-interest loans based on their business proposals.

IFAD's Rural Enterprises and Remittances Project on the other hand supported 14,153 migrant workers (2,748 women) and their families in both countries of origin and of destination in 2020. Through the Migration Resource Centers, migrants and their families were provided various services such as information specific to their profession, an opportunity to enhance skills to increase the value of their labour abroad, information on alternative opportunities in Nepal, pre-departure information, as well as counselling and financial education for their families. The project is also implementing a Gender Action Learning System, which has trained 82 local mentors who supported 466 households to prepare their dream project.

Due to COVID-19, Nepali migrant workers faced unexpected hardships in 2020 that compounded their often already vulnerable and precarious situation. UN agencies responded by repositioning and repurposing their support accordingly. Due to both the young population of Nepal, and the substantial contribution of migrant workers' remittances to Nepal's GDP, addressing the impact of COVID-19 on them is imperative for sustainable inclusive economic growth.

### Enabling environment for job creation, trade facilitation and sustainable livelihoods

In 2020, the UN agencies contributed to strengthen Nepal's evidence-base for policy formulation and effective planning and reporting against international commitments. UN Women reviewed the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) strategy of the Agriculture Development Strategy and provided recommendations for mainstreaming GESI. Drawing on the data available through the Aid Management Information System (AMIS), UNDP supported the government in the drafting of the 2020 Development Cooperation Report that includes sector, SDG and gender-based analysis and is used to support strengthened development planning and financing processes.

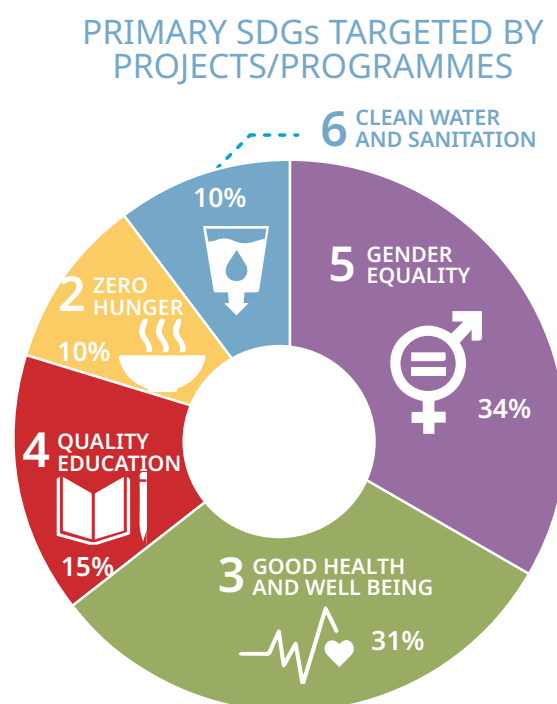
IOM in collaboration with the NPC conducted a study to understand the status of the Nepali migrant workers in relation to COVID-19. The study focused on understanding the vulnerabilities of the migrant workers, their protection concerns, employment status, aspirations, and return and reintegration plans. The study found that one of the expectations of the migrant workers, to engage in self-employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, is also one of the priorities set in 15th Plan and first provincial plan of Province-1. These collaborative efforts of the UN contributed to the government's efforts and commitment to increase inclusive

employment, increase food security, and decrease the gender equality gap, in line with SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 8 (inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment, and decent work).

## Outcome 2: Social Development

### Outcome level progress

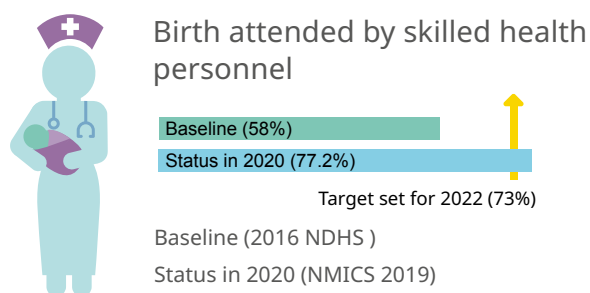
The government continues to develop policies and programmes with the aim of providing equitable access to basic social services for all, particularly those hardest hit by the pandemic. In 2020, the UN supported the government's efforts to prepare respective action plans and to implement interventions in order to ensure good health, food security, quality education, access to basic sanitation and quality water, as well as gender equality.



Through the nationwide surveillance of priority vaccine-preventable diseases, which was supported by the UN, Nepal has been able to maintain the required global surveillance performance standard on indicators measuring rate of non-polio acute

flaccid paralysis, and measles and rubella.<sup>12</sup> A total of 2,591,920 children were vaccinated against measles/rubella in 2020, with the UN's support.<sup>13</sup> Catch-up vaccination training packages and a missed-vaccination schedule for children under five, developed by the government with the support of the UN, ensured that vaccinations were carried out with in line with the principle of leaving no child behind.

The UN supported the development of interim guidelines for the delivery of Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) services in the context of COVID-19. A regulation, developed with UN support, for the 'Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act 2018', was endorsed by the cabinet. The regulation identifies the importance of skilled birth attendance at every birth and aims to expand and improve RMNCAH services, committing to reach the unreached. In 2020, a total of 14 professional midwives graduated – the first batch and a major milestone for Nepal.<sup>14</sup> The UN supported the government to develop a guidance document for the placement of midwives and a certificate level bridging course, which will enable nurses to register as professional midwives.



Government interventions, supported by the UN, contributed to ensuring the continued availability of multi-sectoral services for gender-based violence (GBV) survivors during the COVID-19 pandemic including by introducing a remote service delivery modality. The toll-free GBV helpline, operated by the National Women's Commission (supported by the UN), recorded a total of 8,831 calls (100 per cent from women) in 2020. This represented an increase of nearly 30 percent from the number of calls received in 2019. While the increase in calls could suggest an increase in GBV, it evidently shows an increase in awareness of and trust in a support system set up by the government. The number of potential cases of child marriage reported through the child helpline also significantly increased from 285 cases in 2019 to 443 cases in 2020. According to data from two separate Nepal Multiple Cluster Indicator Surveys, there has been a sharp decline in the proportion of women aged 20 to 24 who marry before the age of 18 – from 48.5 percent in 2014 to 32.8 per cent in 2019 – This reflects the success of the collaborative effort of the government and UN to implement the National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage, carried out under the leadership of the government. Additionally, this demonstrates the UN Joint Programme to End Child Marriage's progress since its implementation in 2016.

The NMICS6<sup>15</sup> revealed that 95 per cent of households were using at least basic drinking water services, while 81 per cent had basic handwashing services. However, only 19 per cent and 61 per cent of households were using safely managed drinking water and sanitation

12 Globally there are two cardinal indicators for surveillance performance sensitivity for diseases targeted for global eradication (polio) or regional elimination (measles and rubella). For polio this is a case detection rate of non-polio acute flaccid paralysis (NP-AFP) in under 15-year old population – Global standard  $\geq 1$  per 100 000 and WHO-SEARO standard (higher than global)  $\geq 2$  per 100 000  $< 15$  population. For measles rubella the target is non-measles non-rubella (NMNR) case detection rate of  $\geq 2$  per 100 000 total population. Nepal has achieved beyond global surveillance performance standards on both indicators every year for past several years.

13 Measles Campaign data, Family Welfare Division/Department of Health Services, 2020

14 This is based on the information received from two universities currently running the Midwifery education. Documentation not published as of March 2021

15 Nepal Multiple Cluster Indicator Surveys (NMICS), UNICEF and Central Bureau of Statistic (Nepal), 2019, hereinafter referred to as the NMICS6

services, respectively. There was also a huge disparity in access to safely managed drinking water between rural (13 per cent) and urban (22 per cent), and poorest (four per cent) and richest (27 per cent). In the context of COVID-19, access to safely managed water supply systems and handwashing facilities became more significant than ever before. In 2020, the UN supported the government's effort to increase access to safely managed drinking water services at the community level and to basic sanitation in Province 2, one of the provinces with points of entry (POEs) at which returning Nepali migrant workers could cross the border.

In 2020, the UN partnered with the government to increase the literacy rate through strengthening the non-formal education sub-sector program and lifelong learning opportunities. The adult literacy rate has increased to 67.9 per cent<sup>16</sup> from the baseline of 63.7 per cent.<sup>17</sup> As a milestone document for Nepal, the UN supported the government in the development of the National Early Childhood Development strategy 2020 -2030, which was approved by the cabinet in 2020, setting ground for integrated programming for the holistic development of children. While the pandemic has had an adverse effect on the education of school children, the UN has supported the government's efforts to establish different forms of distant learning, integrated with innovative ways to ensure the wellbeing of children during this transition, for example by replacing school meals with take home rations. This undoubtedly will have a spill over effect on the survival rate to Grade 8 for 2020/2021, which has increased from 77.9 per cent (girls 78.2%, boys 77.6%) in 2018/19 to 79.3 per cent (girls 79.6%, boys 79.1%) in 2019/20.<sup>18</sup>

Nepal continues to carry out interventions and take on a multisectoral approach to combat

malnutrition. The NMICS6 reported stunting at 31.5 per cent compared to the baseline of 37.4 per cent (NMICS 2014), with huge variations among provinces. The current annual average rate of reduction in stunting among children under 5 is 3.3 per cent<sup>19</sup>, not sufficient to achieve the SDGs. To achieve the national target, the rate should increase to 4.3 per cent. The wasting rate remains unacceptably high at 12 per cent (NMICS6). If we consider the increased number of households facing food insecurity (as mentioned in outcome 1), the rates become more worrisome. The measures taken by the NPC to reduce all forms of malnutrition through joint efforts with UN support are a very positive step. The increase in the fortification system and feeding programs for children under 23 months, as well as for lactating mothers, work to reduce micronutrient deficiency and malnutrition. Additionally, the approval from the high-level Nutrition Food Security Steering Committee for the European Union budget support programme for the Multisectoral Nutrition Plan (MSNP-II, 2020-2022), a process supported by the UN, has positive implications for improving the stunting and wasting rates.

Despite the adverse effects of the pandemic and the greater need of access to basic social services in 2020, the government with UN assistance has made some positive strides in ensuring basic social services for all.

