2025 UNCT RESULTS REPORT



NEPAL

UNITED NATIONS
NEPAL

Deuma Budha, a farmer from Jajarkot
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A fruit vendor supporting the localization of SDGs at the International Women's Day 2025 event.
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FOREWORD
United Nations Resident Coordinator

Nepal entered 2026 at a defining moment in its development trajectory—marked by a historic political transition, preparations for graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status, and rizing public expectations for greater accountability, equity, and opportunity. The nationwide Gen Z–led protests in September underscored these shifting dynamics. While triggered by a specific policy decision, they reflected deeper structural concerns around governance, inclusion, and economic opportunity. This moment served as a powerful reminder that sustainable development must respond not only to long-term structural challenges, but also to evolving societal demands—particularly from a younger generation calling for systems that are more transparent, responsive, and fair.

In this context, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), in close partnership with the Government of Nepal, delivered integrated support under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2023-2027), focusing on system-level results.

The experience of 2025 demonstrates the added value of joint UN action under reform. A key area of progress has been **financing for development**. Through coordinated support across UN entities, the operationalization of the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF 2025-2030) has advanced, strengthening alignment of public and private finance with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) priorities and enabling more strategic resource mobilization.

This joint approach has supported the government in reframing social development for a risk-prone world. By aligning expertise across social protection, employment, climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, health, education, and food security, the UN has helped integrate resilience into national systems, policies, and financing. Social protection systems now reach over 2.26 million people, with shock-responsive features enabling rapid scale-up during crises, including cash top-ups during the 2024 monsoon floods.

On climate and resilience, joint UN efforts have supported Nepal's leadership on Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 3.0, the Sagarmatha Sambaad, and global climate engagement. A flagship achievement is the development of Living Sagarmatha: Nepal's Mountain Resilience Strategy, a system-wide initiative combining climate science, spatial planning, and innovative financing. The strategy is designed to mobilize over US$4 billion for ecosystem protection, climate adaptation, and sustainable livelihoods across mountain regions —demonstrating how coordinated UN support can unlock large-scale, long-term investments.

In response to structural inequalities highlighted during the year, joint UN work has delivered concrete progress on jobs and social protection. Under the Global Accelerator, the UN—working with Government and partners—supported the recognition of the care economy as a productive sector in the Sixteenth Plan 2024/25-2028/29. This was accompanied by the establishment of a National Care Economy Working Group, the integration of a time-use module into the Labour Force Survey, and the rollout of pilot community childcare and eldercare services. These initiatives are generating jobs, expanding social protection to underserved workers, and reducing unpaid care burdens.

Across sectors, joint UN delivery has contributed to measurable outcomes. Nepal achieved elimination of rubella and expanded immunization coverage, while maternal and child health indicators improved. Integrated programmes in nutrition, education, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) reached millions of children and vulnerable populations through strengthened national systems. Support to civil registration and digital systems has expanded access to legal identity and improved service delivery and transparency.

During a period of heightened uncertainty following the Gen Z movement and political transition, the UN provided coordinated support to social cohesion and institutional stability. At the request of the Government of Nepal, technical support for the March 2026 elections was mobilized within weeks. Coordinated UN engagement on human rights, communication, and information integrity supported democratic processes and civic space. The UN also provided technical assistance and capacity-building to national institutions on transitional justice, strengthening the design and implementation of inclusive, transparent, and rights-based processes.



Hanaa Singer-Hamdy
United Nations Resident Coordinator

These results reflect a more coherent and effective UN system—working in partnership with the Government of Nepal and national stakeholders to deliver integrated, scalable solutions.

As Nepal advances towards LDC graduation, the focus remains on strengthening national systems, scaling financing, and sustaining results in a context of continued risk and evolving expectations.

KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES

Resident Agencies

FAO
IFAD — Investing in rural people
ILO — International Labour Organization
IOM — UN MIGRATION
UNAIDS
UNCDF
UNDP
unesco
UNFPA
UN-HABITAT
UNHCR — The UN Refugee Agency
unicef — for every child
UNODA — United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
UNODC — United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS
UN VOLUNTEERS
UN WOMEN
WFP — World Food Programme
World Health Organization

Non-resident agencies

ESCAP
International Trade Centre
UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS — OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
UNDRR — The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UN environment programme
UNIDO

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

- Government of Nepal
- Government of Australia
- Government of Belgium
- Government of China
- Government of Finland
- Government of Germany
- Government of Japan
- Government of Luxembourg
- Government of Norway
- Government of Qatar
- Government of the Republic of Korea
- Government of Sweden
- Government of Switzerland
- Government of the United Kingdom
- Government of the United States of America
- Asian Development Bank
- Gates Foundation
- Central Emergency Response Fund
- European Commission
- European Union
- Global Agriculture and Food Security Program Fund
- Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation
- Global Disability Fund
- Global Environment Facility
- Global Fund for Fighting AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- Green Climate Fund
- The World Bank
- United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- UN-REDD Programme

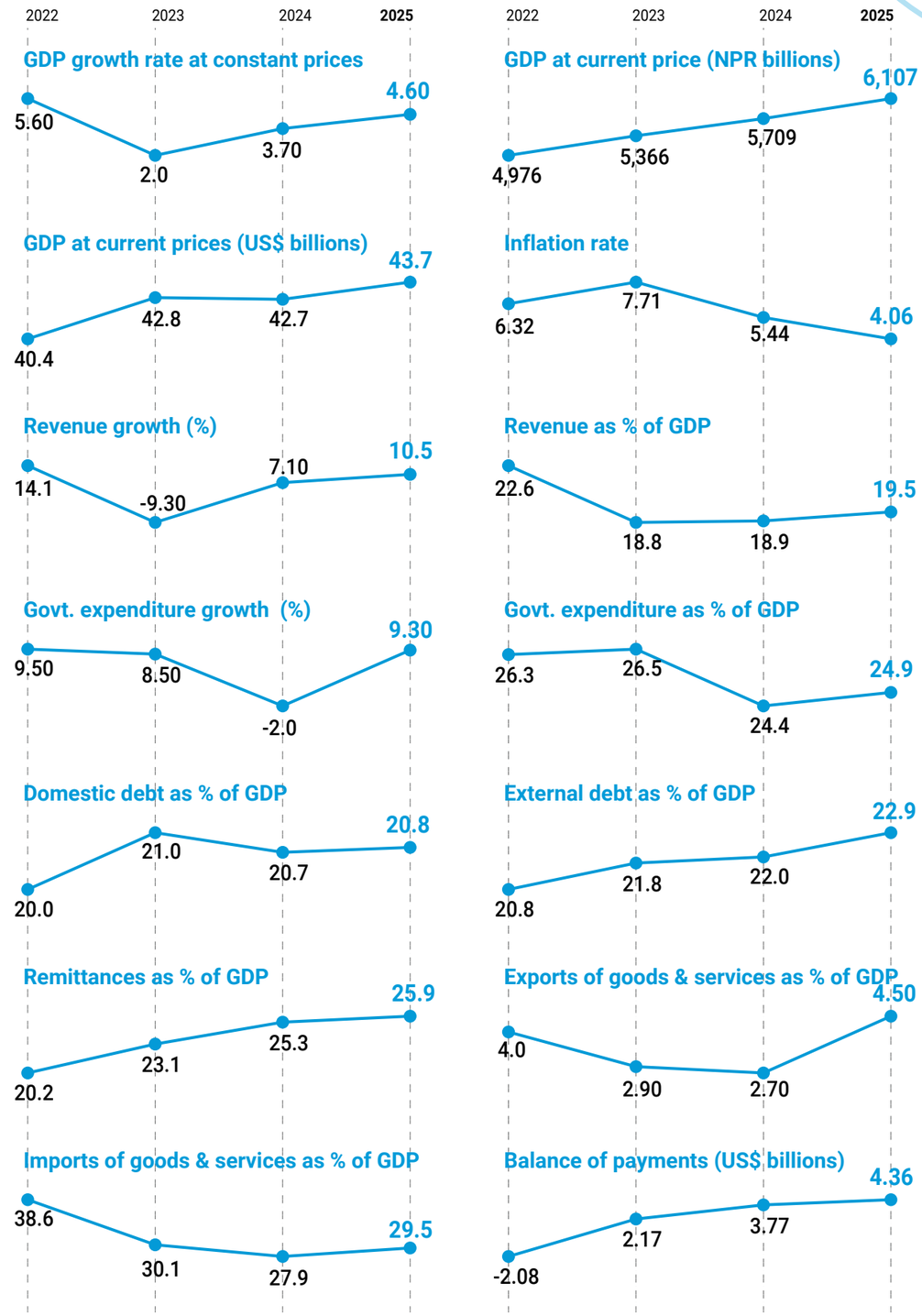
CHAPTER 1
KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN NEPAL

In 2025, Nepal's development trajectory was shaped by a combination of continued growth and progress against the SDGs as well as demands for change, opportunities, and accountability. The country made progress on national commitments under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development supported by the implementation of Nepal's Sixteenth Plan and renewed focus on structural priorities such as inclusive growth, climate resilience, and expanded social protection. Nepal also advanced preparations for its impending LDC graduation, strengthening systems for a smooth transition and long-term competitiveness. Even amid a dynamic political and social context, national institutions showed resilience and maintained momentum on development planning. A powerful youth movement emerged as a formidable force, calling for greater accountability, transparency, and inclusion - reflecting the aspirations of a new generation determined to shape Nepal's future.

At the same time, 2025 underscored a set of interconnected challenges that continue to influence Nepal's development pathway. Structural vulnerabilities, ranging from governance gaps and limited job creation to persistent inequalities, climate pressures, and fiscal constraints, became more visible. These strains interacted with a politically charged environment marked by heightened public expectations and demands for reform. Together, these dynamics highlighted both the urgency and complexity of ensuring that Nepal's transition towards middle-income status is inclusive, resilient, and grounded in strong institutions capable of responding to the needs of all people, especially its youth.

The most consequential development was the nationwide Gen Z–led protests in September 2025. The protests, although initially triggered by a social media ban, reflected a deeper frustration on governance effectiveness and efficiency, limited economic opportunities, and rizing youth aspirations. What began as a peaceful protest, youth activism, and online mobilization, quickly turned violent with 76 casualties, several thousand people injured, and widespread damage to public and private property.

TRENDS BETWEEN 2022-2025[1]



The events highlighted risks to social cohesion, civic space, information integrity, and public trust in institutions, with direct implications for progress towards SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and the broader ambition to ensure inclusive and participatory development.

The subsequent resignation of the Prime Minister and dissolution of the federal House of Representatives marked a significant political transition. An interim government led by former Supreme Court Chief Justice Sushila Karki - the country's first female Prime Minister - was established with a mandate to conduct general elections scheduled on 5 March 2026 to elect a new House of Representatives.

These political developments unfolded as Nepal continued preparations for graduation from LDC status in November 2026. While steady improvement across graduation indicators reflected important national gains, the government's 2025 progress assessment also underscored persistent structural vulnerabilities. These included a high level of exposure to climate-related disasters, limited domestic job creation, low trade diversification, constrained fiscal space, uneven education outcomes, and a rizing burden of non-communicable diseases - factors that collectively shape the sustainability and inclusiveness of post-graduation development pathways.

Macroeconomic trends in 2025 reflected both recovery and fragility. Real GDP growth reached 4.6 per cent in fiscal year 2025, inflation declined, foreign exchange reserves doubled, the balance of payments situation improved, and tourism activity recovered compared to 2024[2]. However, political instability contributed to downward revisions in growth projections, and the growth target for fiscal year 2026 is unlikely to be achieved. Economic expansion remained driven largely by remittances and consumption rather than productivity growth, private sector investment, or the generation of quality employment. Low capital expenditure, rizing public debt, and subdued investor confidence continued to constrain structural transformation and progress towards SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth.

Climate change continued to shape Nepal's long-term development outlook. In 2025, the Government of Nepal advanced its climate policy framework through submission of the third, strengthening mitigation and adaptation ambition in line with limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and further integrating human rights, gender equality, poverty reduction, and just transition principles. The updated NDC also reinforced commitments to women's land rights and social inclusion, recognizing their role in climate resilience, and sustainable land management, marking Nepal a leader in advancing rights-based climate adaptation.

Nepal adopted a long-term National REDD+ Strategy (2025–2034) (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries), completed its first Biennial Transparency Report under the Paris Agreement and amplified global advocacy for mountain ecosystem through the Sagarmatha Sambaad 2025, an international climate change dialogue, and the Sagarmatha Call for Action. The declaration also aligned with the United Nations' designation of 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation, reinforcing Nepal's advocacy for mountain regions facing severe climate risks.

These policy advances occurred alongside intensifying climate-driven disasters. A major glacial lake outburst flood in mid-2025 caused significant cross-border damage in Nepal and China and prompted a new bilateral agreement on glacial lake risks data sharing and early warning systems to reduce the potential impact of future disasters.

In 2025, climate-related disasters resulted in 275 deaths and 40 people missing.[3] Floods and landslides alone caused some 150 deaths and NPR0.4 billion (US$2.77 million) in damage, placing continued strain on preparedness and response capacity at the local level. Prolonged winter droughts contributed to widespread forest fires and severe air pollution, with Kathmandu's air quality index reaching nearly five times the recommended limits. A climate vulnerability assessment identified 288 of Nepal's 753 municipalities as 'highly or very highly sensitive' to hazards with projections indicating that this number could double by 2050 and reduce annual GDP by up to 2.2 per cent.[4, 5]

Development financing constraints also intensified. Nepal's annual SDG financing gap for 2024-2030 is estimated at NPR5,284.7 billion (US$36 billion) approximately NPR754.9 billion (US$5.13 billion) per year. This annual gap is approximately 38 per cent of the fiscal year 2025 national budget. Without strengthening domestic resource mobilization, financing gaps are projected to widen across priority SDGs 3: Good Health and Well-Being; 4: Quality Education; 7: Affordable and Clean Energy; 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth; 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; 12: Responsible Consumption and Production; and 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. To bridge the financing gap in the SDG costing and financing strategy 2024, the Government of Nepal prioritized the development of private sector partnerships, infrastructure development, expansion of renewable energy, enterprise growth, and job creation. The Government of Nepal also launched the implementation of the INFF to streamline development financing and prioritize the strengthening of fiscal policies, tax systems, capital budgeting, and public financial management. However, austerity measures, a rizing fiscal deficit in 2025-26,[6] and weakened private sector confidence following the Gen Z movement protests may further constrain available resources.

Taken together, these dynamics required the UNCT in Nepal to realign partnerships, strengthen strategic coordination, improve efficiency and prioritize catalytic support to national systems, ensuring the efficient use of limited resources while sustaining progress towards the SDGs.



Women Farmers collecting their product in Karnali Province as a part of EWPN program.
©EWPN/ Robic Upadhyay

CHAPTER 2
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

2.1. OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS IN 2025

In 2025, the third year of the UNSDCF 2023–2027, Nepal recorded continued progress across its four strategic pillars and the six prioritized SDG transitions, with approximately USD$ 144.2 million mobilized through 25 United Nations agencies for implementation of activities that contributed to the results presented in this report.