## Progress at Output level:

### **Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH)**

In 2020, UN agencies supported policy and strategy development to advance the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) agenda at the national and sub-national

16 World bank data base, updated 2 September 2020, (link: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.ADT.LITR.ZS?locations=NP>)

17 Annual Household Survey, 2014/15, Central Bureau of Statistics, Government of Nepal

18 Flash report 2019/2020, Education Management Information System, Government of Nepal

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levels. WHO supported finalisation of the 'Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act 2018' and 'Public Health Service Act 2018' regulations. UNFPA supported Lumbini and Sudurpaschim Provinces to develop provincial health policies and strategies. These policies and strategies place a high priority on reproductive health (RH), family planning (FP) and comprehensive sexuality education (CSE). They aim to ensure universal access and availability of relevant services paying special attention to marginalised, hard-to-reach and minority communities, in line with the principle of leaving no one behind.

WHO supported the Family Welfare Division (FWD) to carry out an assessment of the national health information systems, and to develop a situation analysis of postpartum FP as well as a social behaviour change communication strategy for SRHR. Similarly, UNFPA assisted the government with the revision of the National Medical Standard for Family Planning and Maternal and Newborn Health; the updated guidelines will enhance the provision of quality FP and maternal/new-born care at health facilities. UNFPA also supported the FWD to revise the Pelvic Organ Prolapse Implementation guideline in support of efforts to decentralise services as per the mandate of the federal system. This guideline provides concrete actions to improve access to Pelvic Organ Prolapse services, especially to women in hard-to-reach areas.

In collaboration with the government, IOM conducted a Population Mobility Mapping (PMM) in nine out of 14 municipalities with designated POEs at which returnees (Nepali migrant workers) could cross the border. During the PMM, the 'purpose of visit' was documented and analysed at 80 health facilities in three provinces (Province 1, Lumbini and Sudurpaschim). The results showed that the proportion of antenatal and postnatal care visits were just 9.5 and 8.8 per

cent respectively, reflecting a significant drop during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>20</sup>

UNFPA supported FP training for 184 public health service providers and supported the Visiting Service Provider (VSP) outreach services in 13 districts. As a result, a total of 9,181 women received FP services in 2020. The majority of these women were from hard-to-reach places and/or were part of excluded communities including Dalits and Muslims. UNFPA and UNICEF supported the orientation of 3,544 government health officials and health service providers at all levels on the RMNCAH interim guidelines to ensure continuity of essential services during the pandemic. To ensure quality of care and to support service providers' efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, UNFPA supported the FWD to adapt the safe delivery application with two new modules on infection prevention and COVID-19. Remote training on the application was delivered virtually to 288 maternal health service providers in five districts.

Furthermore, UNFPA continues to support FP/RH commodity procurement for the government and local partners. In 2020, commodities to the value of \$ 2.5 million were procured equating to approximately 1,015,597 couple-years of protection.<sup>21</sup> Additionally, with UNFPA's assistance, supply chain management was strengthened through the roll-out of the Electronic- Logistics Management Information System (e-LMIS) in 136 palikas across eight districts. IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO also supported the procurement of over 70,000 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) sets, 32,000 units of surgical masks and 300 litres of hand sanitisers to ensure adequate protection for front-line health workers.

UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO supported the government to strengthen and expand the Maternal Perinatal Death Surveillance programme, including to analyse the impacts

20 The reduction in visit was determined as per the information provided by public health officials interviewed during the site evaluation.

21 CYP is the estimated protection provided by contraceptive methods during a one-year period, based upon the volume of all contraceptives sold or distributed free of charge to clients during that period.

of COVID-19 on maternal deaths. The data informed the preparation and implementation of the response plan. UNICEF supported various trainings for over 555 health workers (334 women) at different levels (mostly staff nurses and paramedics) in Province 2, which included updates on maternal neo-natal health care, skilled birth attendant training, infection prevention training, and a virtual simulation-based training on new-born care. Assistance was also provided to establish Kangaroo Mother Care units and corners, i.e. areas for new-borns to engage in skin-to-skin contact with their mothers, in Province 2 and Karnali Province. WHO also supported the orientation of service providers on birth defect surveillance and new-born birth defect piloting to be reported on in the District Health Information System (DHIS-2). These increased efforts to provide special care for new-borns and new mothers, and to establish a district level electronic database, reflect the government's and UN's commitment to ensure inclusive health care and services in line with SDG 3.

To generate and strengthen demand for routine immunisations during the COVID-19 outbreak, UNICEF and WHO provided technical assistance to the government to develop numerous strategies, guidelines, and training packages. These are inclusive of the catch-up vaccination training package and missed-vaccination schedule for children under five, that are developed with aim to leave no child behind. Despite the constraints brought about by the pandemic, with WHO assistance, around 2,591,920 children were vaccinated against measles/rubella. A total of 1,637,265 of these children were vaccinated during the polio campaign achieving 101 percent and 112 per cent administrative coverage,<sup>22</sup> respectively. In this regard, 31,329 children received measles vaccinations through outbreak response immunisation activities. Additionally, UNICEF and WHO have provided continuous support in planning and preparing for the introduction

of the COVID-19 vaccine.

These coordinated efforts have strengthened evidence-based policy development and implementation, as well as a favourable programme environment for the provision of equitable RMNCAH services at both the national and local level. This has fostered inclusive health care system strengthening for the delivery of quality services, and ensured that progress towards the SDGs, specifically SDGs 3 and 5, does not stall or reverse during the pandemic.

### **Gender-Based Violence (GBV)**

The UN supported the government to strengthen GBV prevention and response across Nepal through dedicated interventions to ensure uninterrupted service delivery for GBV survivors, even in the context of COVID-19.

The capacity development of service providers has been a key component of UN efforts to expand access to multisectoral GBV services. This required the adaptation of rules and procedures for service delivery in the COVID-19 context. To strengthen health service delivery including psychosocial support and referrals, UNFPA trained a total of 1,244 health workers (961 women), 614 female community health workers (FCHVs), 159 community psychosocial workers (CPSWs) and 7 CPSW coordinators, as well as 146 police personnel (44 women) through various initiatives. This contributed to the improvement of the quality of health and psycho-social support services provided by 14 hospital-based one-stop crisis management centres (OCMCs) accessed by 1,688 GBV survivors (1,616 women). Similarly, UNFPA assisted local governments and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with the operation of 19 safe houses and shelter homes in six provinces, providing services to

<sup>22</sup> Regular vaccination coverages are calculated against administrative target population. These are projections/modelling and not head-count of a given target population. Therefore, actual number of a target population may differ. The given coverages were calculated against HMIS target population and the coverage achieved was higher than the target population given by HMIS.

1,531 GBV survivors (100 per cent women) and 151 dependent children. Additionally, UN Women supported a total of 197 GBV survivors from marginalised groups with access to various essential services outside of OCMCs. A total of 150 (124 women) of these individuals from marginalised groups (including GBV survivors and persons with disabilities) utilised telephone counselling and remote case management services, including 47 women who received legal assistance.

UNFPA collaborated with the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens (MoWCSC) and the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) to develop five guidelines to adapt GBV response services in the COVID-19 context; three of these guidelines have already been endorsed by the government. UNDP and UNFPA provided technical support to three local governments to draft Gender Equality and Social Inclusion and GBV related policies. With UNICEF's support, guidelines for police personnel on effective GBV prevention and response services have been developed.

As a part of the Global Programme to End Child Marriage, UNFPA and UNICEF conducted a rapid assessment to determine the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the lives of adolescent girls enrolled in the Rupantaran social and financial life skills programme.<sup>23</sup> The findings of the assessment were used to revise the contents of the Rupantaran curriculum and to adapt it into a radio delivery modality. The radio Rupantaran sessions reached a total of 23,582 adolescent girls, 19,915 adolescent boys and 9,806 parents. The separate Rupantaran package for parents was also adapted to radio and reached a total of 5,580 parents.

UNFPA supported the MoHP to develop a national strategy to end gender-biased sex

selection (GBSS); and this has been tabled with the cabinet for endorsement. The UN also supported several mass media initiatives to sensitise communities on GBSS, to raise awareness on the harmful impacts of son preference, to promote the value of the girl child, and to prevent GBV. Various messages were developed and disseminated through multiple social media platforms reaching a total of 100,000 people. Public service announcements (PSAs) on harmful practices and COVID-19 were also developed and broadcast in local languages by radio stations, reaching approximately 25,000 people.

Worldwide there has been an increase in domestic violence during COVID-19. However, available data on GBV and COVID-19 in Nepal is inconclusive. While the hotline operated by the National Women's Commission received significantly more calls (as mentioned in outcome progress), police data of 2019/2020 suggest that the number of domestic violence incidents did not increase. There were 14,774 cases reported in 2018/19 and only 11,738 in 2019/20. However, this data needs to be interpreted cautiously as it covers the Nepali fiscal year rather than the calendar year, thus including data for the first half of 2020, and the early part of the pandemic lockdown measures adopted in Nepal, when there would have been less physical access to the police stations.

Eliminating GBV is not only a prerequisite for realising SDG 5 (gender equality) but also for achieving many other SDGs. With over 80 SDG indicators intricately linked with SGD 5.2. on eliminating violence against women and girls, incorporating GBV prevention and response into "non-GBV-focused" programmes and policies would undeniably have a catalytic effect on the achievement of several SDGs.

<sup>23</sup> "Rupantaran" (transformation in English) is a holistic adolescent development social and financial skills training package for two age groups, 10-14 and 15-19 year olds. It is also complemented by an adult version of the training package targeting parents of the adolescent girls and boys attending the sessions. The curriculum focuses on self-sufficiency and covers a wide range of practical lessons from identifying social networks, adolescent dreams and aspirations to the negative consequences of marrying as a child. The package aims to develop skills on communication; identifying safe spaces, personal strengths, and areas of improvement; on identifying people that can support them in achieving their goals; and to promote their individual rights and those of their peers with relevant adult stakeholders.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

During this reporting period, the UN agencies supported the WASH Cluster led by the Ministry of Water Supply (MoWS) and co-led by UNICEF. With UN assistance, the government led the WASH Cluster Coordination for COVID 19 response and over 70 cluster members and partners to respond to the pandemic in all seven provinces covering 560 municipalities.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, UN agencies continued their collaborative efforts in support of the government's ongoing sector reform initiatives. Notably, Nepal's WASH sector moved one step forward in creating an enabling environment towards the achievement of the WASH targets of the SDGs, with the endorsement of the Municipality WASH Planning Guidelines for the development of WASH Plans across all 753 municipalities. The climate-sensitive costed Plans will be linked to a newly conceptualised and innovative Geographic Information System (GIS) -based sector Monitoring Information System (MIS). The GIS based sector MIS is built on an application called N-WASH (supported by UNICEF World bank and other development partners), which will replace the current paper-based system used for collecting administrative data. At the same time, WASH account is being developed through TrackFin, the Sanitation Policy Monitoring Assessment Tool (PMAT) is being piloted in Nepal to strengthen the national WASH sectors' accounts and monitoring with the support of WHO and UN-HABITAT.<sup>24</sup> All these tools ensure that the national WASH monitoring system is compatible with SDG reporting requirements and support the government in strengthening their financial tracking and planning.