The United Nations supported six SDG transitions: Finance for Development, Decent Jobs and Social Protection, Digital Transformation, Climate Action, Transformation of Health and Education, and Transformation of Food Systems and Nutrition. The first three transitions directly contribute to Nepal's national priority of graduation from LDC status by strengthening domestic resource mobilization, expanding productive employment, and enhancing institutional capacity and digital governance.

Across the remaining transitions, the United Nations partnered with the Government of Nepal through system-wide and integrated approaches to accelerate SDG progress, advance UNSDCF strategic results aligned with Nepal's Sixteenth Plan, and strengthen national systems for inclusive, equitable, resilient, and sustainable development.

In line with the Voluntary National Review 2024, the United Nations supported the transitions for SDG acceleration by providing evidence, technical assistance, and financing solutions aimed at addressing structural bottlenecks, enhancing resilience, and sustaining inclusive development outcomes.

LDC Graduation/Finance for Development

The Government of Nepal demonstrated leadership in its roles as developing country co-facilitator and Asia-Pacific Vice Chair of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (Ff4D). The United Nations and Ministry of Finance convened a multi-stakeholder dialogue to consolidate inputs on the first draft of the Ff4D outcome document. Through coordinated engagement with other graduating LDCs, including Bangladesh and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the United Nations system supported alignment of common priorities, securing the inclusion of tailored post-graduation support measures in the final outcome document.

At the national level, the United Nations in Nepal is supporting a structured three-pillar approach to align the financing architecture with SDG priorities.

First, technical assistance is being provided to operationalize the INFF, strengthening the sequencing of public and private finance and improving coherence between fiscal policy and national development priorities.

Second, the United Nations is supporting development of a national roadmap on jobs and social protection under the Global Accelerator and the Sevilla Platform for Action, channelling investment towards the generation of employment, expansion of social protection, and just transition objectives.

Third, climate- and gender-responsive budgeting is institutionalized through policy advisory support and strengthening the capacity of public financial management.

The INFF places productive employment and climate resilience at the centre of Nepal's post-LDC transition strategy 2024, reinforcing fiscal sustainability and resilience as concessional finance gradually declines. Complementary reforms in climate- and gender-responsive budgeting are strengthening fiscal governance by integrating equity, resilience, and evidence-based expenditure planning into national systems.

Decent Jobs and Social Protection

The national roadmap on jobs and social protection further aligns employment creation with expanded social protection coverage, green economy investment, youth employment, gender equality in workplaces, safe and decent work, and protection for workers in the informal economy. Through coordinated policy engagement and joint advocacy, the United Nations development system is supporting Nepal to consolidate institutional foundations for a resilient and inclusive post-LDC economy.

Complementing the roadmap, national employment and social protection systems were strengthened through the institutionalization of Employment Service Centres as active labour market intermediaries and the adoption of digital tools, resulting in expanded access to counselling, skills development, and job matching. The adoption of the National Strategy on Formalization and revised model enterprise bylaws further strengthened the nationwide employment system while the National Integrated Care Policy advanced women's equitable participation in the labour market through formal recognition of the care economy. Despite these gains, labour market pressure continues to persist with unemployment at 12.6 per cent and youth unemployment at 22.7 per cent[7].





Medicines for the treatment of Hepatitis C.
©WHO Nepal /Sujan Govinda Amatya

Transformation of Health and Education

Nepal has made notable advancements in human development in 2025 relative to the baseline year of 2022. The maternal mortality ratio (maternal deaths per 100,000 live births) declined from 151 to 141 and the adolescent (15-19 years old) birth rate per 1,000 women has dropped from 63 to 48[8]. During the same period, the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel rose from 80.1 to 91.4 per cent and safe institutional delivery rose from 79.4 to 90.5 per cent.[9,10,11] The neonatal mortality rate declined from 21 to 17 per 1,000 live births, the under-five mortality rate dropped from 33 to 21 per 1,000 live births, the prevalence of underweight children under 5 years of age decreased from 19 to 16.9, and the prevalence of malnutrition amongst children under 5 years of age fell slightly from 7.7 to 6.6.[12,13] Birth registrations rose from 73 to 85.4 per cent.

However, the prevalence of moderate to severe stunting amongst children under 5 years of age increased from 24.8 to 26.2 per cent, contraceptive prevalence decreased from 43 to 35 per cent, multidimensional poverty[14] rose from 17.4 to 20.1 per cent, and out-of-pocket health expenditure was at 54 per cent indicating a heavy financial burden on citizens to access health services.[15,16,17,18,19,20]

In 2025, Nepal successfully eliminated rubella as a public health problem and achieved 94 per cent vaccination coverage against human papillomavirus (HPV), reaching 1.46 million adolescent girls.[21] Full immunization coverage reached 92.5 per cent of infants while universal health coverage progressed with the distribution of 1.9 million family planning commodities with United Nations' assistance.[22]



Better SchoolCampaign
©FAO Nepal

In education, Nepal saw system-level reforms with 353 local governments adopting climate resilient and gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) responsive local education plans aligned with the School Education Sector Plan[23]. Education access in fiscal year 2025 remained strong at the basic school level (Grades 1 to 8) with net enrolment reaching 94.4 per cent and gender parity sustained at 0.92.[24] However, enrolment drops sharply to 55.8 per cent at the secondary school level (Grades 9 to 12) with the completion rate at only 19.6 per cent, a substantial decline from 86.5 per cent for Grades 1 to 5 and 78.1 per cent for Grades 6 to 8.[25,26]

Transformation of Food Systems and Nutrition

The United Nations has maintained a longstanding and strategic partnership with the Government of Nepal in advancing the country's food systems transformation agenda under the leadership of the National Planning Commission. The United Nations supported the Commission in convening the Food Systems Transformation Steering Committee to ensure coherence and oversight of initiatives across the three levels of government. The United Nations worked closely with the Commission on Nepal's submission of the Country Needs Assessment document to the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub. This assessment identified the critical capacity gaps and resourcing needs, providing a foundation for scaling up localization and ensuring that Nepal's food systems transformation agenda is both nationally driven and globally aligned. In addition, large scale screening initiatives across the country reached 3.75 million children under 5 years old, enabling early detection and treatment of malnutrition and wasting: 20,000 cases of severe wasting were identified and treated with an 80 per cent recovery rate[27].

The United Nations provided extensive technical assistance, including support in generation of analytical evidence and convening dialogues at national and provincial levels. These efforts have directly contributed to the formulation and documentation of Nepal's Food Systems Transformation Plan (2023–2030). This plan represents a pivotal milestone, charting a pathway for multisectoral and integrated actions to foster resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food systems nationwide. The United Nations also contributed to improved policy coherence in implementation of national frameworks such as the Fair Price Shops Guideline 2025, the Food Systems Transformation Strategy 2022, the Iodized Salt Act 1998, and the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition Guidelines 2024 while advancing legislation such as the Breastmilk Substitutes Act 2024, the Agriculture Development Strategy 2025, and the National Food Fortification Strategy 2024.

The United Nations helped convene review and planning meetings at the provincial level to foster holistic, cross-sectoral, participatory, and inclusive approaches to food systems transformation.



Pangasius
©FAO Nepal

The key recommendation emerging from the province-level review and planning meetings and the national-level dialogues were that the critical imperative of localization, rooted in local contexts, priorities, and capacities, thereby strengthening local ownership and impact on communities. The United Nations provided critical contributions for localization, including design of the prototype training manual, delivery of training of trainers programmes for government stakeholders, creation of a pool of qualified local trainers, and strengthening institutional and technical capacities of seven municipalities to develop localized Food Systems Transformation Action Plans with three-to five-year time frames. The United Nations also supported seven municipalities[28] to adopt food sovereignty policies and pilot the implementation of food systems transformation action plans with formal integration of the action plans into local planning and budgeting processes, ensuring local ownership, accountability and sustainability.

Building on these achievements and lessons learned, the United Nations (FAO, UNCDF, UNDP and WFP) is implementing the joint programme Innovative Financing Solutions for Local Food Systems Transformation with funding from the Joint SDG Fund in nine municipalities. The goal of the programme is to advance the Government of Nepal's vision of equitable, resilient and sustainable food systems by unlocking public and private finance through innovative financing solutions at all levels.



An aerial view of a village in Jajarkot.
©Narendra Shrestha/UNRCO

Climate Action

Nepal advanced systemic climate action through the submission of NDC 3.0 to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which expanded sectoral mitigation and adaptation targets focused on key areas such as energy, forestry, agriculture, industrial processes, sustainable use and waste management, while embedding GESI and just transition principles. The climate-finance architecture was strengthened with United Nations assistance through the development of the INFF, Climate Change Financing Framework, climate finance procedures, and carbon trading regulations. At the same time, climate-resilience grants mobilized local resources of US$925,000 across five municipalities and climate-resilient water and infrastructure improvement initiatives benefitted 258,881 people (65.5 per cent women)[29].

The Government of Nepal finalized its Vision Document for the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2025, aligning 36 national targets with the Global Biodiversity Framework, and made significant progress on REDD+ and jurisdictional carbon transactions. Some 34,500 hectares of forests, rangelands, terraces, and urban green spaces were restored or rehabilitated, 6,000 farmers adopted climate resilient farming practices, and 67,000 people (52 per cent women) benefitted from climate-smart natural resource management[30].

The Living Sagarmatha: Nepal's Mountain Resilience Strategy 2025 is now advancing through inter-ministerial processes and is expected to be adopted as a national strategy in 2026. It is accompanied by a Mountain Investment Framework that translates ambition into action, identifying 34 priority interventions with an indicative portfolio of US$4.08 billion.



Khagisara Acharya from Dailekh harvests tomatoes while coordinating with a market group in Surkhet to sell her produce, following agricultural training and market linkage support from the EWPN programme.
©EWPN/Robic Upadhyay

Digital Transformation

The United Nations in Nepal supported national efforts to expand the use of digital systems to improve governance, data use, and service delivery in alignment with the Digital Nepal Framework and the UNSDCF. Across the United Nations system, 98 digital transformation initiatives were implemented by nine United Nations agencies. More than 70 per cent of the initiatives concentrated on governance, health, and education, reflecting alignment with core public service sectors and SDG priorities.

Progress included advancement towards a fully digital Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system enabling interoperability across health, national identification, statistics, and social protection databases, strengthening data reliability and service targeting. National data and spatial analysis capacities were further supported through ward-level demographic projections and integration of census data into the government-led Building Information Platform Against Disaster, a portal contributing to improved disaster preparedness and anticipatory planning.

In remote and disaster-prone areas at the local level, QR-coded household identification and QR-enabled emergency communication tools were introduced in 11 municipalities, which have expanded access to crisis information.

Digital applications also supported the delivery of essential services. Geographic Information System-based health facility readiness assessments, digital surveillance, and real-time immunization monitoring strengthened routine coverage and emergency response. E-learning platforms, artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled social listening, mental health chatbots, and engagement through U-Report expanded outreach and participation, particularly among young people. Digital gender-responsive budgeting and coding systems further supported transparency and accountability in public finance across 37 local governments.

These developments indicate gradual progress towards more integrated and data-informed public systems. However, important challenges remain including coordination across institutions, persistent digital divides affecting women and marginalized populations, evolving cybersecurity and data-governance requirements, and sustainability of pilot initiatives.

1

Strategic Priority 1
Sustainable and Resilient Economic Transformation



Women-led cooperatives transform forest leaves into biodegradable plates and bowls, promoting sustainable alternatives to plastic.
©UNDP Nepal/Suraj Ratna Shakya

Indicator progress details

424
Cases of business organizations
increased capacity for economic development and decent work

2,604
Private sector entities
improved performance, business transactions, and revenue with United Nations support

31,645
People benefitted from income generating
activities

20,117
People benefitted with improved access
to skills and lifelong learning

51,241
People gained access to land or water sources

SECTORAL DATA

24%
Contribution of agriculture
to GDP

62%
Households engaged
in agriculture

4.1M
Hectares under agriculture
out of a total 14.75M hectares of land under agriculture

38%
Agricultural land
irrigated

1.5M
People received permits
to migrate for foreign employment

US$9.7B
Received in remittances
Remittance-to-GDP ratio: 33:1

The UNCT assisted the Government of Nepal in accelerating inclusive economic transformation, strengthening employment, labour, migration, land, and care systems through gender-responsive governance reforms and evidence-driven investments. Systemic changes across national, provincial, and local levels expanded access to decent work, formalization, and social protection, particularly for women, youth, migrants, and marginalized groups while reinforcing accountability and institutional sustainability. These contributed to SDG 1: No Poverty; SDG 5: Gender Equality; SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth; and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities.

Policy and institutional reforms further strengthened Nepal's gender-responsive and safe employment ecosystem. The adoption of the National Strategy on Formalization and revised 'model enterprise' bylaws embedded gender equality, social inclusion, occupational safety and dignified workplaces within enterprise development and employment services. The National Strategy on Formalization demonstrates the Government of Nepal's commitment to reducing informality by prioritizing high-informality sectors and providing integrated policy guidance to improve labour rights, enterprise productivity, and safe working conditions. Together, these reforms complement the ongoing implementation of the tripartite-led National Action Plan on Formalization, which expands social security coverage, simplifies business registration, and supports the transition of workers - especially women and marginalized groups - into formal, protected employment.

The drafting of the National Integrated Care Policy 2025 marked Nepal's formal recognition of the care economy, reinforcing commitments under SDG target 5.4, promoting women's equitable participation in the labour market. The United Nations assisted in strengthening 58 public institutions to deliver gender-responsive employment, entrepreneurship, and finance services, engaging 154 finance sector actors from the private sector to advance gender-smart financial products and services, promoting financial literacy, and improving access to credit. At the local level, 37 local governments aligned the SDGs and gender priorities with their local financing, mobilizing domestic resources for inclusive development. The United Nations also helped develop the sector-wide code of conduct and safe operating procedures for waste management industries, which were adopted with the aim of addressing workplace violence and strengthening occupational safety in those industries.

The United Nations contributed to reducing poverty (SDG 1) by expanding inclusive and sustainable livelihood opportunities and strengthening economic agency, particularly for women, through entrepreneurship and skills development for the creation of green jobs. The United Nations training of trainers on the Start and Improve Your Business programme transitioned to local ownership with 40 per cent of the costs financed by local governments that enabled the programme to expand and benefit an additional 1,000 new entrepreneurs (80 per cent women). The certified trainers were also permanently embedded within state institutions to ensure sustainability and scale. A total of 10,461 households had improved and secure access to the Land Right Continuum[32] and increased access to water resources (5,995 households) through United Nations-supported land reforms and improved irrigation services.



Securing Access to Land for Marginalized Communities to Advance Sustainable Livelihoods

In Nepal's inner Terai region, thousands of rural households rely on land they do not own to sustain their livelihoods. Many cultivate fields as informal sharecroppers under verbal agreements that offer little protection from eviction and discourage investment in more productive or sustainable farming practices. At the same time, large areas of private and public land remain unused due to migration and weak land governance.

With support from the United Nations, local governments in Dang District, Lumbini Province, are turning this challenge into an opportunity to expand secure land access and strengthen livelihoods for marginalized communities.

Through 'A safety net of innovative land tenure solutions for near-landless sharecroppers and for a greener rural Nepal' programme, UN-Habitat is working with municipalities and Indigenous communities, particularly *Tharu* farmers, in Rapti, Rajpur, Lamahi and Gadhawa to pilot innovative approaches to land tenure security and land use.

A key step has been the introduction of participatory land enumeration using the Social Tenure Domain Model, a United Nations-supported approach that documents relationships between farmers and the land they cultivate. In 2025, local governments recorded 2,430 sharecroppers cultivating 4,267 land parcels covering more than 927 hectares of public and private land across the four municipalities. For the first time, these farmers and the land they depend on are systematically documented in municipal records, enabling better oversight, planning and policy action.

The approach has unlocked access to previously unused land. In Rajpur Municipality, farmers were allocated 1.35 hectares of abandoned river-bed land, producing nearly 7,000 kilograms of sweet potatoes sold in local markets. Building on this success, the initiative expanded to over 19 hectares of vacant land now cultivated by 201 farmers, most of them women, growing crops such as potatoes, chickpeas, gourds and melons.

The initiative has also informed national policy. In November 2025, the Government of Nepal amended the Land Use Rules to introduce provisions on land banking, enabling local governments to allocate unused land for contract farming and prioritize marginalized and landless households.

By strengthening land records, enabling productive use of idle land and supporting policy reform, United Nations' support is helping transform land access into a pathway for sustainable livelihoods and greater economic inclusion in rural Nepal.

From Farm to Market: Women Farmers in Karnali Strengthen Income and Leadership

For many women farmers in Surkhet, Karnali Province, farming has long meant long days of labour with little influence over how their produce was sold. After managing households, livestock and fields, women often carried crops to distant markets but faced uncertain prices and limited bargaining power. Despite their central role in agriculture, decisions about market access and pricing were rarely in their hands.

But through the EU–United Nations Empowered Women, Prosperous Nepal (EWPN) joint programme, implemented by the United Nations through ILO, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women, women farmers are gaining improved access to markets, information and decision-making spaces. The programme works with local governments and market actors to strengthen women's economic empowerment across Karnali, Sudurpaschim and Madhesh provinces.

In Birendranagar Municipality, the Juneli Farmers Group, a collective of 21 women farmers, received targeted support on market access, price information and market linkages. With United Nations-supported facilitation, the group established connections with buyers and local market management institutions, enabling them to sell produce more strategically and negotiate collectively.

The impact has been significant. Over eight months, the group's adjusted sales increased from NPR92,815 (about US$630) to NPR160,357 (about US$1,088), representing a 73 per cent rise in income. Farmers are also earning a larger share of the wholesale market price, with returns increasing, for example, from 40 to 57 per cent for radishes and from 75 to 83 per cent for potatoes.

A shift is also visible in leadership and decision-making. Women's leadership roles in producer groups and cooperatives increased from two to five members, while all 21 women in the group now participate in market access decisions, compared to none before the intervention.

For members of the Juneli Farmers Group, the transformation goes beyond higher income. "It's much better than working alone," said farmer Khagisara Oli. "When we work together, we understand prices, share knowledge and support each other."

By strengthening women's collective capacity, linking farmers directly to markets and improving access to market information, the EWPN joint programme is helping shift rural agriculture from subsistence to opportunity. Women farmers are earning more, negotiating with greater confidence and taking on stronger leadership roles within their communities.

Ramita Chaudhary proudly showcases her vegetable harvest after completing agricultural training through the EWPN joint programme and starting to earn income from selling her produce.
©EWPN/Robic Upadhyay

Community-based livelihood systems were strengthened to expand market participation and resilience. Over 13,258 women started or expanded their businesses following United Nations support for entrepreneurship skills, and business development improved access to digital and financial services, and enhanced market linkages. A total of 1,352 women received direct seed capital or productive inputs to start their businesses. Some 1,368 crop and livestock producer groups (36,392 members, 72 per cent women) across 16 local governments in Madhesh, Bagmati, and Gandaki provinces received United Nations support to enhance their entrepreneurship and business management capacities, following which 275 groups were able to access matching grants from the local government to establish and/or expand their agri-based enterprises.

The United Nations also engaged with the local governments to institutionalize matching grants, mobilizing domestic public and private investments for those enterprises. Six hundred and forty-nine women-led nutrition groups (15,401 members) in Madhesh, Bagmati, and Gandaki provinces improved home-based food production and nutrition practices through a United Nations initiative as the Home Nutrition Gardens and Nutrition Field Schools programmes reinforced household food and nutrition security.

Targeted United Nations interventions for improved livelihoods, skills and green economy development enabled inclusive growth, increasing the income of 21,386 people (65 per cent women). The United Nations' pilot programmes for waste management, expansion of green value chains, and targeted skills development initiatives generated 1,200 green jobs (700 for women), created an additional 1,090 jobs in the tourism sector, and enabled 11,003 individuals (6,920 women) to strengthen their skills in waste management and recycling/ upcycling.

The Government of Nepal with United Nations support revised the Agriculture Development Strategy 2025, introduced operational frameworks for food systems transformation, and developed food systems strategic plans in seven municipal governments[33]. Nine forest and farm producer organizations established enterprises to move up the value chain and create local jobs in production, processing, packaging, and marketing for diverse commodities. The United Nations helped strengthen agribusiness, market systems, and innovations to enable communities, especially in remote and mountain areas, to gain higher market returns with increased value added, and to quickly recover from shocks due to market volatility and the impacts of climate change.

Nepal made significant gains in strengthening its labour governance and social protection systems. The operationalization of the Integrated Labour Management Information System, enhanced transparency, compliance monitoring, and data-driven decision making, establishing a foundational national digital record for labour governance.



A woman works in her bakery in Jumla, powered by improved micro-hydropower systems that support local enterprises under the United Nations joint programme RERAS.
©UNDP Nepal/Suraj Ratna Shakya

Rabina Buda Maga, owner of the Sandesh and Jenish Bread Factory and a beneficiary of the RERAS joint programme get ready to deliver supplies to local communities.
©UNDP/Suraj Shakya

Women Leading Nepal's Digital Energy Transition

In Nepal's remote Himalayan villages, beyond the reach of the national grid, decentralized renewable energy is powering homes and reshaping gender roles and economic opportunities.

Increasingly, women are at the centre of operating micro-hydropower systems, using digital tools to improve service delivery, strengthen local institutions and expand livelihood options.

For Ramila Devi Khadka in Triveni Municipality, Bajura, this shift has been transformative. Widowed at a young age and responsible for raizing two daughters, her livelihood options were once limited to subsistence farming and unpaid household work. The opportunity to work as a meter reader at the Malagad Khola Micro Hydropower Project marked a significant departure from these constraints, offering stable, skilled employment in a traditionally male-dominated sector.

Equipped with handheld meter readers, QR and point-of-sale payment systems, and mobile banking tools, Ramila now provides efficient, real-time energy services within her community. Digital systems have reduced billing and collection times from weeks to days, improved revenue flows for user committees, and increased transparency and accountability. Women like Ramila are also supporting households, particularly elderly users and other women, to adopt these technologies, bridging gaps in digital literacy and access.

These outcomes build on decades of partnership between the Government of Nepal and the United Nations through joint programmes such as the Renewable Energy for Resilient Agri-Food Systems with the World Food Programme and Renewable Energy for Rural Livelihoods, implemented by UNDP and WFP, micro-hydropower systems have been rehabilitated and modernized across remote districts, restoring reliable energy access for thousands of households.

The impact of these efforts is both immediate and systemic as it has brought electricity to more than 100,000 households, benefiting over half a million people and enabling more than 1,000 energy-based enterprises in off-grid areas. From agro-processing and small manufacturing to retail and service businesses, these enterprises have created new income streams, many of which are led or supported by women.

The adoption of the National Labour Migration Policy 2025 marks a significant shift in migration governance with a rights-based, digital-first, gender-responsive, and accountability-focused framework that emphasises transparency, ethical recruitment, skills alignment with global labour market demand, and stronger systems for social protection and reintegration of migrant workers. A major structural reform included in the policy is the extension of formal regulation to India-bound migrant workers, historically excluded from foreign employment governance. This new policy allows all migrant workers to register through local Employment Service Centres to access the Foreign Employment Board's welfare fund and ensure their inclusion in national protection mechanisms.

The Social Security Fund has significantly expanded Nepal's social protection coverage, reflecting a strategic shift towards inclusivity and broad-based coverage. Cumulative enrolment reached 2.26 million individuals by 2025, having nearly quadrupled since 2023, with migrant workers forming the largest enrolled group at 2.06 million. The Social Security Fund demonstrated a strong gender-inclusive approach, with women comprizing over 80 per cent of the total enrolled. This expanded membership base has mobilized substantial resources, with cumulative contributions exceeding NPR95 billion (US$653.81 million), and benefit disbursements exceeding NPR15.88 billion (US$109.29 million). Retirement pensions (NPR12.4 billion or US$84.2 million) and health benefits (NPR2.3 billion, equivalent to US$15.6 million across 668,000 cases) constitute the core of Social Security Fund support, strengthening income security and resilience for a growing and increasingly diverse workforce.

The expansion of the Fund reflects a strategic national commitment to extending social protection coverage in line with international social security standards. It represents a significant step towards strengthening income security, enhancing access to essential benefits, increasing comprehensive health insurance coverage, and promoting resilience among a diverse and increasingly mobile workforce.



Through interventions under UNDP's EHSLCA, project clean energy solutions allow children in Jajarkot, Karnali Province, to study after dark, something that wasn't possible previously.
©UNDP Nepal

The United Nations also provided technical assistance to pilot procedures for a contribution-based social security model for the informal sector, and three municipalities allocated local budgets to expand social protection coverage to informal sector workers. Thirty-two local governments in Karnali, Madhesh and Sudurpaschim provinces were supported to strengthen citizen engagement in participatory planning, and budgeting.

Nepal has advanced safe migration through Bilateral Labour Migration Agreements with Belgium, Luxembourg, Oman, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Spain.

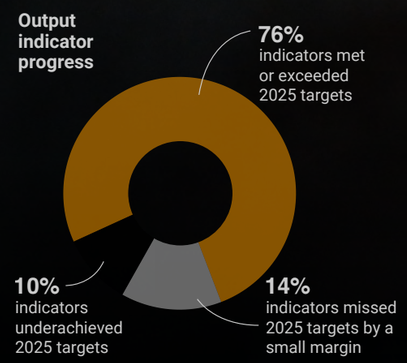
The United Nations facilitated pilot ethical recruitment corridors, enabling 756 Nepali migrant workers, including 39 women to secure decent employment in the Maldives and 717 men in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to access decent job opportunities, through ethical recruitment and mobility pathways. Meanwhile, protection mechanisms to provide needed services such as health care and psychosocial counselling, shelter and legal aid, family reunion and reintegration, access to compenzation and other legal remedies to the victims of foreign labour exploitation were strengthened. Community outreach and awareness campaigns on safe migration in local governments with high out-migration reached 5,599 individuals (3,095 women and 2,504 men, including 2,306 youth) with information on safe migration procedures, rights, and services.

2

Strategic Priority 2
Inclusive and Transformative Human Development



Medicines for the treatment of kala-azar handed over to Nepal's Ministry of Health and Population by WHO in October 2024.
©WHO Nepal/Sujan Govinda Amatya



Indicator progress details

96%
of children aged 12–23 months completed their second measles-rubella vaccination dose

70%
increase in core International Health Regulation indicators

1.3M+
nutritionally vulnerable people benefitted from malnutrition treatment and prevention programmes

125
WASH legal instruments developed at federal, provincial and local level

191
Local governments developed comprehensive local education plans

70%
schools' support meet prioritised minimum enabling conditions in pre-primary education

511,710
new people registered with legal identity

350,162
girls and women received services related to harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage

232,701
women, adolescents, youth, people with disabilities and LGBTQIA+ benefited from GBV services

94%
vaccination coverage against HPV

SECTORAL DATA

92.5%
Children fully immunized
National schedule (BCG, DPT, OPV, etc.)

33%
Health insurance
coverage

23.5
Suicide mortality rate
per 100,000 people

141
Maternal mortality ratio
per 100,000 live births

63
Adolescent birth rate
per 1,000 women (15-19 years)

91.4%
Births attended by
skilled health personnel

90.5%
Safe institutional
delivery

17
Neonatal mortality rate
per 1,000 live births

21
Under-five mortality rate
per 1,000 live births

Nepal advanced toward achieving SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being in 2025 with landmark public health gains driven by government leadership and coordinated United Nations system support. A major milestone was the official elimination of rubella, enabled by sustained high routine immunization coverage, strengthened surveillance systems, and United Nations-backed normative guidance. The 2024 measles–rubella immunization campaign, with assistance from the United Nations in capacity building, micro planning, and supply chains reached 6.3 million children, contributing directly to the elimination of rubella.

The nationwide human HPV vaccination campaign reached 1.46 million adolescent girls representing 94 per cent coverage and marked Nepal's first national HPV vaccination rollout and the protection of an entire generation from cervical cancer. The campaign demonstrated the effective integration of the school-health platform and community mobilization at scale. Nepal also maintained kala-azar elimination thresholds for the second consecutive year, with all 77 districts reporting fewer than one case per 10,000 population through United Nations-enabled community-centred approaches. This was achieved by integrating active case detection, building vector control and entomological laboratory capacities across provinces for vector surveillance and improved access to quality-assured diagnostics and medicines. Nepal's journey toward kala-azar elimination shows that elimination is not achieved through a single intervention, but through long-term commitment, strong systems, and coordinated partnerships.

Maternal and reproductive health outcomes have also improved. New inter-agency estimates show the maternal mortality ratio declined to 141 per 100,000 live births, down from 151 in 2021, reflecting increased institutional deliveries, strengthened Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response systems, and evidence from United Nations-supported assessments that informed the optimization of emergency obstetric and newborn care (EmONC) readiness across all provinces. Efforts to achieve universal health coverage progressed through the distribution of 1.9 million family planning commodities, averting an estimated 602 maternal deaths, and the expansion of Sayana Press in 20 districts improving contraceptive security for women, adolescents, and marginalized groups.

Children's access to mental health services has expanded significantly. In 2025, 9,414 children received mental health services, a four-fold increase from the previous year. This progress reflects the Government of Nepal's efforts to develop its first national-level mental health plan and to allocate US$1.3 million to scale up services, representing an eight-fold return on the United Nations' investment. In Karnali Province, 12,500 students benefited from a school-based socio-emotional learning programme, which is planned for nationwide expansion to reach 850,000 students annually starting in 2026 using government funds. Nepal also established its first evidence-based model of care for childhood non-communicable diseases treating 455 children with chronic conditions. The United Nations supported Nepal's first national childhood non-communicable diseases survey, generating key evidence for the 2026-2030 National Health Strategy.