The WASH status assessments of 1,199 government schools, 305 health care facilities and 1,172 public spaces were carried out with the support of UN agencies, to facilitate WASH planning and investment by local

governments. Additionally, UN Agencies (UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, WFP and WHO) supported the government to prepare a municipal WASH Plan which covers all activities of WASH sector at municipality level. This work fostered uniformity in implementation of interventions throughout the provinces and alignment with SDG target 6.2, which seeks to achieve access for all to sanitation and hygiene. Similarly, UN agencies also supported the government to draft a framework for monitoring the sustainability of the Open Defecation Free (ODF) status, which will be operationalised in 2021. Furthermore, a field note on "Menstrual Hygiene Practices in Nepalese Schools and Communities" was developed by UNICEF and shared as a knowledge management product from Nepal.

WHO provided support to the government to revise and finalise the existing National Drinking Water Quality Standard and its implementing directive. Similarly, UNICEF assisted the government with the revision of the Water Quality Monitoring Guidelines and Water Safety Community Guideline which are expected to be approved and endorsed in 2021. Through UNICEF's collaboration with local government and community-based organisations (CBOs), a total of 23,728 people (12,061 women and 248 people with disabilities) gained access to safe drinking water sources. Additionally, around 82 community schools and 68 healthcare facilities have access to safely managed water supply systems. Moreover, a mechanism for water quality monitoring was established in 25 municipalities with support from UN agencies (UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, WFP and WHO). However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, only two communities were declared water safe communities. The 'water safe community' is a new concept which is considered to be essential to address water quality issues in Nepal.

With UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, WFP and WHO support, around 25,598 people (48 per cent

<sup>24</sup> TrackFin guideline for local level developed with the support of WaterAid Nepal, which is expected to be approved and endorsed in 2021

women) gained access to basic sanitation in Province 2. Furthermore, about 49,477 individuals (49 per cent women) were reached with hand washing facilities. Under the accelerated movement for ending open defecation in Nepal, additional 23,000 people should have gained access to basic sanitation in 2020. However, the COVID-19 pandemic severely affected progress on this component. On the other hand, as part of the COVID-19 pandemic response supported by the UN, more than 3 million people were reached through various communication channels with critical messages on hand hygiene and use of toilets. A Child and Family Tracker survey conducted by UNICEF revealed that handwashing with soap increased by 10 percentage points from 80 per cent<sup>25</sup> to 90 per cent due to Risk Communication and Community Engagement activities including a month-long hand washing campaign across all 77 districts. To institutionalise the lesson learned from the activities and programmed carried out to cope the COVID-19, MoWS has taken lead for the formation of Hand Hygiene for all (HH4A) road map with support from UNICEF and WHO.

Additionally, IOM supported the government to conduct feasibility assessment of 15 designated POEs and it was identified that nearly 73 per cent of the POEs were lacking toilet facilities along with water supply and nearly 55 per cent of the POEs devoid of basic hand washing facilities. Based on the findings of the assessment, IOM assisted the establishment of health desk at two locations with adequate and inclusive WASH facilities (includes disability friendly hand washing stations and toilets).

In the context of COVID-19, awareness of basic hygiene practices became lifesaving for a significant proportion of the population, and access to safely managed water supply systems and handwashing facilities took greater precedence than ever before. These facilities have become crucial to achieving other SDGs as well. For example, it would be

unthinkable to reopen schools without such facilities in the current context, reflecting how in 2020 SDGs 6 and 4 became, and will continue in the foreseeable future to be, more intertwined.

## Education

UNESCO, UNICEF, and WFP jointly supported the government to progress against the education sector plan's program results framework, in an integrated manner with the COVID-19 pandemic response. The MoEST achieved 68.36 per cent of the School Sector Development Plan Results Framework targets, based on 2019/20 indicators for access, participation and learning outcomes.

UNICEF supported MoEST to ensure an adequate focus on equity, inclusive education, early childhood development, school safety, and the engagement of local and provincial governments, CSO networks, and stakeholder representatives, in its evidence-based education sector analysis. This contributed to the timely development of a new long-term education sector plan (ESP, 2021-2030), to be finalised by July 2021. UNICEF also partnered with the MoEST to deliver its ongoing assistance to seven provinces and 21 selected local governments for the development of their respective provincial and local education sector plans. Support was provided by MoEST to ensure alignment between these plans and the planned new federal ESP.

UNICEF has continued supporting children in 16 priority municipalities. Support has included modelling inclusive early grade learning and mother tongue education; reaching children from 327 schools through alternative means such as community learning circles and home visits by teachers and learning motivators; providing socially-distanced trainings for teachers on mother tongue education and inclusive education in small groups and via

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virtual platforms; and adapting approaches to preparing and applying Individual Education Plans for children with disabilities.

UNESCO supported the government to develop the non-formal education and Literacy Programme Implementation Facilitation Guidelines, in which gender is mainstreamed. This guideline will support the provincial and local government to develop their respective education plans as per the NFE provisions and policies. UNESCO also supported the government in the preparation and printing of the SDG 4 Nepal National Framework.

WFP supported MoEST to expand the School Meals program to cover all government schools in Nepal in order to promote equitable access to quality education. WFP assisted the government to develop the National School Meals guideline, and to design a training module based on the guideline that contributed to the orientation and training of key stakeholders at local government and school levels. The Joint School Meal program encouraged dialogue with local governments to address the needs of children related to learning, to reduce the impacts of the digital divide, and to ensure access to nutritious foods for children from marginalised communities, particularly children living in food insecure palikas. Local youths were also mobilised to support the learning of younger children, and to distribute 'Take Home Rations' on a quarterly basis. This effort reached 146,150 students (163,878 girls) and their families from 1,432 schools.

The UN joint programme on Comprehensive Sexuality Education, led by UNESCO and complemented by UNFPA and UN Women expertise, provided immediate assistance and information on SRHR to 2,422 adolescent girls and young women worst affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. More than half of these adolescent girls and young women were from the most vulnerable communities based on income and cast. UNESCO also launched two weekly radio programmes "Padhna Deu, Aghi Badhna Deu" (Let us Learn, Let us Go Ahead)

and "KOSHISH", targeting adolescent girls, women, parents, caregivers and policymakers, to shed light on challenges girls and women face during the COVID-19 pandemic. The programmes addressed in particular the gender discriminatory practices that hindered their learning.

As education was abruptly disrupted by the pandemic, UN agencies assisted the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) to develop a school reopening framework and to adapt the education sector's planning and priorities to the changed context. School closures to stop the spread of COVID-19 have undoubtedly had adverse effects on learning outcomes and child and youth development. As we have seen earlier in the report, families' food insecurity has also increased drastically this year, which makes efforts to safeguard the nutrition of school children a priority more than ever. UN and government joint efforts were carried out with a clear understanding of these adversities, and have directly contributed to the achievement of the goals set under SDGs 1, 2, 4 and 5 by addressing poverty, hunger, quality education and gender equality within the pandemic context.

## **Nutrition**

In 2020, UN agencies collaborated with the National Planning Commission (NPC), the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA), MoHP, and other Sectoral Ministries to strengthen the governance, multi-sector coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Multisectoral Nutrition Plan (MSNP2018-2022). UNICEF supported MoFAGA to orient authorities from seven new districts, increasing the total number of districts capacitated to implement the MSNP from 30 to 37 out of the total 77 districts.

Development partners convened under the Nepal Nutrition Group in the first quarter of 2020, but due to COVID-19 and the activation

of the emergency cluster system, partners ultimately utilised the nutrition cluster and its technical working groups to plan for a joint nutrition response package. FAO, UNICEF, WFP and WHO worked collaboratively through the nutrition cluster to strengthen the quality and frequency of nutrition data and monitoring for reporting purposes and to inform planning of the COVID-19 nutrition response.

WFP provided technical support to the NPC to establish the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network (SBN) in Nepal. To reduce all forms of malnutrition through joint efforts of the concerned sector, a private sector needs assessment was conducted. The SBN strategy, aligned to the MSNP, was drafted on the basis of the assessment.

UNICEF provided technical assistance to MoHP to review and revise the nutrition indicators reported on by the District Health Information System (DHIS-2). This allows the ministry's routine information systems to capture data needed for reporting on MSNP progress to the High-Level Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committee.

WFP supported the NPC to conduct a strategic review of food security and nutrition in Nepal in line with SDGs 2 and 17. In addition, WFP provided technical support to the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) to set up food security information centers (FSICs) in five provinces as part of the restructuring of the Nepal food security monitoring system within the federal governance structure. Similarly, FAO provided technical assistance to MoALD for the development of Nutrition Field School (NFS) curriculum and training manual.

MoHP, the Ministry of Commerce Industry and Supply (MoCIS), the Department of Food Technology and Quality Control (DFTQC), WFP and the Food Management and Trading Company (FMTC) set up a high-level Rice Fortification Steering Committee and a Rice Fortification Technical Committee. A fortification/blending system for production

was designed at two rice mills, and standards for fortified rice were drafted to reduce micronutrient deficiency.

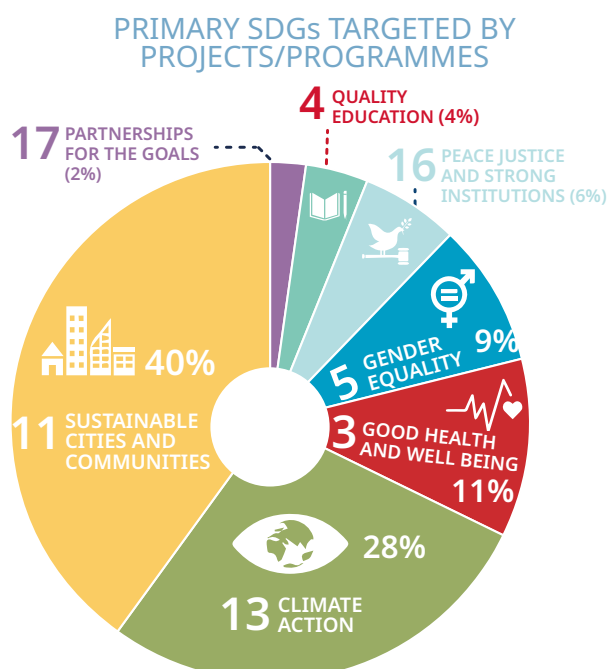
Over 30,000 beneficiaries (11,537 pregnant and lactating women and 19,583 children 6 to 23 months of age) in Karnali Province received specialised nutritious food (Wheat Soya Blend (WSB+)) during January to October 2020 under the Mother Child Health Nutrition programme supported by WFP. In line with the principle of leaving no one behind, UNICEF and WFP supported the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program (BSFP) in 19 municipalities of seven districts of Provinces 2 and 1 affected by the socio-economic impact of COVID-19. A total of 49,533 beneficiaries, around 18,160 pregnant and lactating women and 31,373 children 6-23 months of age, benefited from a one-off ration of 6kg super cereal.

WFP supported the NPC to coordinate the Nepal Fill the Nutrient Gap Analysis, which is a systematic analysis of food, health, and social protection systems to identify challenges and opportunities for improving nutrition and food security in the country. UNICEF and other partners provided inputs to this analysis. It was launched virtually in May 2020, and preliminary results were shared with stakeholders in December 2020. Similarly, WFP collaborated with MoALD to conduct two rounds of the mVAM (mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping) household survey. The survey informed nutrition and food security interventions in response to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. Ensuring the availability of data and assessments allowed nutrition and food security interventions to be coordinated on the basis of comprehensive analysis of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the increase of food insecurity and considering the current wasting status, the holistic approach adopted by the government and supported by the UN to combat malnutrition is vital for achieving the targets under SDG 3 (good health and wellbeing).

## Outcome 3: Resilience, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)

### Outcome level progress



In 2020, long-term disaster and climate change resilience and preparedness in Nepal was significantly enhanced through several positive developments.

The Building Information Platform Against Disaster (BIPAD) was rolled out to Bagmati and Gandaki Provinces with the support of UN agencies, and ahead of the original 2022 target. BIPAD is a comprehensive Disaster Information Management System (DIMS) established by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) as a one-stop solution gateway to gather sex and disability disaggregated data on disaster loss and damage. The expansion of BIPAD to the provisional level enables and guides response and recovery activities based on evidence from the local level.

The achievement in post-2015 earthquake housing reconstruction was impressive with about 95% of the house owners in Gorkha and Nuwakot completing resilient reconstruction and more than 90% receiving the third tranche of financial support from the government.<sup>26</sup> This was achieved with some support from the UN. Along with resilience building, efforts were made by the government and the UN to improve early warning communication mechanisms and protocols, and to enhance local capacity to develop risk informed plans. These efforts undeniably reduced the number of lives lost due to disaster. Loss of lives per 100,000 people recorded due to natural disasters in 2020 was 1.84<sup>27</sup> (this does not include COVID related deaths), which exceeded expectations and the 2022 target of keeping lives lost to disasters under 2.16 per 100,000 people (648 people).

Further, seven provinces and 15 local governments identified key risk-reduction priorities and actions for immediate implementation, as well as for medium and long-term (until 2030). This was done through Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Policies and Strategic Action Plans formulated in line with the national DRR Policy and Strategic Action Plan, with the financial and technical support of the UN. Similarly, 21 local governments formulated Local Disaster and Climate Resilient Plans (LDCRPs) with support from the UN.

Nepal also made significant progress in its international commitments to combat climate change by developing and submitting its enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), a process that the UN contributed to.

<sup>26</sup> The percentages comes from project's Reconstruction Information Management System for Gorkha (UNDP) and a similar MIS for Nuwakot (UNOPS)- the data is based from UN field work, the financial tranches can be cross-verified against the MIS maintained by National Reconstruction Authority

<sup>27</sup> Calculated using the annual death toll related to disaster reported in the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Portal ([link: drrportal.gov.np](http://link: drrportal.gov.np)) and population as per Central Bureau of Statistics data ([link: cbs.gov.np](http://link: cbs.gov.np)) for 2020

## Progress at Output level

### **National Disaster Information Management System:**

Following progress made in previous years to establish the National Disaster Information Management System (DIMS), BIPAD was further customised for operationalisation and roll-out to local governments. UNDP assisted eleven local governments to expand their BIPAD database. Additionally, with the support of UNDP, a mobile application form of the platform was developed to ensure that this platform is accessible to a larger per cent of the populace. With support from IOM, the open spaces work that the UN has carried out in Nepal since 2013 has now been integrated into BIPAD. The platform provides information on open spaces mapped and identified for humanitarian purposes in 13 local governments of Bagmati, Gandaki and Lumbini Provinces. A total of 32 open spaces were identified in areas severely affected by the 2015 earthquakes. Similarly, UNICEF supported 46 local governments to operationalise the Crisis Management Information System (CMIS), which was developed and implemented by MoFAGA to facilitate reporting during the COVID-19 pandemic. The roll-out of these platforms at the local level ensures access to information on those in hard-to-reach places, in line with the principle of leaving no one behind.

### **Strengthened national and provincial institutional mechanism and actions for climate change, disaster preparedness, response and recovery guided by policy and legislation**

Building on ongoing efforts, the number of services and infrastructures contributing to disaster response and risk mitigation was further increased this year with support from the UN. Additionally, the government's efforts in line with its international commitment to combat climate change were supported by UN agencies.

MoHA and WFP in partnership inaugurated two Humanitarian Staging Areas in Nepalgunj and Dhangadhi, increasing the total number of HSAs to three. Four warehouses were also completed (in Inaruwa, Hetauda, Pokhara, and Dhangadhi) and handed over to provincial governments. Eight disability and gender friendly multipurpose community centres, to be used as evacuation centres during disasters, have been constructed and handed over to local governments severely affected by the 2015 earthquakes, with support from IOM. Four Health Emergency Operation Centres were completed this year with support from WHO. With this, each province now has an established HEOC equipped with state-of-the-art technologies for communication and information management. All hub-hospitals expanded their capacity to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, with assistance from the UN. With support from WHO, UNICEF and UNDP, in partnership with MoHP, intensive care units (ICUs), ventilators, high dependency units (HDUs), and isolation and testing facilities were installed or improved, and oxygen concentrators, pulse oximeters and PPE were supplied. Additionally, three Municipal Emergency Operation Centres (MEOCs) were supported by UNDP in the preparation of Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs), through the placing of Information Management Officers (IMOs) and installation of communication systems, to ensure smooth operation. Furthermore, UNICEF supported the establishment of 31 infrastructures, such as gabion retaining and lightening dissipation systems to mitigate risks related to disasters.

The emergency response capacity of partners in government and of humanitarian actors has been improved by the development of the 72-hrs Assessment Approach for flood impact assessments. Anticipatory approaches were enhanced through improved early warning communication mechanisms, protocols, and community-level resilience to disasters, all with support from WFP.

In 2020, at all levels of government, several GESI-sensitive guidelines, checklists, and SOPs were developed to support DRR and response.

A GESI-sensitive training manual on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) for all local governments was developed with support from IOM and endorsed by MoFAGA. Three GESI checklists for DRRM have been developed and disseminated with support from UN Women, for use in Multi-Purpose Community Centres, monitoring COVID-19 quarantine centres, and Disaster/Emergency Preparedness. With support from UNEP, a Gender Action Plan was also prepared for Nepal's UNFCCC Least Developed Country Fund project.

Two provinces and ten districts updated their Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan (DPRP) to include the Minimum Initial Service Package for sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence, with support from UNFPA. UNICEF supported 3 municipalities to develop their DPRP. 15 earthquake affected wards also developed Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Plans with support from UNDP, contributing to their transitioning to longer-term resilience. Similarly, with UNICEF's support, MoFAGA developed a Disaster and Climate Learning Center Guideline, and initiated the harmonisation of two existing guidelines, the DPRP and the Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan, while incorporating key elements of Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPA). Further, climate-resilient water safety plans were developed in ten local governments, and support was provided by WHO to MoHP to implement the Health National Adaptation Plan, including strengthening of climate-sensitive disease surveillance systems. Similarly, Heritage Settlement Recovery Plans have been prepared for twelve settlements, with support from UN-Habitat.

Also, in 2020, around 46,746 disaster-affected families in Gorkha and Nuwakot districts were supported to access government recovery mechanisms. This included 7,905 households from the most excluded and vulnerable groups. Out of these, a total of 1,359 households were headed by single women, around 2,389

by physically challenged or terminally ill members, and 2,259 were Dalit households. Households received support from UNDP and UNOPS for the physical reconstruction of their houses, as well as assistance to access government provided financial recovery aid. Additionally, more than 2,800 of the most vulnerable households (50 per cent women led) in Sindhupalchowk and Dolaka districts benefited from housing reconstruction and livelihood recovery support through UNDP assistance. These projects contributed to ensuring that no one is left behind in the earthquake recovery process. A total of 36 earthquake-resistant and gender-friendly police units, constructed with UNOPS support, were handed over to the Nepal Police in 2020. These buildings can also serve as shelters during disasters.

Several cultural heritage sites damaged by the 2015 earthquakes were restored this year with support from UNESCO. In addition to boosting tourism potential, the restoration also contributed to capacity-building on reconstruction, site management and DRR.

FAO supported a National Forest Resource Training Centre under the Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoFE) to develop and implement a forest health helpline, with a dedicated toll-free number and staff. Similarly, a field guide on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) was prepared and a total of 365 persons (90 women) were trained on its use. All seven provinces also established Climate Change Coordination Committees with support from UNEP.

In 2020, the UN's efforts to support the government to reduce exposure and vulnerability of the poor and marginalised individuals to disasters has not only contributed to realising SDGs 9 and 13, which are directly related to building resilient infrastructure and climate change, but also to SDG 2 (ensuring food security), SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 10 (reducing inequity).

## **Enhanced capacity of local governments for risk-informed planning and implementation of CCA and DRR actions**

UN agencies assisted local governments in risk-informed planning and implementation of CCA and DRR actions through capacity-building and technical support to formulate and strengthen plans and guidelines. The reporting period included a special focus on COVID-19 preparedness and response as a disaster risk.