The United Nations strengthened the Government of Nepal's integrated health services, reaching more than 342,000 people (13,105 women), including 26,822 people who inject drugs, 305,849 migrants and spouses, and 10,019 people living with HIV, through behaviour change communication and community-based support. HIV testing and treatment linkages were robust, with 18,085 people who inject drugs and 188,271 migrants tested, resulting in the identification of 54 new HIV cases, most of whom were promptly enrolled in antiretroviral treatment.



A young girl displays her marked finger after receiving the measles-rubella vaccine in Bagmati Province, February 2024.
©WHO Nepal/Bikram Rai

Bringing Lifesaving Skills Closer to Communities in Remote Nepal

In Nepal's remote and mountainous regions, emergencies rarely happen near hospitals. When accidents occur, reaching medical care can take hours and the critical 'golden hour' for saving lives is often lost along the way.

For communities in provinces such as Karnali and Sudurpaschim, bystanders were often the only people present when emergencies unfolded but they lacked the skills to help.

That is beginning to change.

In 2025, the Government of Nepal, through the National Health Training Centre under the Ministry of Health and Population, launched the Community First Health Responders initiative with technical support from the United Nations through the World Health Organization and financial support from the European Commission. The initiative set out to close a longstanding gap in Nepal's emergency response system by enabling communities themselves to act as trained first responders.

The programme introduced a standardized learning package and trained 175 trainers drawn not only from hospitals but also from the Nepal Police, Armed Police Force, Nepal Army and Traffic Police, creating an unprecedented multi-sector network of responders. These trainers are now cascading practical emergency care skills including bleeding control, fracture stabilization, safe patient transfer and early disease detection to communities where professional medical help may take hours to arrive.

More than 600 people have been trained as Community First Health Responders, over 65 per cent of them from non-medical backgrounds, expanding lifesaving knowledge far beyond the formal health workforce.

For Sunita Chand, a community health volunteer from Dailekh, the training has changed how she responds to emergencies in her village.

"We used to feel helpless when someone was seriously injured," she said. "Now we know how to stabilize a patient and help them reach a health facility safely."

By embedding emergency preparedness within communities and linking them more closely to health authorities and security agencies, the initiative is strengthening Nepal's pre-hospital care system. What was once a gap in the health system - communities waiting for help - is gradually becoming a new line of response, where local people are equipped to save lives when every minute matters.



Security personnel practicing cardiopulmonary resuscitation during a training of trainers session for Community First Health Responders in Kathmandu, Bagmati Province, February 2025.
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16.9%
Underweight children
under 5 years of age

6.6%
Malnutrition prevalence
children under 5

85.4%
Civil birth
registration

26.2%
Moderate to severe stunting
children under 5

35%
Contraceptive
prevalence rate

54%
Out-of-pocket health
expenditure

92.5%
Full immunization
coverage of infants

98%
Basic drinking water
services coverage

79.9%
Basic sanitation
coverage



A mother after her daughter received a measles-rubella vaccination at a local health facility in Bagmati Province.
©WHO Nepal/Sujan Govinda Amatya

Tuberculosis (TB) screening was conducted for 256,563 migrants and viral load tests were conducted for 5,860 people living with HIV, ensuring comprehensive care. Furthermore, drug resistant-TB (DR-TB) screening (rifampicin resistance) was conducted at outpatient departments that identified 138 cases or 8 per cent of those screened to have DR-TB and 70 per cent of the identified DR-TB cases were enrolled in treatment, reflecting effective implementation of protocols. This contributed to approximately 25 per cent of all TB patients and 25 per cent of all DR-TB confirmed cases in the country receiving treatment in 2025. Additionally, over 40,000 migrant beneficiaries (20,173 women and 20,551 men) received United Nations-facilitated health assessments, including screening for TB and other conditions.

Nepal advanced towards SDG target 2.2 in 2025 with measurable improvements in child and adolescent nutrition, driven by strengthened local health systems and coordinated United Nations support. Early detection of malnutrition expanded significantly, with 3.75 million children under five years old screened for malnutrition and wasting, an increase of 150,000 over 2024. This contributed to the treatment of 20,000 children with severe wasting, achieving an 80 per cent recovery rate, aligned with Sphere (Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response) standards. Micronutrient interventions were scaled up nationwide: 448,463 children aged 6-23 months received multiple micronutrient powder, boosting coverage from 42 to 60 per cent, while Vitamin A supplementation exceeded 90 per cent for children aged 6-59 months. Some 1.3 million girls accessed iron-folic acid supplementation and nutrition education, aimed at reducing prevalence of anaemia among adolescent girls.

United Nations-backed maternal and newborn nutrition services strengthened care quality and equity. Nine hundred and sixty preterm and sick newborns received lifesaving human milk, 6,000 mothers received counselling, and 750 women made voluntary breastmilk donations. In addition, 195 health workers received training, as well as 1,403 female community health volunteers and 31,961 caregivers on family MUAC (mid-upper arm circumference) measurement to support the nutrition rehabilitation centres integrating early childhood development. In parallel, the capacity of 480 government officials was augmented for them to implement Food Systems Strategic Operation Plans, advancing local ownership. A total of approximately 1.3 million children from marginalized and vulnerable rural populations benefited from United Nations-supported food security and social protection programmes, including cash grants, food, and fortified food distribution schemes, contributing to long-term reductions in malnutrition and improved human capital development.

Nepal advanced towards SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation in 2025 through strengthened WASH governance, institutional capacity, and climate-resilient systems, supported by coordinated United Nations technical assistance. National progress continued with access to at least basic drinking water reaching 98 per cent, and basic sanitation coverage reaching 79.9 per cent. The United Nations supported policy reforms and institutional strengthening under Nepal's federal WASH framework, contributing to improved sector coordination, regulatory alignment, and monitoring systems across federal, provincial, and local levels.



Ramita working in a field after completing skills training in agriculture and goat rearing through the EWPN joint programme.
©EWPN/Robic Upadhyay

Ramita Kumari's Journey from Abandonment to Independence - the Empowered Women, Prosperous Nepal Joint Programme

In Dailekh, Karnali Province, coordinated United Nations support has helped shift responses to gender-based violence (GBV) from fragmented, short-term assistance to a pathway towards safety, justice, and economic independence. Through the EWPN joint programme, implemented by ILO, UNFPA, UNICEF, and UN Women, women facing abandonment and exclusion are no longer treated only as survivors of crisis, but as rights-holders and economic actors rebuilding their lives.

For Ramita (a pseudonym), this shift was tangible. Abandoned by her husband and forced out of her marital home, she returned to her maternal village with her children, uncertain of how to survive. EWPN's integrated support enabled a turning point. Psychosocial counselling helped her recognize the violence she experienced and regain confidence, while legal assistance supported her pursuit of property rights. At the same time, child-focused services stabilized her household and reduced intergenerational vulnerability.

Crucially, livelihoods support transformed recovery into sustainability. With skills training, seed capital, and entrepreneurship coaching, Ramita established a small goat-rearing enterprise that grew steadily, allowing her to join a cooperative, open a savings account, and earn regular income. As she explains, "When I came back to my maternal home with my children, I had nothing, no money, no confidence, no voice. The EWPN support helped me heal, taught me my rights, and supported me to start my animal husbandry business. Today I earn, I save, and my children feel safe. I stand on my own feet again."

The Resident Coordinator's Office played a strategic convening role by aligning ILO, UNFPA, UNICEF, and UN Women behind a shared outcome with the Government of Nepal and support from the European Union. This coordination ensured that protection, justice, and economic empowerment reinforced one another, demonstrating how integrated United Nations action can convert crisis response into durable recovery, dignity, and resilience.

A key shift within the WASH sector occurred at the governance level. By 2025, 125 local governments endorsed WASH Acts and 64 established dedicated WASH Units, strengthening local institutional capacity to plan, regulate, and monitor services. Political commitment to the sector was further elevated through the revitalization of the WASH Parliamentary Forum and global advocacy by the Prime Minister at the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development, where Nepal joined the Head of State Initiatives of Sanitation and Water for All. These efforts contributed to the increased weighting of WASH indicators in Nepal's Local Governance Performance Assessment System, linking WASH service delivery performance to fiscal incentives for local governments.

System strengthening was further advanced through the rollout of key sector policy instruments and operational frameworks. The Municipal WASH Financing Strategy Manual, Water Safe Community Guidelines, and open defaecation free sustainability frameworks were implemented in 39 local governments and subsequently scaled nationwide. At the national level, sanitation assessments integrating Citywide Inclusive Sanitation indicators were incorporated into the National WASH Management Information System, strengthening evidence-based planning and monitoring. The United Nations also supported regulatory reforms to operationalize the WASH Regulation, the publication of WASH status reports in 56 local governments, and the training of 142 officials on climate-resilient WASH financing.

Climate resilience and environmental monitoring systems were strengthened through support to the development of Nepal's NDC 3.0 implementation plan for WASH (2025–2030), the revision and decentralization of the National Water Quality Surveillance Guideline, and the establishment of real-time groundwater monitoring stations. Capacity building on the global Climate Resilient WASH Framework reached 111 provincial and local government officials, while assessments of 10 water and wastewater laboratories strengthened environmental monitoring and early detection of public health risks. Together, these policy reforms, governance improvements, and institutional capacity strengthening measures advanced Nepal's transition toward inclusive, climate-resilient, and fiscally sustainable WASH systems, reinforcing the enabling environment needed to accelerate progress toward universal access and ensure that no one is left behind.

In 2025, Nepal accelerated progress toward SDG 4: Quality Education through transformative system-level reforms that strengthened decentralized education governance, curriculum relevance, and equitable service delivery.

Through coordinated United Nations support and strong government leadership, 353 local governments (over 40 per cent) endorsed and published climate-resilient, disability-inclusive, costed GESI responsive Local Education Plans, using a unified planning toolkit aligned with the School Education Sector Plan. These reforms enhanced federal-local coherence, supported Nepal to unlock results-based financing, and increased domestic allocations for education. They also helped to expand green school and safety frameworks to 26 per cent of schools together with promoting school nutrition within national systems. A government-owned appraisal system of education facilities and performance of schools, developed with United Nations technical expertise, was institutionalized nationwide, strengthening accountability and continuous quality improvement across all local governments. Technical assistance was also provided for the development of a National Non-formal Education Framework, aligning with objective 3 of the School Education Sector Plan 2022-2032. This pivotal framework is informed by an in-depth sub-sector analysis based on the 2021 National Census and is designed to provide a structured, inclusive, and future-ready direction for non-formal education and adult learning education in Nepal.



Sharmila Bhandari Gautam (right), from Koshi Province receives counselling by the Special Initiative for Mental Health.
©WHO Nepal /Sulab Shrestha

Breaking the Silence in Transforming Mental Health in Nepal

In Nepal, growing recognition of the mental health challenges faced by children and adolescents is driving stronger national action to expand services and reduce stigma. National data show that 5.2 per cent of adolescents aged 13 to 19 have diagnosable mental health conditions, while 18.3 per cent of children aged 6 to 18 experience emotional or behavioural difficulties. Suicide remains the third leading cause of death among young people aged 15 to 29.

With support from the United Nations, the Government of Nepal is strengthening policies, services and awareness to ensure that mental health care becomes more accessible for children and young people across the country.

The initiative has strengthened national and local capacity to deliver integrated mental health services. Technical support from WHO and UNICEF has helped expand early identification, referral and care pathways while integrating mental health into general health services. Through the Helping Adolescents Thrive initiative, more than 100,000 children have been reached with social and emotional learning that supports resilience and well-being.

At the same time, the operationalization of the national suicide prevention helpline 1166, development of district hospital service models, expansion of tele mental health services at Kanti Children's Hospital and provincial hospitals, and the use of digital platforms such as U-Report and the Machhuni chatbot are improving access to support.

Beyond service delivery, these efforts are helping shift public attitudes toward mental health. In December 2025, the Government of Nepal, together with WHO and UNICEF, launched a National Mental Health Campaign led by the National Health Education, Information and Communication Centre. Through community outreach, strategic communication and youth engagement, the campaign aims to normalize help seeking, reduce stigma and strengthen family and community support systems.

Together, these actions are helping position mental health as a growing national priority. By strengthening systems, expanding services and raizing awareness, the partnership between the Government of Nepal and the United Nations is laying the foundation for a more inclusive and resilient mental health system that better supports the well-being of children and young people.

The modernization of the school curriculum advanced as the United Nations assisted in the revision and endorsement of the national curriculum for Grades 4 to 12, integrating comprehensive sexuality education, climate-smart content and gender-transformative approaches. Textbook revisions are currently underway to enable a national roll-out of the revised curriculum. To reinforce nutrition-education linkages, the United Nations and government partners developed operational guidelines and drafted a fully costed plan for the Mid-day Meals Programme under a Home-Grown School Feeding approach, promoting sustainable local food systems and improving learning environments and nutritionally vulnerable children.

In partnership with the Government of Nepal, the United Nations advanced system-wide reform initiatives including promoting climate-responsive and disaster resilient schools that are prepared to combat climate induced hazards and are ready with learning continuity plans in the aftermath of an emergency so that educators and students can bounce back in a timely manner, mitigating the loss of learning. The United Nations also provided technical assistance to build gender-responsive learning environments and enhance the capacity of teachers and institutions on transversal competencies. The integration of non-formal education data into the Integrated Education Management Information System was also advanced together with an integrated National Qualifications Framework and expansion of low-tech and digital learning pathways for marginalized learners. These efforts reinforced evidence-based, equity-focused planning and contributed to more resilient and inclusive education systems with the adoption of classes in local languages, expanded girl-friendly school facilities, screening of children for disabilities and distribution of assistive devices to children with disabilities, leading to increased enrolment rates of girl children and children with disabilities in schools. In 2025, the United Nations also helped local governments to strengthen school-level mechanisms for preventing and addressing school-related gender-based violence, reaching 155 schools and including technical support in developing gender-based guidelines for municipalities.

With United Nations support, Nepal accelerated progress towards SDG target 16.9 through a comprehensive, inclusive, and resilient United Nations joint programme RERAS implemented by UNDP and WFP system, exceeding the 2025 planned annual birth registration target of 300,000 to reach 511,710 new registrations. Engagement with parliamentarians and policy makers contributed to policy reforms, further reducing the risks of exclusion. These gains reflect strengthened governance and an expanding digital ecosystem that now enables 99.7 per cent of registration centres (6,728 of 6,743) to deliver online services interoperable with health, national IDs, statistics, and social protection systems. The issuance of a national ID number at birth has enhanced the foundation for the integration of universal legal identity and future social protection.

Policy reforms further reduced exclusion risks. The 2025 amendment to the National ID and Civil Registration Act introduced a one-time correction mechanism for vital records, addressing longstanding barriers for marginalized groups, including women, *Dalits,* and children lacking documentation.

The United Nations supported the Government of Nepal to strengthen the national CRVS system by deploying two technical personnel to the Department of National ID and Civil Registration to operationalize the online civil registration system, and by engaging with parliamentarians and policy makers in joint policy advocacy that contributed to the 2025 amendment of the National ID and Civil Registration Act. The United Nations also provided technical assistance to develop and roll out national standard operating procedures for civil registrations, enabling 28 local governments to attain full registration coverage. Further support included capacity strengthening of civil registrars at federal, provincial, and local levels and finalizing an inequality assessment on CRVS that highlighted disparities across gender, caste, ethnicity, and geography for informed and targeted outreach to underserved local governments.

Additionally, the United Nations contributed to the 2025 review of Nepal's Decade of Action on CRVS (2015–2024), covering legislation policy, institutional, and service-delivery dimensions. The review recommended legal and policy reforms, strengthening digital systems and interoperability between those systems, expanding online registrations and improved access to marginalized populations, enhancing integrated system architecture, data sharing agreements, aligned with national digital initiatives. In the region, Nepal strengthened its leadership by co-chairing the South Asia CRVS Professional Network and endorsing the extension of the Asian and Pacific CRVS Decade to 2030, reinforcing its commitment to a modern, inclusive, and shock-resilient CRVS system that leaves no one behind.

SECTORAL DATA

70.2% **Net enrolment in early** childhood development

94.4% **Net enrolment in** basic school (grades 1-8)

55.8% **Net enrolment in** secondary school (grades 9-10)

0.92 **Gender parity** in basic schools

0.96 **Gender parity** in secondary schools

78.1% **Completion rate** in basic school

19.5% **Completion rate** in secondary school



Nutritious mid-day school meals connect children to local farms under the UN's joint program RERAS by UNDP and WFP.

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Enhancing Pandemic Preparedness through a stronger and more resilient animal health system in Nepal

Nepal has made major strides in strengthening its ability to detect and respond to emerging animal and zoonotic diseases, with improved laboratory capacity, enhanced surveillance systems, and a stronger veterinary workforce. Building on a One Health approach, the Strengthening Pandemic Preparedness for Early Detection in Nepal initiative has contributed to strengthening the animal health system through capacity building initiatives across all seven provinces and all 77 districts reaching more than 4,600 animal health professionals and farmers, safeguarding both animal and public health. Implemented by FAO Nepal with the Pandemic Fund support, the initiative has driven measurable progress in frontline diagnostics, disease reporting, and community-level prevention of zoonotic diseases.

Five veterinary laboratories were renovated and equipped with modern equipment and diagnostic reagents, while molecular testing capacity was expanded to four additional laboratories. More than 300 laboratory personnel deepened their technical skills through hands-on laboratory placements and specialized training in pathology, laboratory biosafety and biosecurity, and sample collection. These investments have significantly enhanced the country's readiness to detect priority zoonotic and transboundary animal diseases, enabling quicker, more reliable diagnostic services across the national network.

Surveillance and information systems also saw substantial strengthening. More than 1,500 biological samples from poultry and pigs were tested in three rounds of avian influenza bio-surveillance, complemented by pig and poultry value chain studies and a national antimicrobial use survey across 29 districts. Nearly 500 animal health professionals nationwide were oriented on the digital National Animal Health Information System to improve real-time reporting, while over 300 staff were trained to better recognize and report animal diseases in field conditions. Complementing these system-level improvements, FAO-supported rabies awareness campaigns have reached 36,000 school children across 700 schools in all seven provinces, strengthening prevention and risk awareness at the community level. Together, these interventions are helping ensure faster detection, improved notification, and more coordinated response from local to central levels.

Sustained workforce development remains central to the initiative's long-term impact. The establishment of Nepal's in-country three-month Field Epidemiology Training Programme for Veterinarians represents a major milestone in enhancing national epidemiological capacity. To date, 30 frontline veterinarians have graduated from the first two cohorts, with 20 additional participants currently enrolled in the third cohort. Additionally, three veterinary officers are currently supported for advanced regional field epidemiology training (Masters' level) in Thailand, after successfully completing the intermediate level Regional Field Epidemiology Training Programme for Veterinarians. In addition, an advanced epidemiological capacity has been built within the National Veterinary Services through three slots of 6-day advanced geospatial trainings reaching 47 participants.

Nepal advanced progress toward SDG 5: Gender Equality in 2025 by strengthening a coherent, survivor-centred, and systems-based response to gender-based violence and harmful practices, enabled through coordinated United Nations support. Significant policy and legislative reforms shaped the enabling environment, including the endorsement of the Integrated Bonded Labour Bill aligned with International Labour Organization (ILO) Protocol 29, the revision of child labour legislation in line with ILO Convention 138, the adoption of the National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage 2025, the development of the National Action Plan against Gender-Based Violence 2025, and the development of the Gender-Based Violence Case Management Guidelines 2025 that clarifies the institutional mandates across all tiers of government.

Localization was accelerated as 28 local governments adopted ending child marriage strategies and 31 local governments endorsed GESI-costed implementation plans, strengthening gender-responsive budgeting and enabling sustained investment in gender-based violence prevention and response. The United Nations also contributed to developing the National Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Roadmap with multistakeholder coordination and advocated with the Government of Nepal leading to the initiation of building an Integrated Gender-Based Violence Umbrella Law, a crucial step towards harmonizing fragmented legal provisions and embedding survivor-centred standards nationwide. Furthermore, the GBV and child protection digital referral pathway endorsed by the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens was introduced nationwide, enabling real-time service mapping and stronger, coordinated responses.

As a result of strengthened systems and services, more than 194,000 women, adolescents, youth, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQIA+ individuals accessed multisectoral GBV and mental health and psychosocial support services, and 350,162 girls and women received support related to harmful practices. Through the Joint Response Action Plan, 2,670 survivors of GBV[34] received psychosocial counselling.

Monitoring reports revealed measurable shifts in key social norms,[35] such as increased community acceptance of survivors seeking support, greater recognition of GBV as a collective concern, and a visible reduction in stigma around mental health discussions.

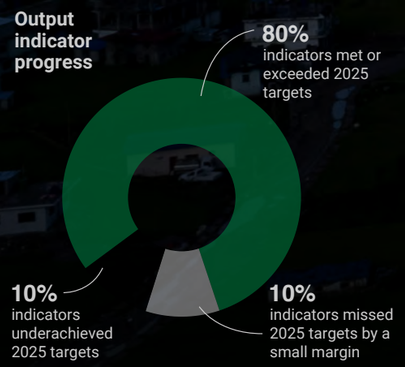
Six local governments[36] were declared Child Labour Free Zones, and 118 children were rescued from the worst forms of child labour. One-Stop Crisis Management Centres and shelters expanded integrated health and protection responses, child helplines and their shelters provided support to girls and boys experiencing violence, abuse, and exploitation, and gender-transformative prevention efforts reached 240,000 people through community and media platforms. Collectively, these reforms deepened institutional accountability, expanded survivor-centred services, and accelerated efforts to end GBV and harmful practices—ensuring that no one is left behind.


Off-season tunnel farming is transforming livelihoods for farmers such as Dil Kumari, supported by UNDP's Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods (DCRL) project.
©UNDP Nepal/Robic Upadhyay Shrestha

A view of Jajarkot, Karnali Province.
©UNRCO/Narendra Shrestha

3

Strategic Priority 3
Environmental Sustainability, Climate and Disaster Resilience



Indicator progress details

56,733
people gained access to clean energy
or benefitted from services from clean, affordable and sustainable energy

115,364
people beneffited from nature protection initiatives

31,449
hectares of degraded forests rehabilitated or restored

258,881
additional people with improved access
to quality infrastructure/ infrastructure-related services

481,250
people covered with early warning information
in line with the Sendai Framework

46.08%
Land area under forest coverage

10.33%
Energy consumption from renewable sources

18.26 GJ
Per capita energy consumption (gigajoules)

97.6%
Coverage of electricity grid

2,409 MW
National annual peak electricity demand

465 kWh
Per capita electricity consumption

1.05%
Reduction in annual loss of human life from natural disasters per 100k population

$38M
Estimated economic loss from natural disasters

109,389
Households affected by natural disasters in 2025

In 2025, Nepal made progress towards SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, 13: Climate Action, and 15: Life On Land, as well as multiple related SDG targets, by advancing systemic climate action, environmental sustainability, and resilience through gender-responsive and inclusive policies and localized interventions. With coordinated technical assistance from the United Nations, the Government of Nepal submitted its third NDC to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, revizing its quantifiable, net zero–aligned emission targets.

The NDC 3.0 expands sectoral coverage, with focus areas related to energy (SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy); agriculture (SDG 2: Zero Hunger); forestry (SDG 15: Life on Land); and other land use, waste, industrial processes, and product use (SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure and SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production), as well as other key sectors, such as WASH (SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation); education (SDG 4: Quality Education); water resources, health (SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being); urban and rural settlements (SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities); and tourism (SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth). Furthermore, the NDC 3.0 places additional emphasis on climate change adaptation and climate finance, features a stronger loss and damage component, and highlights the importance of ownership by provincial and local governments. Throughout the NDC 3.0, GESI is strongly integrated (SDG 5: Gender Equality and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities), including the needs of women, children, and youth, the principle of leave no one behind, and just transition, with focus on green jobs, skills, and social protection.

Complementing this achievement and advancing progress towards SDG 15: Life on Land, the Government of Nepal finalized the Vision Document for the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, aligning 36 national targets with the Global Biodiversity Framework, and made significant progress on REDD+ and jurisdictional carbon transactions. Nepal operationalized a more coherent structure for climate and sustainable finance, critical to achieving SDG 13: Climate Action, with United Nations technical assistance through the adoption of the INFF 2025-2030, the Climate Change Financing Framework 2025, the Climate Finance Mobilization Procedures 2025, and the Carbon Trading Regulations 2025. As a direct result of these enabling policies, Nepal has further advanced its participation in international carbon markets, the LEAF (Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance) carbon trade initiatives, in addition to the existing REDD+ and the Clean Development Mechanism. The new LEAF agreement will make Nepal the first Asian country to be onboarded and is expected to unlock up to US$55 million in carbon finance from forest carbon credits.

Implementation of the Climate Change Financing Framework has been advanced in Koshi and Gandaki provinces by translating national climate commitments into actionable provincial climate change strategies and action plans, enabling systematic integration of climate finance into Nepal's development planning. At the local level, the United Nations provided technical assistance to three local governments[37] in integrating climate priorities into development processes, to eight local governments[38] in creating Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Frameworks and updated disaster preparedness and response plans, and to four local governments[39] and two provincial governments in preparing and implementing climate-resilient, disaster risk-reducing, and gender-responsive adaptation plans.



A misty morning in Jajarkot, Karnali Province.
©UNRCO/Narendra Shrestha

Rebuilding Safer and More Inclusive Homes for Earthquake-Affected Communities in Karnali

In Nepal's Karnali Province, the 2023 earthquake left many vulnerable households struggling to rebuild. For persons with disabilities, damaged infrastructure, limited mobility and loss of shelter made recovery harder. Through the Government of Nepal's Joint Recovery Action Plan, led by the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office, and implemented by IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP, vulnerable households received support to rebuild their houses, regaining independence.

Parimale Rana, who lives with a disability in a remote hill community, was among those most affected. After the earthquake, rebuilding seemed impossible. "The destruction made everything worse," he recalls. "I kept asking myself, 'Who will build a house for me?' I couldn't do it alone."

That changed when the Joint Recovery Action Plan prioritized vulnerable households like Parimale's and supported reconstruction using disaster-resilient standards.

Municipal authorities and United Nations technical teams worked with Parimale to identify a safe construction site within his land and guide the building process. The new house was barrier-free with an accessible water tap and a toilet close to the entrance.

"Having water and a toilet nearby has made my life much easier," he says. "I no longer have to go far just to fetch water. It gives me freedom."

Beyond restoring shelter, the programme is helping demonstrate how recovery efforts can be inclusive and resilient. The Resident Coordinator's Office supported coordination across United Nations agencies and partners under the Joint Recovery Action Plan, aligning technical expertise and resources to reach the most vulnerable households.

Parimale stands in front of his new home, built after months of hard work and anticipation.
©IOM Nepal

These provincial climate change strategies and action plans helped unlock climate resilience grants at the local level, totalling US$925,000 in sustainable finance across five local governments. Building on national targets for universal energy access and resilient infrastructure, in line with SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, and target 9.1, United Nations initiatives advanced Nepal's clean energy transition by expanding access to clean, reliable energy for an additional 56,733 people (52.6 per cent women), including 4,765 people (33.5 per cent women) in earthquake-affected areas. This was achieved through the rehabilitation of 11 micro-hydro systems and installation of solar panels on public buildings, generating 1.2 MW of additional capacity. Through increased access to energy, a total of 1,436 enterprises (61 per cent women-led) were supported, advancing inclusive economic opportunities and reducing the energy access gap for remote communities. In addition, 6,834 people (65 per cent women) benefitted from reduced indoor air pollution and daily workloads through the United Nations' provision of improved cookstoves.

Alongside energy advancements, the United Nations supported initiatives to strengthen climate-resilient water supply and infrastructure systems across Nepal, directly benefitting 258,881 people (64.5 per cent women). Local governments, with United Nations technical assistance, improved 25 km of irrigation channels helping farmlands cope during seasonal droughts, rehabilitated 126.7 km of rural roads linking remote settlements to critical services (healthcare, education, markets), and installed 1,320 tap stands to provide clean water in line with the Government of Nepal's one house, one tap policy 2016-2030. These efforts helped lessen the gendered burden of unpaid care work and create opportunities for rural women from diverse backgrounds to engage in productive activities. Post-earthquake recovery efforts restored community facilities and clean energy access, while rainwater harvesting systems and green infrastructure in urban schools benefited 7,373 students (55 per cent girls). Strengthened health infrastructures equipped with solar energy and upgraded insulation helped ensure safe, reliable, and integrated maternal, newborn, and sexual health and reproductive health services for 53,341 women and girls, reinforcing resilience in the areas affected by climate change and natural disasters.



On 29 July 2025, Pinki, 21, a youth advocate, is raizing awareness about climate change and its impact on her community in Sarlahi District, Madhesh Province.
©UNICEF Nepal/RMaharjan

Children and Youth Shaping Climate Action in Nepal

In Nepal, where nearly half the population is under the age of 24, children and young people are increasingly at the forefront of climate advocacy. Yet their voices have often been absent from national climate decision-making, despite facing the growing impacts of extreme heat, floods, landslides, air pollution and disruptions to education and health. With support from the United Nations, the Government of Nepal is creating new platforms to ensure children and youth contribute meaningfully to national climate policy and action.

In April 2025, the Balbalika tatha Yuwa Sambaad brought together children and young people from across Nepal for a national dialogue on climate action ahead of the international Sagarmatha Sambaad. Jointly organized by the Government of Nepal and the United Nations, including FAO, UNDP and UNICEF, the dialogue created a structured platform for youth engagement at a critical moment in Nepal's climate policy process.

The initiative strengthened national dialogue on climate action by placing children and youth perspectives at the centre of discussions on education, health, nutrition, water, and environmental sustainability. Participants shared lived experiences of climate impacts and showcased youth-led solutions emerging from communities across the country.