With the support of UNICEF, 46 local government units prepared and implemented COVID-19 preparedness and response plans, and established coordination and information management systems to aid risk assessment. Further, a total of 15,932 local representatives (8,613 women), including mayors, deputy mayors and development committees' coordinators and social mobilisers, and 3,689 children and adolescents (1,919 boys and 1,770 girls), partook in trainings (supported by UNICEF) on issues related to DRR, the climate, energy and environment, and COVID-19 prevention and control. This can be considered a contributing factor to the integration of disaster risk reduction into local governments' annual and periodic development plans, as well as to raised awareness of risks at the community level. UNICEF supported eight palikas (six in Province 2 and two in Province 5) to strengthen preparedness on shock responsive social protection. These palikas have been identified as the most flood-vulnerable settlements. Efforts are being made to link members of these communities with local banks to facilitate the transfer of cash support in case of disaster.

The UN contributed to strengthening local governments' capacity in the development and implementation of DRR and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) related plans and policies. Moreover, UNDP supported 15 local governments to formulate and endorse their DRR Policies and Strategic Actions Plans for DRR. UNICEF further assisted 12 flood prone

municipalities to develop and implement flood preparedness and response plans, establish cluster mechanisms, and train 3,441 people (1,706 women) on Initial Rapid Assessment, Search and Rescue, and Basic First Aid. Similarly, IFAD supported the development of 26 new Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPA) at the community level, as well as the implementation of a total of 200 LAPAs at the community level.

Additionally, with the support of UNDP, three urban municipalities (Bharatpur, Bhimeshwar and Lalitpur) formulated risk-informed development plans based on participatory assessments of multi-hazard vulnerability. Municipal hazard and vulnerability maps were developed that have sensitised and guided municipalities to undertake risk informed development planning. Preliminary works have been carried out to develop Critical Ecosystem Restoration Plans of 26 River systems in Churia regions of Provinces 1 and 2 and Bagmati Province, with support from FAO.

Two hundred eighty-three stakeholders (121 women), representatives from local governments and CSOs, were trained in identifying and addressing GESI gaps in their existing DRR plans, policies, and guidelines. As a result, GESI recommendations were developed for five local governments to incorporate into their DRR plans, policies, and guidelines. Similarly, a total of 439 (105 women, 1 other) government officials, local disaster management committee members, LGBTIQI+ and youth groups were trained on disaster management, SRH and prevention and response to GBV in emergencies, with support from UNFPA.

With certain areas of the country being more prone to particular types of disasters, local level risk-informed development planning, awareness and capacity is crucial to realising the SDGs. In 2020, the UN and local governments made strides in recognising the effect of disasters on the most vulnerable populations and to address their needs.

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

### Outcome level progress

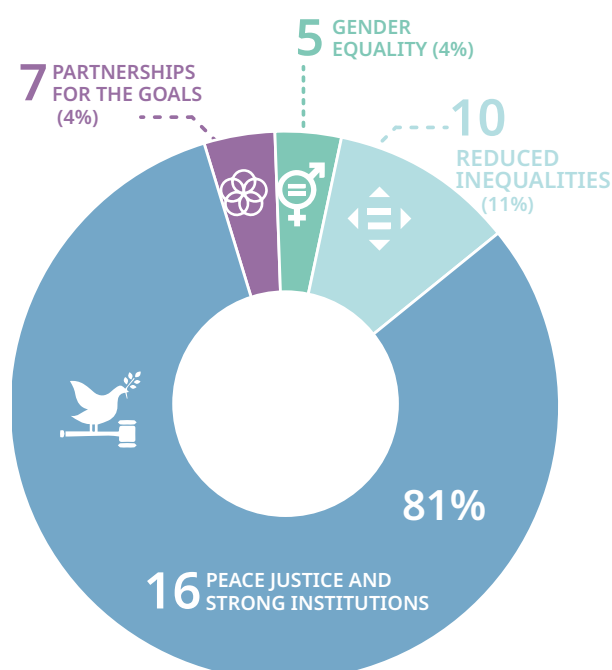
Progress continued towards establishing inclusive, democratic, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels of government this year despite challenges presented by the COVID-19 crisis. Out of the 151 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations accepted by the government in 2015, a total of 132 have been fully implemented, 13 were partially implemented, and 6 are yet to be implemented.<sup>28</sup> The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) closely monitored and followed up on the implementation of the recommendations and developed a report to submit to the Human Rights Council, with the UN's support. The government has endorsed a new National Human Rights Action Plan (2020-2024), which will address the issues raised in the UPR. The Plan has also incorporated a number of actions in relation to economic, social and cultural rights, including rights of women and vulnerable communities. The UN contributed to the development of the Plan, including technical support in the reviews and consultations to incorporate 'business and human rights' in the Plan for the first time. This aims to strengthen respect for human rights by the private sector.

The UN supported the government and NHRC to conduct a review of existing laws related to the COVID-19 pandemic and to develop a concept paper for facilitating the enactment of an integrated pandemic response law. The support was provided following a Supreme Court directive on developing comprehensive legislation to address pandemics.

The government further demonstrated its commitment to SDG implementation at federal, provincial, and local levels. The federal government submitted its second

Voluntary National Review Report to the High-Level Political Forum and developed its first SDGs Progress Assessment Report 2016-2019. The report highlights significant progress on several SDGs, including SDGs 1, 5, 6, 7 and 16. In particular, the report highlights strides that the government has taken with regards to transparency and accountability, reporting that the percentage of people who at least in one instance in the past 12 months were required to give a bribe reduced to 10 per cent exceeding the 2022 target, which was 15 per cent. Additionally, the NPC finalised a Policy Costing and Financing Framework of the 15th Plan and a resource book and related guidelines for local level SDG-based planning. Four provinces finalised their first SDG Baseline Reports. Ongoing UN efforts to support the government's leadership in its implementations of SDGs contributed to the realisation of these results.

### PRIMARY SDGs TARGETED BY PROJECTS/PROGRAMMES



In summary, despite the challenges of COVID-19, Nepal made strides to meet its commitments to human rights and good governance, while embodying the principle of leaving no one behind.

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## Progress at Output Level

Enhanced capacity and tools of federal government, national parliament and select national commissions to implement national commitments, advance human rights and ensure inclusive governance

The Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs (MoLJPA), the NHRC, the National Parliament and Province Assemblies reviewed 16 laws related to GBV, rape, discrimination based on caste and disability, pandemic and disaster management, land ownership, and tourism. The reviews, conducted with technical support from UNDP, assessed gaps and challenges in their implementation and provided recommendations to facilitate implementation going forward. Similarly, legislation related to smuggling of migrants was drafted by the Office of the Attorney General, with UNODC support.

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) strengthened its capacities to integrate gender-responsive budgeting into public financial management with UN Women's support. MoF engaged actively in and took leadership of a forward-looking assessment of GRB in Nepal undertaken by the Nepal Administrative Staff College. The assessment has been identified as a key priority by the GRB Committee chaired by the MoF and with representation from key ministries, including MoWCSC.

By partaking in capacity development activities supported by UNDP, over 106 members of parliament (84 women) from vulnerable groups (including single women and persons with disabilities) enhanced their knowledge on the multi-dimensional poverty index, its implications on education and employment and impact on caste and gender-based discrimination, and on SDGs and the federal structure.

With technical support from UNDP, the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) developed a GESI Policy aiming to integrate GESI in electoral administration, as well as a Social Media Policy and a Civic and Voter Education Policy.

Similarly, NHRC conducted a GESI assessment to guide its integration in all its work, with UNDP's support. NHRC also carried out an assessment on the status of implementation of its recommendations with UNDP's support.

The National Information Commission drafted a five-year Right to Information (RTI) Action Plan to enhance access to information for all, with support from UNDP. The Plan is in the process of being finalised in consultation with stakeholders.

The National Unit for the Coordination of Refugee Affairs moved towards assuming sole responsibility for Bhutanese refugee data registration and verification while ensuring that prevention and response protection mechanisms for refugees were absorbed by the local authorities, with support from UNHCR.

Government officials, members of parliament and various government institutions made strides to strengthen their knowledge and skills, as well as took actions, to reduce inequality, including gender inequality, and ensure human rights and protection for the most vulnerable members of our society particularly during the pandemic. These actions were all supported by the UN.

## **Systems and capacity of provincial and local governments to deliver inclusive services in a transparent and accountable manner in line with SDGs**

Increasingly, provincial and local governments have systems, plans, policies and capacities in place to deliver inclusive services and implement the SDGs.

With technical assistance from UNICEF, provincial governments in Province 2, and Karnali and Sudurpaschim Provinces developed legislation, policies and plans on children's right to protection, including against GBV against children. The legislation and policies have

enabled the provincial governments to allocate budgets to child protection, supplementing federal government allocations. In the recent years psychosocial services have been scaled up, laws have been harmonised to render child marriages as void (annulling existing child marriage), and reporting of violence in schools has become more accessible. The UN's continuous advocacy for the implementation of the recommendations from the Committee on the Rights of the Child can be considered a contributing factor.

Four provinces finalised their first ever SDG Baseline Reports with support from UNDP. Also, with UNDP's support, Province 2, Karnali and Sudurpaschim developed Digitalisation Plans and Management Information Systems, enabling the provinces to better manage parliamentary information and collect citizen feedback on draft legislations. Select laws and policies drafted by eight local governments integrated a stronger focus on GESI commitments with technical inputs from UN Women and UNDP in drafting GESI policies, guiding GESI mainstreaming in the planning, programming and budgeting processes.



Seven hundred and forty-one (384 female) duty bearers partook in capacity development activities on gender responsive and inclusive governance, and GESI in DRRM, supported by UNDP and UN Women. This contributed to the formulation of 11 municipalities' gender responsive budgets, including dedicated allocations for DRR, access to justice, disability inclusion, and economic empowerment.

Provincial Centers for Good Governance

(PCGGs) were established in all seven provinces and 16 laws and regulations were finalised related to their management. This was part of the implementation of the government's Provincial and Local Governance Support Programme (PLGSP), implemented with technical assistance from the UN (UNCDF, UNDP and UN Women). With UNDP's technical support, MoFAGA developed training modules to advance the right to information at the local level, contributing to establishing systems that promote transparency and accountability.