A key outcome of the dialogue was the Children and Youth Declaration, developed by participants to outline priorities for a climate-resilient Nepal. The declaration called for stronger evidence on climate impacts on children, greater participation of youth in decision-making, expanded climate education and improved access to climate finance for youth-led initiatives. In May 2025, the declaration was formally submitted to the Sagarmatha Sambaad Secretariat at the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, ensuring that children and youth perspectives inform Nepal's climate diplomacy and policy discussions, including the preparations for COP30.

This engagement builds on sustained United Nations support for child-centred climate action in Nepal. Through coordinated advocacy and technical assistance, UNICEF and United Nations partners have supported the Government of Nepal to integrate children's rights and youth participation into national climate commitments, including Nepal's NDC 3.0. As a result, Nepal's updated climate commitments incorporate strong provisions on climate education, resilient health systems, child-responsive water and sanitation services and inclusive participation in climate governance.



Anjita Archarya, 15, receives an HPV vaccination in almatiya, Lumbini Province, in February 2025.
©UNICEF Nepal/Robic Upadhaya

Vaccines of Hope

In Nepal, coordinated United Nations support is helping expand access to life-saving vaccines and essential medicines while strengthening national capacity to respond to public health threats.

Through a partnership between the Government of Nepal, UNICEF and WHO, major progress has been made in protecting children and communities from preventable diseases and improving treatment for life-threatening conditions. In 2025, these efforts contributed to three major milestones: nationwide HPV vaccination to prevent cervical cancer, rapid cholera outbreak response, and the first delivery of childhood cancer medicines in the country.

The initiative has strengthened Nepal's immunization and emergency health systems through coordinated technical and operational support. With assistance from UNICEF, WHO and partners including Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, Nepal vaccinated more than 1.46 million adolescent girls against HPV, achieving 94 per cent coverage. This nationwide campaign represents a major step toward eliminating cervical cancer and will be sustained through integration of the HPV vaccine into the routine immunization programme from 2026. At the same time, strengthened disease surveillance, health worker training and improved supply management have reinforced the country's capacity to respond quickly to emerging health threats.

Beyond immunization, the partnership has improved preparedness and response to disease outbreaks. During cholera outbreaks in 2025, more than one million doses of oral cholera vaccine were delivered to high-risk districts with support from UNICEF, WHO and the International Coordinating Group on Vaccine Provision. A reactive vaccination campaign in Parsa and Bara districts, Madhesh Province, reached over 900,000 people with 90 per cent coverage, helping contain the outbreak while strengthening emergency response systems and community awareness.

The collaboration is also expanding access to treatment for serious non-communicable diseases. In 2025, Nepal received its first shipment of childhood cancer medicines through the Global Platform for Access to Childhood Cancer Medicines, a partnership between WHO and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The platform will provide a five-year supply of 35 essential medicines, improving treatment options for children with cancer and strengthening national capacity to deliver specialized care.

The United Nations advanced the sustainable use of natural resources and rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems to strengthen climate resilience and environmental integrity, advancing progress towards SDG 15: Life on Land. A total of 31,449 hectares of forest was restored or rehabilitated, which included 28,482 hectares of degraded forests rehabilitated through sustainable forest management, 2,712 hectares restored through assisted natural regeneration, 106 hectares of rangeland restored, 35 hectares of terrace land rehabilitated, and 13.94 hectares of urban green spaces rehabilitated across the Kathmandu Valley through roadside and open-space plantations.

A total of 66,848 people (52 per cent women) benefitted from improved ecosystem services and climate-smart natural resource management through United Nations-funded field schools established in 120 villages and 164 climate-resilient community infrastructures built, including riverbank stabilization, conservation ponds, and gully controls.

The United Nations backed urban resilience efforts that embedded climate-adaptive principles into city planning, integrating green spaces, permeable pavements, and nature-based drainage systems to reduce flood and heat risks, in line with SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. The Cities 4 Women project, funded by the European Union and the Government of Finland, and jointly implemented by the United Nations (UN-Habitat, UNOPS) with Cities Alliance, the Ministry of Urban Development and local municipalities embedded climate-resilient principles into urban planning and contributed to the co-design of gender-responsive public spaces such as parks, streets, and markets with nature-based solutions to reduce urban heat island effects, improve drainage, and prioritize women's safety and participation. These initiatives, coupled with the planting of 40,000 trees along rehabilitated roads and the review and implementation of the National Gender-Responsive and Climate-Resilient Urban Development Framework, fostered greener, more inclusive, and adaptive urban environments - linking environmental rehabilitation with livelihoods, safety, and equitable urban growth.



Terrace farming in Jajarkot.
©UNRCO/Narendra Shrestha

From Degradation to Renewal: Water and Ecosystem Recovery Transform Nepal's Climate-Vulnerable Chure hills

Nepal's climate-vulnerable Chure landscape is beginning to show signs of long-term recovery as communities gain more reliable access to water, degraded ecosystems regenerate, and productive land is increasingly protected from sedimentation. As a flagship initiative funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and jointly implemented by FAO Nepal in partnership with the Ministry of Forests and Environment, the Building a Resilient Churia Region in Nepal (BRCRN) project is laying strong foundations for healthier ecosystems and more secure livelihoods across one of the country's most fragile regions.

Years of unsustainable extraction of natural resources and erratic rainfall had reduced groundwater recharge and destabilized river systems that sustain millions of inhabitants in the Terai. BRCRN's integrated restoration approach is reversing these trends. To date, 53,024 hectares of land and forest are under improved, sustainable management, contributing to carbon sequestration and healthier watersheds. This progress is reinforced by 321 soil and water conservation structures, including 96 conservation ponds that are replenishing groundwater and ensuring dry-season water availability for households, livestock, and agriculture.

Similarly, 225 riverbank stabilization and gully control structures are helping protect arable land by preventing sand and debris from damaging fertile fields. These measures reduce erosion, enhance riverbank stability, and lower climate-induced risks for downstream communities. Together, they support long-term environmental recovery across the Chure–Terai system.

To ensure sustained community stewardship, the project established 108 Natural Resource Management Field Schools as hubs for learning climate-resilient land-use practices. Led by 80 trained facilitators, including 41 women, these schools have trained 2,220 farmers, most of them women, on adaptive agriculture, soil conservation, and nature-based solutions. Spanning 11 districts in Koshi, Madhesh, and Bagmati provinces, these efforts reached 666,667 beneficiaries, including Indigenous Peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities.

By restoring groundwater recharge, stabilizing fragile river systems, protecting farmland, and empowering communities to manage natural resources, the BRCRN project is helping transform the Chure hills into a more resilient, self-sustaining landscape. These interventions in the long-term strengthen water availability and climate resilience not only in the Chure hills but also in the densely populated Terai plains that depend on them.

©FAO Nepal

The United Nations contributed to advancing climate-smart agriculture and resilient food systems by ensuring access to water through solar powered irrigation schemes to bolster agricultural productivity amid climate variability. The solar lifting schemes linked to irrigation benefited 527 households, irrigating 79.1 hectares of farmland. In response to the 2025 Madhesh drought, the United Nations provided water pumps to 755 women farmers, helping them gain year-round access to a water supply including for irrigation of 122 hectares of farmland. The United Nations also facilitated 6,000 farmers (95 per cent women) to adopt climate-resilient practices, including using digital tools, irrigation facilities, and insurance services. Thirty-eight women producer groups were assisted to secure stable market demand through Home-Grown School Feeding resulting in a 40 per cent increase in income of 600 women farmers with total earnings of US$145,382 through harvesting and the sale of 424 tons of produce.

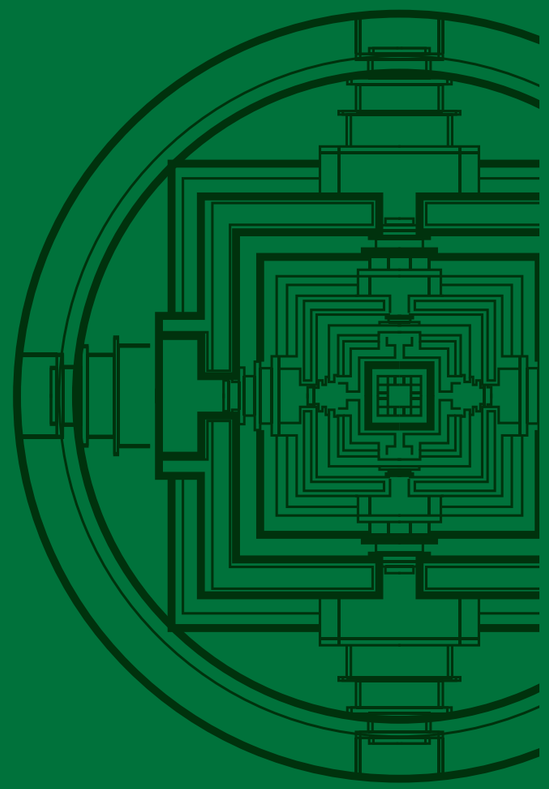
The United Nations strengthened disaster preparedness and resilience across federal, provincial, and local levels through technical assistance and institutional capacity building. The national Early Warning for All Roadmap was developed with United Nations support, aligning Nepal with the Sendai Framework commitment: the global goal of ensuring everyone is protected by people-centred, multi-hazard early warning systems by 2027. The roadmap outlines how Nepal will strengthen early warning systems across all hazards (including floods, landslides, droughts, heatwaves, and meteorological extremes) and priority actions are identified under core pillars. A total of 11 subnational governments (including three provinces and eight local governments) were assisted in developing the standard operating procedures for emergency response.

The United Nations supported operationalization of three provincial and three local Emergency Operation Centres, helping equip them with search and rescue tools. Targeted capacity-building events, with the deployment of technical experts as part of the operationalization of the Centres, enhanced readiness for disaster response while catalysing replication beyond pilot interventions areas. Twelve urban municipalities adopted urban emergency preparedness measures including institutionalization of Local Disaster Management Committees, and the Committees leading the operationalization of Emergency Operation Centres and Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans at the local level.

The United Nations also contributed to the expansion of the national shock-responsive social protection system and relief distribution standards that included pilots in four municipalities. These are designed to identify vulnerable households for targeted early warning messaging and provide for anticipatory actions based on beneficiary records of social protection services delivered by the municipalities, overlayed with assessments of risk, exposure, and vulnerability based on an analysis of historical trends in flood and other natural disasters. The United Nations facilitated harmonization of national frameworks, clarifying roles and approaches across government counterparts, United Nations agencies, and other humanitarian partners for providing cash-based emergency assistance during humanitarian crises including natural disasters. In 2025, anticipatory action multipurpose cash transfers under the national shock responsive social protection framework reached 7,065 at-risk people while 11,365 people affected by the monsoon floods in October 2025, through support from the United Nations, received emergency relief comprizing high energy ready to eat food. In addition, 22,000 households were assisted in rebuilding their households and community assets, adopting climate-smart practices, and strengthening local systems for coping and building resilience against climate change, natural disasters, emergencies and humanitarian crises. The United Nations further enhanced national anticipatory action capacities by supporting the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology to improve the accuracy of flood forecasting.



Students in the Urban Design Studio in Tansen, Lumbini Province.
©UNOPS/Ranjit Tripathy



Youth Designing Inclusive and Sustainable Urban Futures

Designing inclusive cities requires more than technical expertise. In Nepal, architecture students are working alongside communities and local governments to rethink how public spaces are planned and used, helping create urban environments that are safer, greener and more accessible.

Through the Cities 4 Women project supported by the United Nations, architecture students are working directly with communities and municipalities to design public open spaces that reflect the needs of local residents. By placing community voices at the centre of urban planning, the initiative is strengthening inclusive design practices while preparing a new generation of professionals to build more sustainable cities.

The Urban Design Studios bring students out of traditional classrooms and into neighbourhoods, parks, riverfronts and market areas where they engage directly with residents. In 2025, more than 60 architecture and urban design students participated in field-based studios across Birendranagar, Sunwal and Tansen. Over five days of community engagement, students worked with municipal officials, women's groups, youth, elderly persons, and persons with disabilities to co-design public open spaces that respond to local priorities.

This approach is strengthening practical skills in participatory planning and inclusive design. More than two-thirds of the participating students were women, helping increase representation in a field traditionally dominated by men, and over 90 per cent reported gaining new skills in community engagement and climate-responsive planning. For many students, the experience marked their first opportunity to design with communities rather than for them.

The studios also introduced sustainability and climate resilience as core elements of urban design. Students conducted micro-climate studies examining heat, wind and shade, mapped ecological systems and assessed drainage and flood risks. Their proposals incorporated nature-based solutions such as permeable surfaces, native vegetation and green buffers to improve thermal comfort and environmental sustainability in public spaces.

Beyond education, the initiative has strengthened collaboration between universities and local governments. Municipal leaders participated in site visits, design reviews and validation sessions, recognizing that community-driven design processes can better capture local priorities than traditional planning methods.

Inclusive Disaster Preparedness in Nepalgunj Strengthens Community Resilience

Nepalgunj, a rapidly growing city along the Nepal–India border, faces frequent risks from floods, fires and earthquakes. Here disaster preparedness is being reimagined through an inclusive approach.

Through the Strengthening Urban Preparedness, Earthquake Preparedness and Response (SUPER) project, implemented by UNDP in partnership with UNICEF, UN Women and Handicap International with financial support from the European Union, Nepalgunj became the first local government in Nepal and the Asia-Pacific region to adopt a gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) Strategic Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management.

The initiative has strengthened municipal capacity to plan and respond to disasters through inclusive policies, institutional reforms and community engagement. A dedicated municipal department for women, children, senior citizens and persons with disabilities was established, while disaster management planning now integrates gender and disability considerations across municipal systems.

The programme has also strengthened community-level preparedness. More than 400 volunteers have been trained in disaster response, including nine women volunteers who now support local preparedness activities such as evacuation drills, fire safety training and first aid. Infrastructure improvements, including the installation of 12 fire hydrants and distribution of fire extinguishers in residential areas, have further strengthened emergency response capacity in the urban core.

Beyond institutional change, the initiative has empowered communities to participate in disaster planning. Inclusive consultations involving women's organizations, organizations of persons with disabilities and local civil society groups contributed to the development of the GEDSI Strategic Action Plan. The plan includes measures such as accessible warning systems, improved emergency communication for persons with disabilities, and targeted support for pregnant women, new mothers and children during disasters.

These efforts are helping transform disaster preparedness from a reactive response into a proactive and inclusive system. As a result, Nepalgunj is emerging as a model for other municipalities seeking to strengthen disaster resilience while ensuring that no one is left behind.