### **Voice, agency and engagement of civil society strengthened for broadened civic space**

Fifty national women's organisations drafted and submitted a Charter of Demand (CoD) to the NPC ahead of the budget session in June 2020 with technical support from UN Women. This contributed to allocations made in the fiscal budget of 2020-2021 for legal assistance to vulnerable women, namely domestic violence survivors, women returnee migrants, single women and persons with disabilities, and for programmes to raise awareness on GBV and harmful practices. More than 30 consultations with around 1,200 participants from excluded groups, including sexual and gender minorities, Dalit women, sex workers, women informal workers and women migrant workers/returnees, and CSOs informed priorities of the UN COVID-19 socio-economic response framework (SERF). The SERF supported the government's efforts to ensure basic social services and rights during this pandemic. Similarly, over 1150 development/humanitarian actors and government officials listened to the concerns of women and excluded groups as part of the Gender in Humanitarian Action Task Team meetings organised by UN Women. Additionally, UN Women supported 34 groups (19 women's organisations and 15 excluded groups, namely inclusive of persons with disabilities, sex workers, Dalit groups, LGBTQI+, Madhesi)

to advance gender equality and women's empowerment and promote inclusive governance through technical, advisory, and financial support.

With UNDP support, a total of 200 journalists (90 women) partook in capacity development activities to strengthen their knowledge on federal procedures, parliamentary affairs and relationships, and on issues and rights of excluded groups, such as LGBTQI+. UNESCO supported various capacity building activities for 675 radio broadcasters and duty bearers to enhance their knowledge on community media policy strengthening and improving the functioning of community radios for increased access to information. Further, another 275 women benefitted from access to information through a virtual platform and community dialogues facilitated by UN Women.

In line with the principle of leaving no one behind, UNHCR collaborated with CSOs and key government stakeholders to further ensure universal coverage of civil registration and birth registration through the development of public awareness material.

### **Strengthened justice sector and law enforcement institutions to provide greater access to justice, in accordance with the Constitution and human rights standards**

As an important step in the implementation of the Integrated Legal Aid Policy adopted by the government, the MoLJPA prepared a first draft bill on legal aid with technical and coordination support from UNDP. Further, UNDP assisted the development of an integrated reporting system along with a mobile-phone based application. Similarly, with UNDP's support, the Nepal Bar Association developed a special procedure and protocol for women and vulnerable groups aiming to guide pro-bono and legal aid lawyers in legal aid assistance, counselling, and dissemination of information during the pandemic. Additionally, UNDP

supported the training and orientation of legal aid lawyers associated with the District Legal Aid Committees as per the current Legal Aid Act in Nepal. UNDP contributed to the development of a practitioner's guide to assist the Local Judicial Committees in effectively managing their responsibilities during the pandemic, including access to relief and recovery packages. The induction was provided to a total of 122 (91 women) chairs and members of the committees. This contributed to a total of 5,907 people (4,219 women) benefiting from legal aid awareness programmes and 600 persons (253 women) directly benefiting from legal aid services provided by the Legal Aid Committees. Over 11,445 persons (6,517 women) also gained legal awareness and information regarding newly adopted civil and criminal codes and the Judicial Committees established at the local level.

Three hundred and one justice/security authorities (70 female) increased their skills and knowledge on justice for children, including on provisions of relevant legislations and data management, through physical and virtual capacity-building activities supported by UNICEF. Similarly, UNICEF supported the efforts of the Nepal Police and the Office of the Attorney General to ensure their services to be human rights friendly and gender sensitive. UNICEF also supported the entities to carry out community outreach activities; in 2020 most of these activities moved to virtual platforms. At the provincial and local levels, the capacity of 636 (382 female) justice actors was strengthened by UN Women on gender responsive justice systems, policies and guidelines in Province 2 and Sudurpaschim Province.

With support from UNICEF, the Office of the Attorney General scaled up monitoring in detention, prison and child correction homes, covering a total of 48 such facilities in 20 districts. This produced a number of recommendations for improving the basic services for children. In partnership with the Central Child Justice Committee, UNICEF

facilitated the drafting of a five-year work plan on justice for children (2020-2025) which details the functions of different actors across the justice, security, and social welfare sectors.

In March 2020, the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPPD) concluded its regional project on “Gun Violence and Illicit Small Arms Trafficking from a Gender Perspective” through a conclusive seminar in Kathmandu; this seminar engaged members of parliament, women leaders of CSOs and government officials from 18 Asia-Pacific States.<sup>29</sup>

### **High quality disaggregated data for policy formulation, planning, implementation, and monitoring**

In 2020, UNFPA provided technical and quality assurance support to the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) to carry out preparatory activities of the 2021 National Population and Housing Census in line with the approved Census Project Document and the international standards. Support included coordination with development partners for a coherent approach, and the procurement of tablets and other IT equipment to enable the CBS to adopt IT-based technologies in census data collection and processing. A Pilot Census was conducted in June 2020 during the easing of the COVID-19 lockdown. UNFPA and UN Women contributed to the data collection instruments and capacity development of data enumerators, incorporating specific requirements of the SDGs, the International Conference on Population and Development/ Programme of Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform for Action. Consequently, the 2021 Census has the potential to be the most

GESI-sensitive census to date in Nepal.

Further, UNFPA conducted a Demographic Situation Analysis of Nepal, including from the COVID-19 perspective. The findings are being used to inform the drafting of a new National Population Policy. UN Women completed the drafting of the Statistical Annex of the Country Gender Equality Profile (CGEP) for Nepal, which will be finalised in 2021. IOM supported NPC to conduct a study on the “Status of Nepali Migrant Workers in relation to COVID-19” in order to promote evidence-based policy making to address the needs, including reintegration needs of returnee migrants. Additionally, UNODC in collaboration with the Office of the Attorney General carried out a study to understand the realities that women in Nepal face when dealing with the criminal justice system, focusing on three areas: women who work in institutions that are part of the criminal justice system, women victims/survivors of gender-based violence and women in conflict with the law.

The significance of timely, quality, open and disaggregated data and statistics has never been as clear as during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the Demographic Situational Analysis and Study on Migrant Workers facilitate the designing of short-term responses, the 2021 Census will enable us to recognise needed mid- to long-term actions. As a whole, all the aforementioned surveys and studies will enable the government and development partners to identify necessary actions needed for the achievement of the SDGs.

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<sup>29</sup> Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu.

## 2.3

### Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

In 2020, the UN in Nepal initiated the process of developing the Private Sector Partnership Strategy for facilitating cooperation and partnerships with the private sector to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In Nepal, achieving the SDGs will take an unprecedented resource mobilisation effort to fulfil an annual 585 billion Nepalese Rupee (NPR). financing gap between the period 2016 to 2030.<sup>30</sup> Therefore, the achievement of the SDGs cannot be solely dependent on mobilisation of public resources. Behaviour change and cooperation by all sectors of society is required, and the private sector must play a very important role in this process. Wider challenges – ranging from climate change, water scarcity and food crises, to poverty, conflict, and inequality – need solutions that the private sector can contribute to representing a large and growing arena for business innovation and for demonstrating responsible behaviour. Realising this important factor, the NPC has estimated that 36 per cent of financing need to be invested from the private sector.<sup>31</sup>

Within this context, promoting private sector partnerships to achieve the overall 2030 Agenda in Nepal will help local companies to find the right balance between short-term private profits and long-term common prosperity. For this objective, the UN in Nepal plans to raise awareness and technically support companies in Nepal that want to advance the 2030 Agenda through their business.

Similarly, with financial support from the United Nations SDG Joint Fund of the Secretary General -an initiative within the framework of

SDG financing - the UN initiated a partnership with government counterparts such as the NPC and the National Natural Resources and Fiscal Commission. The partnership aimed to strengthen alignment and coherence in the public finance management system focusing on budgeting, the medium-term planning framework, and subnational fiscal transfers to support integrated financing for the SDGs. The results of the joint initiative can be transformational, as it seeks to address one of the key gaps, which is the disconnect between planning and budgeting. By facilitating technical level, planning, resource allocation and expenditure reviews in line with the SDGs, the programme will contribute to enhanced results, transparency, and accountability. It will also reinforce the efforts made by the Ministry of Finance to mainstream gender responsive budgeting and ensure that Nepal is better positioned to attract and leverage additional resources needed to meet the SDGs at the national and subnational levels.

In support of the overall UN Development System reform process and the repositioning and reinvigorating of the UN Resident Coordinator system, the Nepal Development Framework Multi-Partner Trust Fund - a country-level pooled 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 mobilisation and resource allocation to under-funded cross-sectoral areas which the UN has a comparative advantage in addressing together. It has also promoted inter-agency cooperation and reinforced the “Delivering as One” principles. Under this Fund, seven UN agencies (IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP and WHO) are currently implementing two joint programmes (Enhancing the quality of preparedness in Nepal: making preparedness pay-off and Preparedness and Response for COVID-19 in

30 Needs Assessment, Costing and Financing Strategy for Sustainable Development Goals, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal, 2018

31 Needs Assessment, Costing and Financing Strategy for Sustainable Development Goals, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal, 2018

Nepal), with a total budget of 6.6 million USD, in close partnership with the Government of Nepal, CSOs, the private sector and the UK/ Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). The Fund has been key to articulating and implementing a concrete joint UN response to COVID-19 in line with the Nepal COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP).

UN support to the Government of Nepal in financing for the 2030 Agenda has been multifaceted. Substantive support has been provided through enhanced technical solutions that reduce future expenditure and support budgeting in line with achieving the SDGs, and with consideration for the principle of leaving no one behind.

## 2.4

### Results of UN working more and better together

Under the leadership of the UCT Nepal, the Delivering as One (DaO) principles and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are effectively implemented through joint programmes and enhanced common services for cost effective operations utilising the best practices among the agencies. The Business Operation Strategy (BOS) Roadmap was developed and has facilitated implementation of its various elements in the country. In 2020, the Nepal BOS was finalised under the leadership of the Operation Management Team (OMT) - 18 UN agencies in Nepal are participating in the BOS.

Many thematic and technical working groups within the UNCT (on Gender, Youth, Communications, SDGs, etc.) remained operationally effective to support the One UN approach. Joint discussions and activities resulted in increased cooperation and collaboration. A joint commitment by UN agencies to develop and implement joint programmes resulted in strategic deliveries. Topics of focus included: gender equality and women's rights, human rights, land tenure, and environmental sustainability, among others. In 2020 the UN had nine ongoing joint programmes.