Women volunteers practice first aid techniques, including bandaging, to strengthen local disaster preparedness and response skills.
©UN Women/Srijana Bhatta

A mother of a Rupantaran graduate participates in a family dialogue session, part of the EWPN joint programme, where she shares her views on ending child marriage.
©EWPN/Robic Upadhaya

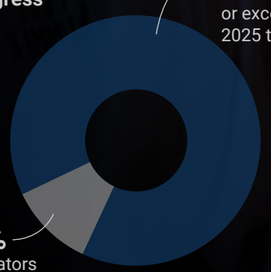
5 GENDER EQUALITY

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

4

Strategic Priority 4
Governance, Federalism, Participation, and Inclusion

Output indicator progress



89% indicators met or exceeded 2025 targets

11% indicators missed 2025 targets by a small margin

Indicator progress details

192
Policies adopted, including GESI and PSEA

145
initiatives to promote access to reliable information, safeguard inclusive and safe spaces, and protect civil society

590
Digital institutions leveraging digital technologies to improve peoples' lives

22,750
women, youth and most marginalised people engaged and participating in dialogue and decision-making

21,300
people accessed justice with United Nations support

SECTORAL DATA

0.52
Rule of Law Index

3.3
Transparency, Accountability and Corruption Index

0.622
Human Development Index

0.858
Gender Development Index

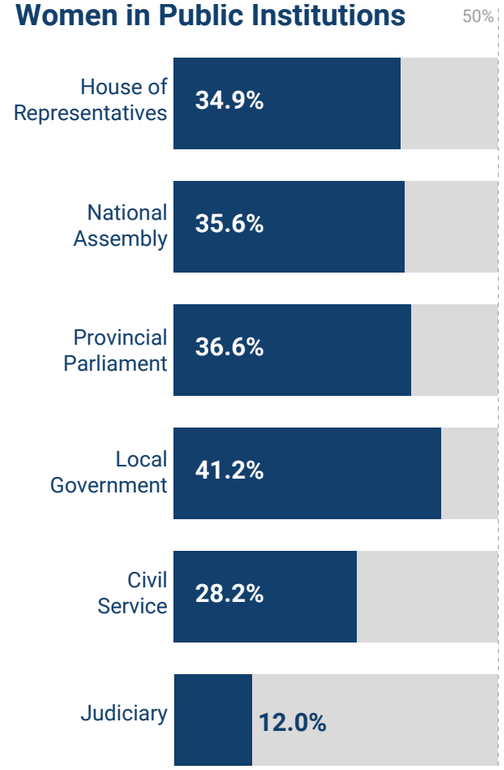
1,618
Cases decided by National Human Rights Commission
52.5% Not implemented
13.3% Fully implemented
34.1% Partially implemented

Despite the fragility of Nepal's political landscape, marked by the 2025 Gen Z–led movement demanding transparency, accountability, and inclusive governance, substantive progress was achieved in strengthening institutional frameworks, systems, and capacities for gender-responsive and inclusive governance, justice, and human rights. The federal, provincial, and local governments demonstrated resilience with commitment to reform, advancing gender-responsive and inclusive legal and policy measures, improving intergovernmental coordination, and strengthening implementation capacities. These gains laid the critical groundwork for rebuilding public trust, signalling a systemic shift towards more accountable governance, and anchoring inclusion at the core of Nepal's democratic renewal ahead of the 2026 elections.

At the federal level, 15 policies and strategies were adopted, reflecting strengthened institutional frameworks for gender equality and inclusive governance, contributing to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. Key policies include: the National Human Rights Commission Act 2025, the National Population Policy 2025, the National Youth Policy 2025, the Labour Migration Policy 2025, and the first amendment to the Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act 2018.[40] The enactment of the Nepal Citizenship (Second Amendment) Act 2025 removed legal barriers for children of single-parent households, migrant families, and cases of absent or unidentified fathers. The Act introduced a self-declaration mechanism for maternal confirmation and authorized identification cards for children under 16 years old. These reforms significantly reduce the risk of intergenerational statelessness, advance gender equality, and uphold children's rights.

The United Nations' confidential submission to the Human Rights Council for Nepal's fourth Universal Periodic Review was completed in 2025, representing a major contribution towards the Government of Nepal's accountability with targeted recommendations to guide national reforms and accelerate implementation to advance human rights. The submission process included the United Nations in Nepal conducting a comprehensive assessment of Nepal's progress on its international obligations in the field of human rights and commitments from previous Universal Periodic Review cycles. The United Nations complemented the submission with coordinated assistance to the Government of Nepal in implementation of the recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review.

Women in Public Institutions





From banana fibre to paper, women in Sudurpaschim Province are gaining skills and income while promoting sustainable alternatives under UNDP's GREEN portfolio.
©UNDP Nepal/Suraj Ratna Shakya

Expanding Women's Participation in Policing in Nepal

Increasing women's participation in policing in Nepal is emerging as an important pathway to strengthen justice, improve responses to GBV and expand economic opportunities for women. Yet women currently represent only 11.7 per cent of the Nepal Police force, leaving a significant gap in representation in a country where violence against women remains widespread.

With support from the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office through the UNOPS-implemented Nepal Security and Justice programme, targeted outreach and coaching initiatives are helping young women pursue careers in policing while shifting community attitudes toward women's leadership in security institutions.

The initiative has strengthened awareness and preparedness among young women in Madhesh, Lumbini and Karnali provinces, where traditional social norms often discourage women from entering security professions. Through community outreach and awareness sessions, more than 560 young women aged 15–28 engaged in discussions on careers in policing and the role of women in community safety. The engagement contributed to important shifts in perception, with 95 per cent of participants expressing willingness to join the police or support female family members who wished to pursue the profession, while three quarters reported more positive views about women in policing roles.

Beyond awareness, the programme provided structured coaching and mentoring to support women through the recruitment process, including preparation for written examinations, physical fitness tests and interviews. Residential coaching camps also offered peer learning and confidence-building support, helping candidates navigate a highly competitive selection process.

The results demonstrate the impact of targeted support. Among 57 participants who attended the coaching programme, 18 candidates were shortlisted for written examinations and 14 were ultimately selected as new police constables. Ten of the selected candidates come from marginalized communities, including a *Dalit* woman who ranked first in the nationwide open competition.

Girls training in the recruitment camp in Bardiya, Lumbini Province.
©UNOPS/Ranjit Tripathi

Beyond individual success, the initiative is helping challenge social norms and expand opportunities for women's economic empowerment and leadership. By strengthening outreach, training and institutional support, the programme is contributing to a more inclusive police service that better reflects the communities it serves and is better equipped to respond to crimes affecting women, children and vulnerable groups.

The United Nations hosted the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues during his visit to Nepal in December 2025, providing substantial logistical support to ensure meaningful engagement with stakeholders from the government, civil society, and minority communities. The forthcoming report of the Special Rapporteur in March 2026 will offer an independent assessment of the situation of minorities in the country and serve as an important evidence base informing United Nations programming and the Government of Nepal accountability to combat discrimination, promote inclusion and advance the rights of minority groups across the country.

The Government of Nepal reinforced its commitment to translating treaty obligations on gender equality into measurable results by developing its first-ever roadmap for the implementation of CEDAW.[41] Covering 49 of 82 recommendations from the 7th Periodic Review, the Roadmap establishes a coordinated framework for implementation and reporting across all levels of government. The Labour Migration Policy (August 2025), the Youth Policy (2025), and the National Population Policy (July 2025), strengthen governance, youth empowerment, and rights-based frameworks, while ensuring safe, regular, and orderly migration.

Nepal also established its first Children's Court, setting a model for rights-based juvenile justice, and made amendments to the Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act to strengthen the mechanism for countering human trafficking.

Nepal's first E-Governance Blueprint was finalized, laying the groundwork for more integrated, transparent, and coordinated digital governance across tiers of government. The Ministry of Finance endorsed the Child Budget Coding Procedure, a key recommendation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, enabling systematic budgeting, monitoring, and reporting on child rights. Nepal also approved the policy for the gradual transfer of the authority to issue a business Permanent Account Number to local governments, a major milestone in decentralization and fiscal autonomy, empowering municipalities to boost local revenue and reduce administrative barriers for citizens. Together, these policies will help to strengthen institutional mechanisms for integrated planning, inclusive public administration, and more accountable, equitable governance at all levels.

Nepal's first consumer court was established in March 2025 and is actively investigating the issues on consumer rights outlined in the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights 2025. The United Nations played a critical role in the development of the Action Plan, which contributed to the creation of an enabling environment for the establishment of the consumer court. The consumer court is expected to strengthen consumer protection mechanisms, improve access to legal remedies, and advance consumer rights.

With technical assistance from the United Nations, the National Statistics Office produced 13 thematic census reports and population projections at the ward level disaggregated by age and sex for the first time. The National Statistics Office also upgraded its visualization platform with local profiles to support data-driven planning and strengthen local governance. The United Nations partnered with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority to integrate census data into the Building Information Platform Against Disaster[42] management portal for more informed disaster planning and response. The United Nations successfully piloted an AI tool (SITA) for data analytics in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Population, paving the way for more efficient, accurate, and cost-effective analysis, providing data-driven evidence for development planning. Migration governance was also strengthened through multi-stakeholder dialogues and feasibility assessments on out-of-country voting to inform emerging policies.



Students presenting their designs to the community of Sunwal, Ward 2 as a part of the UNOPS Cities 4 Women project.
©UNOPS/Ranjit Tripathi



Students enjoying their recess in Jajarkot, Karnali Province.
©UNRCO/ Narendra Shrestha

In response to the shifting digital landscape, the United Nations achieved a major systemic milestone in 2025 with the formal endorsement of the National Media and Information Literacy Enhancement Operational Procedure by the National Youth Council. This transition ensures that Media and Information Literacy is no longer a series of fragmented projects, but a nationally owned, standardized framework integrated across youth-led organizations. This structural change is critical for equipping Gen Z and other young cohorts with the critical thinking skills necessary to navigate information disorders and participate safely in the digital economy.

Digital transformation continued to accelerate in Nepal, with the United Nations playing a catalytic role in expanding the use of AI, improving data systems, and strengthening inclusive digital governance. Social listening, citizen engagement, and accountability improved through digital feedback systems such as Hello CM and AI-enabled tools such as I-Hear-U and its accountability dashboard. These helped create continuous feedback loops and ensured community voices informed rapid response and programme adjustments. New digital solutions such as QR-enabled emergency communication tools with accessible audio and video guidance for use during crises were successfully piloted. Youth participation was strengthened through U-Report, which generated timely insights from young people to inform decision-making across various sectors. The United Nations also supported a growing innovation ecosystem by investing in Youth Innovation Fund pilots, Civic-tech Hackathons, ICT–based (information and communications technology) inclusive learning platforms, and digital literacy and skills development for women entrepreneurs and youth, positioning young people as central actors in Nepal's transition to a knowledge-based economy.

At the provincial level, 30 policies and strategies were finalized by provincial ministries, including 13 GESI strategies, demonstrating stronger institutionalization of GESI-responsive governance, in line with SDG 5: Gender Equality and SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. Madhesh and Lumbini provinces implemented their second periodic plans integrating GESI priorities using 2021 census data and adopted the Act for *Dalit* Rights 2025. The United Nations significantly expanded its engagement with the digital ecosystem by partnering with prominent Nepali content creators to address the surge in online violence. In 2025, the Strengthening Digital Safety for Nepali Women campaign was launched, utilizing storytelling and social media influencer networks to reach over 1.3 million people. By leveraging the voices of digital creators, the United Nations successfully highlighted the real-life impact of technology-facilitated GBV, made the impacts more relatable by amplifying authentic stories or experiences, and fostered a national dialogue on digital citizenship, effectively challenging harmful online norms such as victim blaming and misogyny.

Madhesh Province has drafted a Social Protection Strategy 2025 and a Mental Health Act regulation 2025, Lumbini Province has adopted a Mental Health Strategy 2025 and drafted a Provincial Population Policy 2025, and Madhesh, Karnali, and Sudurpaschim provinces have adopted standard operating procedures 2025 to operationalize the Provincial Labour Advisory Councils, with United Nations assistance. Intergovernmental coordination platforms have been strengthened in all seven provinces, with United Nations' technical assistance to the Provincial Coordination Council supporting policy and budget alignment through structured multi-level dialogues. The United Nations partnered with the Public Service Commission to develop and adopt assessment centre methodology guidelines to enhance merit-based recruitment of civil servants.

At the local level, 146 laws, policies, and guidelines were adopted and implemented, including 85 GESI action plans and policies that strengthened inclusive governance and service delivery. Eight local governments[43] operationalized GBV Elimination Fund Acts, enabling survivors to access required services including financial support, and two local governments adopted gender-based violence guidelines to unlock survivor-centred resources. Additionally, child funds were established in 301 local governments, strengthening local financing for child protection services for girls and boys experiencing different forms of violence. Gender-based violence case recording and referral tracking improved in 35 local governments.

Four local governments[44] developed inclusive, tenure-responsive contract farming guidelines, and Rajpur Rural Municipality endorsed a Local Land Act 2025 to reinforce land tenure security for marginalized landless communities.

These local governments allocated NPR15.41 million (US$106,636) for gender-responsive initiatives, including women's entrepreneurship, leadership, livelihoods, justice-sector capacity, and legal awareness. In 2025, these combined measures supported formal contract farming arrangements that benefited over 2,500 farmers, primarily from landless indigenous communities.

The Citizens Engagement in Public Finance Management policy 2025 was also endorsed in 20 local governments, strengthening transparency and accountability, ensuring inclusion and engagement of marginalized groups and leaving no one behind. The United Nations played a catalytic role in these achievements by providing policy advice, technical support, and coordination. Contributions included support for legal reform processes, intergovernmental policy coherence, and gender-responsive budgeting tools.

Some 35,600 citizens (over 60 per cent women) meaningfully participated in dialogue and decision-making, strengthening citizens' voice and gender-responsive, and inclusive local governance. The United Nations facilitated capacity enhancement of 4,952 women from marginalized groups to engage meaningfully in governance, justice, and accountability processes, including public hearings, participatory planning and budgeting, mediation platforms, and leadership and advocacy spaces. This led to 7,496 women who belonged to marginalized and excluded groups engaging in local governance forums, demonstrating a shift towards active civic engagement with women articulating priorities in public forums that historically excluded their perspectives.

The United Nations financed the delivery of psychosocial support to 2,226 GBV survivors in the Women, Children and Senior Citizens Service Centres. Two thousand five hundred justice actors (41 per cent women) enhanced their capacities in investigation, ICT, drafting laws and policies, and GESI to improve service delivery leading to 73,128 people (over 56 per cent women) benefitting from remedial legal aid and 472,315 people (53 per cent women) benefitting from preventive legal aid services. More than 2.8 million individuals (52 per cent women) were educated on legal and human rights facilitated by the United Nations' close engagement with civil society organizations and law graduates/interns, and through radio/television. Complementing these efforts, four Women, Children and Senior Citizens Service Centres were constructed and became operational, and are expected to provide approximately 315,800 people with improved access to justice and survivor-centred gender-based violence services (51.7 per cent women), strengthening protection, reporting, and response mechanisms in high-need and historically underserved areas.