## UNCT Nepal Joint Programmes - 2020

Name of Joint Programme	SDGs mainly covered	Total Budget (in USD)	Participating UN Entities	Source of Funding	Link for the ProDoc (if publicly available)
Reorienting public finance for SDGs acceleration and leveraging additional resources in Nepal	2, 5, 17	1,189,996	UNDP, UNDCF and UN Women	UN Joint SDG Fund	<a href="http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/project/00122155">http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/project/00122155</a>
Immediate UN Response for coherent safeguarding the livelihoods of people made most vulnerable by COVID-19 in Nepal	1, 2, 8	1,000,000	UNDP, ILO, UNESCO and IOM	UN COVID-19 Response & Recovery Fund	
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	FCDO (via Nepal Dev Framework MPTF)	<a href="http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/project/00120809">http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/project/00120809</a>
Multi-Agency Programme: Preparedness and Response for COVID-19 in Nepal	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 16	5,420,290	WHO, UN Women, UNICEF, WFP, UNFPA, IOM and UNDP	FCDO (via Nepal Dev Framework MPTF)	<a href="http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/project/00123390">http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/project/00123390</a>
Aawaaz (Voice) Inclusion for and by persons with disabilities	3, 5, 10, 16, 17	530.005	UNFPA, WHO, UNDP and UN Women	UNPRPD MPTF	<a href="http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/project/00112314">http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/project/00112314</a>
Empowering Adolescent Girls and Young Women through the Provision of Comprehensive Sexuality Education and a Safe Learning Environment in Nepal	3	5,000,000	UNESCO, UN Women and UNFPA	Koica	

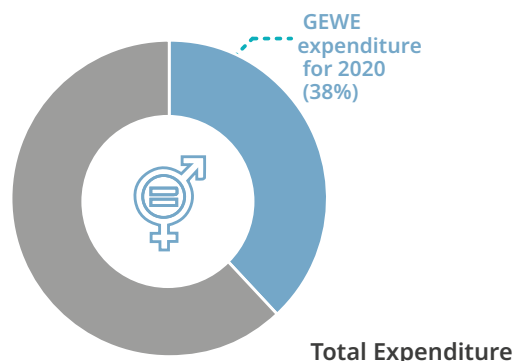
Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage (Phase II)	5	6,150,000	UNICEF and UNFPA	Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage	
Rural Women Economic Empowerment Nepal	1, 5, 8, 10, 11	3,277,774	IFAD, UN Women, FAO and WFP	Rural Women Economic Empowerment Fund	<a href="http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/project/00092004">http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/project/00092004</a>
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	EU, Sweden, Norway, Austria	
Making Migration Work for Sustainable Development (Phase III)	2, 8, 10,	160,000	UNDP and IOM	UNDP Headquarter	
Provincial and Local Government Support Programme (Technical Assistance)	16	10,000,000	UNDP and UN Women	Government of Nepal	<a href="https://plgsp.gov.np/sites/default/files/2019-12/PLGSP%20Program%20Document.pdf">https://plgsp.gov.np/sites/default/files/2019-12/PLGSP Program Document.pdf</a>

# 2.5

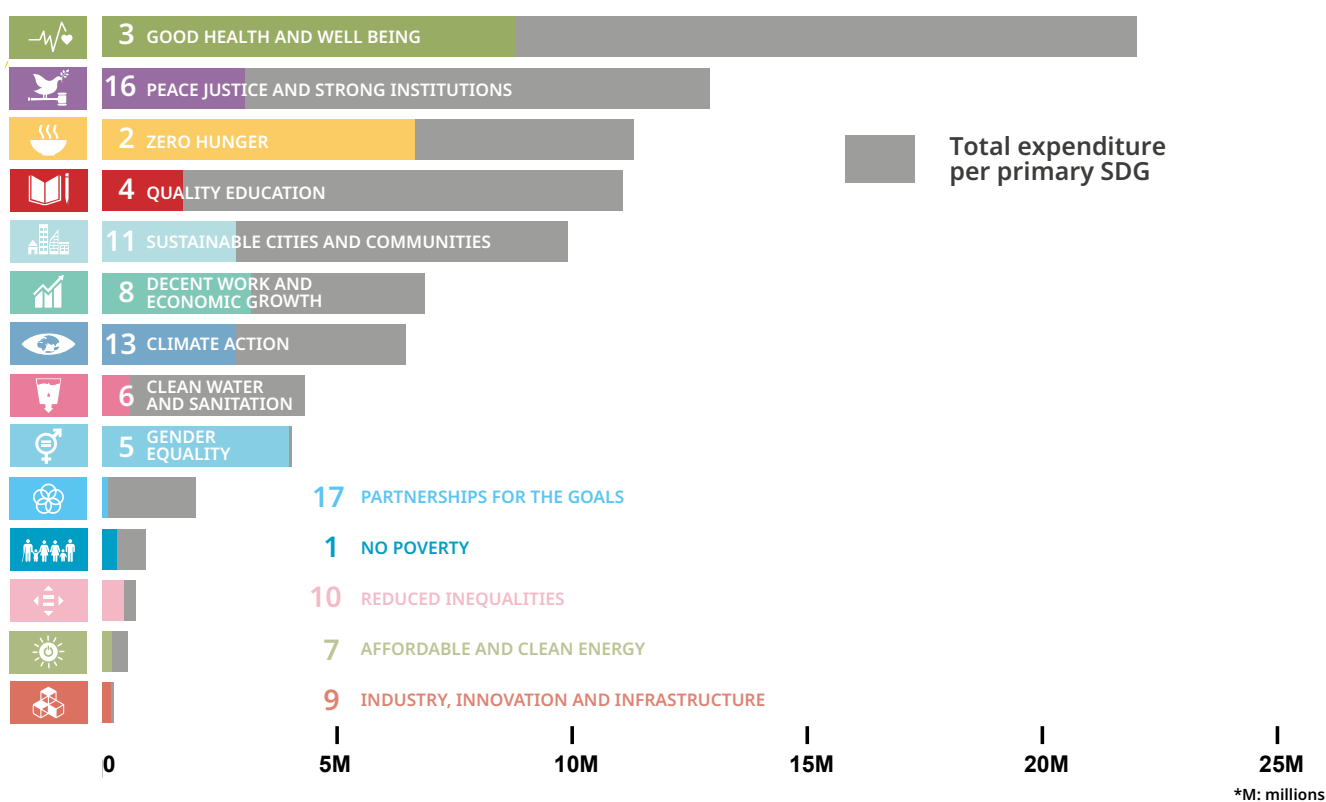
## Financial Overview and Resource Mobilisation



### SHARE OF GEWE EXPENDITURE (USD)



### SHARE OF GEWE EXPENDITURE PER PRIMARY SDG



SDG	Total Expenditure for 2020 (USD)	GEWE Expenditure for 2020 (USD)
Good Health and Well-Being for people	22,017,047	8,790,571
Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	12,921,365	3,039,691
Zero Hunger	11,302,140	6,638,038
Quality Education	11,073,150	1,722,025
Sustainable Cities and Communities	9,905,191	2,836,571
Decent Work and Economic Growth	6,864,188	3,163,915
Climate Action	6,471,916	3,410,218
Clean Water and Sanitation	4,318,655	584,552
Gender Equality	4,038,306	3,960,796
Partnerships for the Goals	1,990,655	106,927
No Poverty	930,090	317,074
Reduced Inequalities	720,535	447,735
Affordable and Clean Energy	560,330	200,419
Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	251,645	176,151
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,365,211</b>	<b>35,394,682</b>

# CHAPTER 3

UNCT's key focus for the next year  
(Key challenges and Opportunities)

The COVID-19 pandemic has had adverse effects in several aspects of development and has put many vulnerable groups more at risk. It has posed significant challenges to the implementation of planned programming. The response to the pandemic has led to repurposing and diversion of resources. Another recurring problem has been the weakened supply chains, including difficulties in logistics management, monitoring systems, and inadequate infrastructure. Despite the massive negative effects, the COVID-19 pandemic has also created opportunities for innovation and the rejuvenation of key initiatives, such as investment in healthcare and digital platforms, and better collaboration between different levels of government and the private sector to resolve supply chain problems.

## Inclusive and Economic Growth

In 2020, having lost their jobs in their host countries, about one million Nepali migrant workers returned to their places of origin during the pandemic<sup>32</sup>. Many more have been left unemployed due to the necessary measures taken to stop the spread of the virus. This has had a spill over effect on food security. There is greater need in 2021 to create employment and income generating opportunities, in line with the SDGs and the principle of leaving no one behind. Hence, in 2021 the UN will provide technical services to the government at different levels for SDG-based planning and financing. Additionally, the UN will support MoALD in establishing the Nepal Integrated Agricultural Statistics System and strengthen the capacity of the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) to implement the Annual Agricultural Sample Survey. Recognising the role of remittances to Nepal's economy, the government is planning bilateral labour agreements with new labour destination countries, including Poland, Romania and the Seychelles. The UN will provide technical assistance to ensure these agreements are based on fundamental principles and rights.

The government initiated a 'Land Banking' concept as a means to utilise vacant land, and

to provide production resource to landless and marginalised communities who are amongst those hardest hit by the pandemic. UN agencies will support the implementation of the concept with technical assistance.

## Social development

While a lot of investment has been made in the health sector, maternal mortality review and reporting continues to be weak despite the introduction and piloting of the maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response (MPDSR) programme in selected districts since 2015. The absence of regular and comprehensive information on the actual numbers of maternal deaths and a lack of analysis on the causes of death has made interventions to address the gaps challenging. In 2021, the UN will continue to support the government's efforts with the acceleration of the Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) agenda as an integral part of national, multi-sectoral and socioeconomic recovery and development, with a focus on building back better and leaving no one behind.

The transition to federalism continues to create certain challenges. Since the federal system was established, the budget for one-stop crisis management centres (OCMCs) has been allocated through municipalities and provincial offices. This change caused certain difficulties in disbursing the required budget on time, which negatively affected the provision of essential services for GBV survivors. Enhancing the capacity of frontline health workers based at health posts, including female community workers, to identify GBV survivors and make appropriate referrals to essential services will be an important avenue to expand access to GBV services at OCMCs in the future. In partnership with Tribhuvan University, a pre-service teacher training course will be piloted with 100-120 teachers, on the integration of separate lessons on the subject of comprehensive sexuality education, intended to be incorporated into the formal curriculum of Bachelor and Masters in Education (B.Ed./M.Ed) courses.

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32 Annual Report 2020, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal

While distant learning options and other digital solutions were implemented during the pandemic, access to and availability of technology and infrastructure have limited the viability of the different options particularly for those at risk of being left behind. There are opportunities to work with the federal government and local government to support the strengthening of the Education Management Information System, including non-formal education and life-long-learning indicators, in light of the new federal governance structure.

The COVID-19 pandemic made it unfeasible to carry out any nutrition surveys in 2020; thus, quantifying stunting and wasting was not possible. However, with the commitment of the provincial governments to develop a robust information system for nutrition and to support small scale nutrition surveys to quantify levels of malnutrition at the district level, UN agencies are well positioned to provide the technical assistance and guidance to provinces to carry out these surveys.

## **Resilience, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change**

In addition to the common challenges posed by the pandemic, there are some pre-existing challenges related to disaster risk reduction. Many houses damaged by the 2015 earthquakes are still standing and are being used by households to meet additional space requirements, even after the construction of new houses. Unless these houses are retrofitted, they remain vulnerable. Hence, the UN will continue to support their reconstruction and retrofitting. In 2021, the UN will support the government's efforts to restore cultural heritage sites damaged by the 2015 earthquakes, and contribute to training on earthquake resilient construction methods, generation of employment opportunities, and enhancement of tourism potential.

Additionally, the UN will contribute to the integration of key disaster and emergency-related infrastructure and services in the

National Disaster Response Framework, Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Policy and related standard operation procedures (SOPs). Continued support will be provided to develop provincial and local level DRRM plans, policies, guidelines, and SOPs that are GESI-sensitive, and to strengthen the integration of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act (DRRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), including vulnerability and risk assessments, at all levels.

Furthermore, UN will assist with the development of an implementation roadmap for the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), mid/long-term strategies to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and disaggregation of NDCs to province level.

## **Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights**

In 2020, travel restrictions and social distancing measures prevented the mobilisation of national and international census experts for in-country missions and on-site support during critical preparatory phases, for example the pilot census held in June and other preparatory activities. Hence a key focus in 2021 for the UN will be to support the development of census contingency plans to mitigate risks and safeguard the quality and credibility of the census process and outcomes in light of the current scenario.

The UN will continue to support the government with its efforts to implement federalism and democratic governance and maintain its engagement with key stakeholders, including at all levels of government and CSOs, to promote inclusive plans, policies, programmes, and budgets to leave no one behind. Support towards the re-direction of existing fiscal allocations towards the implementation of the SDGs, freeing up resources through increased efficiency, and exploring new borrowing possibilities and partnerships, will be another key focus for the UN in 2021.






# ANNEX

Result Framework

**Outcome 1: By 2020, economically vulnerable, unemployed and under-employed people have increased access to sustainable livelihoods and safe and decent employment and income opportunities.**

Indicator	Baseline	Target (2022)	Status of Indicator in 2020
1.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line	21.6% (Nepal Sustainable Development Goal Report, National Planning Commission, 2017)	13.8%	16.7% (Sustainable Development Goal Progress Report, National Planning Commission, 2020)
1.2 Employed people living below USD 1.25 per day in total employment	22% (Nepal Sustainable Development Goal Report, National Planning Commission, 2017)	12.2%	Data will be available by mid-2021 when new NLSS is completed.
1.3 Average hours spent in domestic work by women	14 hours per day (Nepal Sustainable Development Goal Report, National Planning Commission, 2017)	10.27 hours per day	6 hours (Sustainable Development Goal Progress Report, National Planning Commission, 2020)
1.4 Share of bottom 40% in total income	11.90% (Nepal Sustainable Development Goal Report, National Planning Commission, 2017)	15%	20.4% (National Review of the Sustainable Development Goals, National Planning Commission, 2020)
1.5 Households with inadequate food consumption	15.50% (Annual Household Survey, 2016/17)	10.5%	20.2% (mVAM HH Survey <sup>33</sup> , Ministry of Agricultural Development /World Food Programme, 2020)
1.6 Prevalence of undernourishment	36.1% (Nepal Sustainable Development Goal Report, National Planning Commission, 2017)	10.5%	8.7% (Sustainable Development Goal Progress Report, National Planning Commission, 2020)
1.7 Population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption	22.8% (Nepal Sustainable Development Goal Report, National Planning Commission, 2017)	14.3%	Data will be available by mid-2021 when new NLSS is completed.

1.8 Percent of migrant workers with skilled jobs	30%	40%	38.7% (Nepal Labour Migration Report, Ministry of Labour and Employment, 2020)
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	Achieved
	On Track
	Constrained
	Data not available to determine
	Proxy indicator data

## Outcome 2: By 2022, there is improved, equitable access, availability, and utilization of quality basic social services for all, particularly for vulnerable people

Indicator	Baseline	Target (2022)	Status of Indicator in 2020
2.1 Birth attended by skilled health personnel	58% (NDHS <sup>34</sup> , 2016)	73%	No data for 2020; 77.2% (Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2019) <sup>35</sup>
2.2 Measles immunisation coverage	87.7% (Nepal Demographic and Health Survey, 2016)	over 90%	No data for 2020; 87.1% (NMICS6, 2019)
2.3 Annual incidence of pneumonia among children under five years	147 (HMIS <sup>36</sup> , 2018)	138	83 per 1000 children under five years (DoHS annual report 2075/2076)
2.4 Prevalence of diarrheal diseases among children under five years	12% (HMIS, 2018)	6%	No data for 2020; 9.7% (NMICS6, 2019)

<sup>34</sup> Nepal Demographic and Health Survey

<sup>35</sup> Nepal Multiple Indicator Survey (NMICS6 2019), CBS and UNICEF

<sup>36</sup> Health Management Information System

2.5 Literacy rate, 15 years and above	63.7% (Male 76.2%, Female 53.3%) (Annual Household Survey, 2014/2015)	75%	67.9% (Male = 78.6, Female = 59.7)  (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Data as of September 2020, accessible here)
2.6 Students learning achievements scores in Grade 8	Math 35%; Nepali 48%; Science 41% (ERO, NASA, 2013)	Math 55%; Nepali 57%; Science 55%	Not Available (The 2020 NASA report is expected to be available by 2021 June)
2.7 Survival rate to Grade 8	76.6% (EMIS <sup>37</sup> Flash –I, 2015/16)	97%	79.3% (EMIS Flash –I, 2019/20)
2.8 Children under five of age who are stunted	36% (Nepal Sustainable Development Goal Report, National Planning Commission, 2017)	26.7%	No data for 2020; 31.5% (NMICS6, 2019)
2.9 Children under five of age who are wasted	10% (Nepal Sustainable Development Goal Report, National Planning Commission, 2017)	7.4%	No data for 2020; 12% (NMICS6, 2019)
2.10 Proportion of demand for family planning satisfied with modern methods	56% (Nepal Demographic and Health Survey, 2016)	74%	No data for 2020; 61.9% (NMICS6, 2019)
2.11 Adolescent fertility rate (per 1000 women of 15-19 age group)	71 (Nepal Demographic and Health Survey, 2016)	51	No data for 2020; 63 (NMICS6, 2019)
2.12 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married in or in union before age 18	40.7% (Nepal Demographic and Health Survey, 2016)	20%	No data for 2020; 32.8% (NMICS6, 2019)

2.13 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who have ever experienced physical or sexual violence and have ever sought help	22.8% (Nepal Demographic and Health Survey, 2016)	40%	40% N/A (Indicator value can be updated when next NDHS will be available.)
2.14 Proportion of the population using safely managed drinking water service at community level	83.6% (Ministry of Water Supply and Sanitation)	96%	No data for 2020; 91% (NMICS6, 2019)
2.15 Proportion of population having improved toilet	62.% (Nepal Demographic and Health Survey, 2016)	82%	No data for 2020; 80% (NMICS6, 2019)

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

Indicator	Baseline	Target (2022)	Status of Indicator in 2020
3.1 Reduction in annual loss of human life compared to average annual loss between 2005 and 2015	2.66 people/100,000 (745 people) With large scale disaster 5.85 people/100,000 (1,638 people) (source: relevant ministries' data)	2.16 people/100,000 (648 people*) With large scale disaster: 5.35 people/100,000 (1600 people*)	2020 progress update: 1.84 people/100,000 (556 people)  (Calculated using the annual death toll related to disaster reported in the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Portal (link: <a href="http://drrportal.gov.np">drrportal.gov.np</a> ) and population as per Central Bureau of Statistics data (link: <a href="http://cbs.gov.np">cbs.gov.np</a> ) for 2020)
3.2 National disaster management information system (DMIS) set up to provide accurate and reliable information on disaster loss and damage.	0	1 National level, 2 provincial level	2020 Progress Update: 8 local governments within 2 provinces (Bharatpur, Lalitpur, Bhimeshwar, Gorkha, Palungtar, Siranchowk, Pokhara and Putalibajjar local governments) – all included in Bagmati and Gandaki Provinces

3.3 Institutional mechanism and action plan for disaster response and recovery for rural and urban municipalities guided by new policy and legislation in place	0	35	23 (7 provinces and 15 local governments with DRR Policy and Strategic Action Plans)
3.4 No. of local climate adaptation plans and LDCRMP (local disaster climate risk management plans) adopted by new urban and rural municipalities	0	Local climate adaptation plans 52 LDCRMP: 60	2020 Progress Update: • 21 LDCRMP • 12 Flood Preparedness and Response Plan • 46 COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan

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

Indicator	Baseline	Target (2022)	Status of Indicator in 2020
4.1 Proportions of decision-making positions held by women in public institutions	15% (Nepal Sustainable Development Goal Report, National Planning Commission, 2017)	24.3%	2020 Progress Update: 13.6% - Women in public service decision-making positions (% of total employees,  (National Review of the Sustainable Development Goals, National Planning Commission, 2020)
4.2 Percentage of people with at least one instance in the past 12 months that require to give a bribe/ present (people's perception on corruption)	29% (Nepal Sustainable Development Goal Report, National Planning Commission, 2017)	15%	2020 Progress Update: 10%  (National Review of the Sustainable Development Goals, National Planning Commission, 2020)

4.3 Percentage of Universal Periodic Review recommendations implemented by the Government of Nepal	7.5% (Universal Periodic Review Annual Report, 2016)	40%	<p>2020 Progress Update: 87% - 132 recommendations implemented fully/partially out of 151 recommendations accepted by the Government</p> <p>(The NHRI Nepal Joint Submission for The Third Cycle Universal Periodic Review of Nepal).</p>
4.4 Rule of Law Index	Position 27 (0.65)	Position 26 (0.7) in 2019	<p>2020 Progress Update: No further progress to report as the Rule of Law Index 2021 has not yet been released.</p>
4.5 Quality of public administration (score out of 6)	3.10 (Nepal Sustainable Development Goal Report, National Planning Commission, 2017)	4.10	<p>3 - SDG Target 16.3.1 (Transparency, accountability and corruption in public (score out of 6)</p> <p>(National Review of the Sustainable Development Goals, National Planning Commission, 2020)</p>



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