The Office of the Attorney General achieved a 68 per cent prosecution success rate across 45,091 cases in 2025, while improved case screening reduced non-prosecutable cases to just under 8 per cent. The United Nations supported these gains through sustained capacity development for federal and district-level prosecutors and technical assistance to streamline case management procedures. Furthermore, grievance handling mechanisms at the provincial and local levels, backed by the United Nations, saw resolution rates rise to 88 per cent (up from 61 per cent in 2024) across two provinces, Karnali and Sudurpaschim. In addition, the United Nations' partnership with the Nepal Police and Community Police, including adoption of the Scanning, Analysis, Response, and Assessment problem-solving approach, improved GBV, safety, and the prevention of traffic risk, reaching 1,989 participants (46 per cent women, 17 per cent indigenous groups, 14.24 per cent *Madhesi*, and 12.34 per cent *Dalit* and excluded communities), including 2,226 GBV survivors and 26 persons with disabilities. Additionally, the United Nations supported the Nepal Police initiative against gender discriminatory norms and harmful practices such as *Chhaupadi,* which became a finalist for the 33rd Herman Goldstein Award.[45] The United Nations also supported strengthening of the Nepal Police's capacity to manage and analyse administrative data and publish it through GBV, cybercrime, and suicide factsheets, enabling more evidence-based planning and sustainable, data-driven responses to violence against women and children.



Dipendra Shrestha (left), Disaster Focal Person at Nepalgunj Sub-Metropolitan Office, explains a disaster preparedness map to community members.
©UN Women/Srijana Bhatta



A landscape picture of Okhaldhunga district capturing the contour trenches and tunnel farming supported by UNDP's DCRL project.
©UNDP Nepal/Robic Upadhyay

2.3. SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA[46]

In 2025, the United Nations continued to strengthen its partnerships with all tiers of government, development partners, the private sector, civil society, academia, and other key stakeholders in Nepal, with a strong focus on financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and supporting Nepal's smooth transition beyond LDC status.

Under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, the United Nations Finance for Development and LDC Graduation Taskforce supported the Government of Nepal in its role as developing country co-facilitator and Asia-Pacific Vice-Chair of the Ff4D outcome document. This engagement was complemented by a United Nations–Ministry of Finance–convened multistakeholder dialogue that systematically collected and integrated inputs from national-level stakeholders into the Ff4D outcome document, declared as the Compromiso de Sevilla. Coordinated engagement with other graduating LDCs contributed to the inclusion of tailored support measures beyond graduation in the Compromiso de Sevilla, including provisions on strengthened domestic resource mobilization, combating illicit financial flows, and reducing remittance transfer costs to below three per cent by 2030.

Nepal committed to delivering on the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection through the Sevilla Action Platform announced at the Ff4D. Following the conference, the Government of Nepal approved the INFF, which will channel financing flows for the national Global Accelerator roadmap while also operationalizing pilot thematic bonds and blended finance models.

Sustainable health financing improved through increased domestic commitments for reproductive health commodities. The Government of Nepal allocated US$700,000 for family planning supplies, representing a 21 per cent increase on the previous year and triggering a matching US$711,359 award under the UNFPA Supplies Partnership Match Fund. Nepal further committed to contribute three per cent annually to the UNFPA Supplies Partnership under the Compact Agreement, reinforcing long-term sustainability. In parallel, a strategic United Nations–government partnership with youth-led organizations mobilized 1,000 young volunteers nationwide for a dengue prevention campaign, demonstrating how multistakeholder engagement can strengthen decentralized health action and leverage domestic financing.

Nepal's CRVS digital transformation accelerated through strong United Nations–government partnerships and co-financing arrangements. More than 99 per cent of registration centres now operate online, supported by the digitization of over 20 million civil records and the issuance of national ID numbers at birth. This progress strengthened government-owned digital platforms, reduced administrative burdens, and enhanced equitable access to services, contributing directly to SDG target 16.9.

In 2025, the United Nations continued to leverage multiple climate finance partnerships, including with the Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, Adaptation Fund, Kunming Biodiversity Fund, and other multilateral mechanisms. Notably, the Green Climate Fund approved a new Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Risk Reduction project valued at US$36.1 million, with implementation scheduled to begin in 2026. The project will expand United Nations support for climate adaptation and early warning systems in highly vulnerable mountain regions and river basins.

The United Nations also assisted the Government of Nepal in developing its Mountain Resilience Strategy, to be adopted in 2026, which is expected to attract large-scale investments for Nepal's climate adaptation and mitigation ambitions. At the local level, the United Nations supported the Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility to finance locally led climate adaptation measures and mainstream climate investments into local planning processes.

Together with the Government of Nepal, the United Nations advanced full implementation of the Provincial and Local Governance Strengthening Programme. In its role as technical assistance provider, the United Nations strengthened partnerships with federal ministries and all seven provincial governments through a portfolio and systems-thinking approach, supported by an additional US$1.7 million in resources.

The Nepal Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Fund (NSDCFF) continued to serve as a central instrument for operationalizing the UNSDCF and advancing a coherent, integrated United Nations response across the humanitarian–development–peace nexus. Under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, the Fund was rapidly capitalized and fully operationalized. Within 18 months, it mobilized over US$24 million, reflecting strong partner confidence.

The United Nations Country Team strategically leveraged the NSDCFF to support joint programming in priority areas including transitional justice, humanitarian response, mental health, and electoral assistance, with contributions from partners - Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the Peacebuilding Fund. Beyond financing, the NSDCFF functioned as a strategic enabler of United Nations coherence, flexibility, and collective action in politically and operationally sensitive areas.

Joint programming continued to be a central pillar of United Nations reform and collective engagement in Nepal. By November 2025, the United Nations Country Team joint programme portfolio comprising 22 initiatives was valued at approximately US$90 million. Funded by a diverse mix of global funds and bilateral partners, the portfolio spans governance, gender equality and social inclusion, health, risk reduction, jobs and social protection, and food systems transformation. This expansion demonstrates a clear shift toward coordinated, multi-agency approaches aligned with national priorities, while reducing transaction costs and strengthening national ownership.

The United Nations Resident Coordinator continued to co-chair the International Development Partners Group (IDPG), with the Resident Coordinator's Office hosting its permanent secretariat. In this role, the United Nations facilitated a stronger common voice among development partners and supported coordinated dialogue with the Government of Nepal.

The IDPG proved particularly relevant during periods of heightened political and social sensitivity. In the aftermath of the Gen Z protests and in anticipation of the elections scheduled for 5 March 2026, the IDPG played a significant role in facilitating information sharing, aligning partner positions, and coordinating collective messaging that reinforced confidence in democratic processes and promoted social cohesion.

In addition, IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNOPS, UN Women, and WFP co-chaired IDPG working groups across a wide range of thematic areas, including federalism; climate change; elections; integrity and accountability; social protection; migration; urban development; WASH; health; statistics; and gender equality and social inclusion.

2.4. RESULTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER: COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS, AND EFFICIENCY[47]



A social mobilizer with the parents of potential women recruits for the Nepal Police.
©UNOPS/Ranjit Tripathi

78
Joint activities were led by the Operations Management Team in 2025

US$642,448
in realized cost savings were generated in 2025 through harmonized operations

13
United Nations agencies continued to share the UN House compound in Kathmandu

In 2025, the United Nations Country Team in Nepal strengthened operational coherence and efficiency through 78 joint activities led by the Operations Management Team across ICT, procurement, finance, human resources, and general administration. These collective efforts with harmonized operational practices across 22 United Nations entities, reduced duplications, shortened operational cycle times, and improved service delivery. These efforts supported system-wide reform priorities, including contributions to the One UN approach and the UN Efficiency Agenda.

The 2025 Business Operations Strategy review confirmed that an estimated US$625,393 and a realized US$642,448 in cost savings resulted directly from harmonized operations. Key achievements included streamlined vendor management with a central vendor database and coordinated vendor screening, joint procurement and joint long-term agreements, joint training of staff and vendors, common facilities management and security services, and improved shared administration and ICT services. The Operations Management Team also reinforced value-added tax (VAT) monitoring, introduced a dedicated Operations Management Team SharePoint site and Power-Bi based parity dashboard, and rolled out a unified meeting room booking system in UN House, Pulchowk, Nepal. Common operational baselines were strengthened through the alignment of daily subsistence allowance rates for non-United Nations personnel across United Nations agencies, standardize facilitation/resource person, and meeting allowances, and revizing minimum wages for outsourced personnel. Two additional agencies joined the United Nations Booking Hub, inter-agency car-pooling was introduced, and the United Nations examining physician list was revised for use across United Nations agencies, while a consolidated asset-disposal auction in 2025 generated a revenue of US$172,132.

The optimization of premises continued, with the Common Premises Coordination Platform promoting agencies to co-locate in common premises compounds with fewer single-agency offices or government co-locations and a greater concentration of personnel in shared premises - supporting economies of scale in shared services and security. Thirteen United Nations agencies (Resident Coordinator's Office, FAO, UNAIDS, UNCDF, UNDP, UNDSS, UNFPA, UNIC, UNICEF, UNODC, UNV, UN Women, and WHO) continued to share the UN House compound in Kathmandu under common services managed by UNDP.

In 2025, the UNHCR office in Kathmandu collocated with IOM in IOM managed premises in Kathmandu, while WFP and IFAD continued to co-locate in WFP managed premises. UNODA's Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament office signed an agreement in December 2025 to relocate to the WFP managed premises in 2026. UN-Habitat will relocate to the common premises of the UN House compound from January 2026.

The common premise management and administration services of the three United Nations premises in Kathmandu resulted in cost savings of US$428,441 in 2025. The solar powered photovoltaic panel system installed in the UN House compound in Kathmandu helped reduce emissions with approximate energy savings of 101,573 kWh and cost savings of US$10,177, the rainwater harvesting system provided approximately 350,000 litres of water constituting 30 per cent of the overall water consumption. The United Nations achieved additional cost savings of US$59,315 in 2025 from management of common premises in six field locations outside Kathmandu. WFP relocated in 2025 to share premises with UNDP and UNFPA that is managed by UNDP in Surkhet, and UNOPS relocated to the premises managed by UNFPA in Butwal and the premises with ILO, UNFPA and UN Women in Janakpur.

The United Nations Country Team's commitment to GESI and leave no one behind was embedded throughout operational improvements. By 2025, 57 per cent of United Nations premises were accessible to persons with disabilities and 23 per cent of offices had completed disability-inclusion audits, with Nepal's experience in accessible premises shared at the regional level. Workforce capability and inclusion were strengthened through disability-inclusion training for 81 personnel and basic Nepali sign language training provided across nine agencies. The Women on the Wheel programme expanded its roster of trained female professional drivers. Gender parity data systems were enhanced through the United Nations Nepal Parity Dashboard, enabling regular, data-driven tracking against Gender and Diversity Scorecard indicators and reinforcing accountability for parity commitments.



In February 2025, adolescent girls pose with their vaccination cards after receiving the HPV vaccine in Lumbini Province.
©UNICEF/ Robic Upadhaya

The performance of the United Nations in Nepal based on annual assessments under three system-wide thematic scorecards (gender, youth, and disability inclusion) shows an improvement in joint efforts and accountability across United Nations programming with coherent common approaches and standards. The gender scorecard showed improvements in United Nations efforts to achieve gender equality with 73 per cent of the indicators meeting or exceeding minimum requirements in 2025 compared to 67 per cent in 2024. Similarly, the disability inclusion scorecard measured an improvement in United Nations' efforts to promote disability rights and inclusion with 86 per cent of the indicators meeting or exceeding minimum requirements in 2025 compared to 64 per cent in 2024, while the Youth Scorecard had improvement of 94 percent in 2025, up from 85 percent in 2024.

The United Nations also advanced a coherent, system-wide approach to Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) through implementation of the Annual PSEA Action Plan 2025, strongly reinforcing accountability across United Nations' programming and operations in Nepal. The PSEA Action Plan for 2026-2027 developed based on the United Nations' 2025 inter-agency risk assessment on sexual exploitation and abuse aims to further the commitment of the United Nations for the protection of marginalized and vulnerable groups with zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse.

More than 3,400 United Nations personnel, implementing partners, government officials, vendors, and suppliers received training on PSEA, substantially increasing awareness and capacities for PSEA. PSEA was also embedded into the National Monsoon Preparedness Plan; the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority led response clusters, and United Nations joint programmes on anticipatory action and disaster response. The Government of Nepal's engagement on PSEA at the federal level was further elevated through a high-level workshop with participation of 30 Joint Secretaries in coordinating national actions to safeguard at-risk people and vulnerable communities. These highlight how coordinated planning, shared tools and methodologies, and joint implementation efforts helped enhance the United Nations' ability to deliver coherent, inclusive, and mutually reinforcing results.

The United Nations strengthened the visibility and credibility of One UN communications through joint planning, common messaging, and rapid coordination. These helped reinforce multilateral values, elevate national priorities, and maintain public trust during both celebratory moments and periods of crisis. A key highlight of this work was the high-level commemoration of 80 years of the United Nations and 70 years of United Nations–Nepal partnership, held at UN House with strong national ownership. The event was attended by the Prime Minister, five Cabinet Ministers, the Chief of Army Staff, the Inspectors General of Police and Armed Police Force, heads of constitutional commissions, the diplomatic corps, and over 500 United Nations staff and partners, with additional participants joining online from across the country. The seniority and breadth of participation reflected respect for the United Nations and confidence in the long-standing partnership. Messages focused on peace, multilateralism, and Nepal's contribution to United Nations peacekeeping, while also recognizing United Nations colleagues working closely with communities. Alongside the event, the United Nations led a coordinated social media campaign marking 70 years of the United Nations-Nepal partnership, which generated strong public engagement and helped explain the impact of the United Nations in Nepal over seven decades and why the United Nations continues to matter.

The United Nations helped elevate Nepal's mountain agenda, particularly through collective financial, technical, and strategic communications support to the Sagarmatha Sambaad 2025 (Mountain Dialogue) organized by the Government of Nepal in Kathmandu. The event brought together over 1,200 national and international delegates for high-level dialogue on climate change with a focus on mountain and cryosphere ecosystems. The United Nations helped position the Sagarmatha Sambaad as an important global platform led by an LDC country, linking mountain realities with international climate action while aligning the dialogues to COP priorities, shifting the narratives from climate vulnerability alone toward resilience, and towards stronger leadership and shared responsibility for protecting mountain ecosystems and communities.

3,400+

United Nations personnel, partners, officials, vendors, and suppliers received training on PSEA.

The United Nations also assisted in organizing a dialogue with children and youth together with technical inputs and expert sessions, contributing to the 25-point 2025 Sagarmatha Action Plan issued at the summit. The Action Plan served as a cornerstone for Nepal's increased global advocacy for mountain economies, culminating in the establishment of an annual global dialogue on mountain and climate change at COP30 in Brazil. Following the Sagarmatha Sambaad, the United Nations helped to bring global climate messages closer to the national audience through the United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Speech Watch Event that was attended by ambassadors of diplomatic missions in Nepal, heads of United Nations agencies, youth, and partners. The Watch Event was organized with a panel discussion focused on climate resilient sustainable development and a coordinated media outreach. The United Nations also contributed to drafting the Living Sagarmatha Strategic Framework, outlining a shared long-term vision for sustainable mountain development, including a Mountain Investment Framework and priority investment pipeline. The Framework is expected to be adopted by the Government of Nepal in early 2026.

The United Nations Communications Group worked as a crisis communications team during the September 2025 Gen Z protests, which took place in a highly polarized environment following restrictions on social media. The Communications Group adopted a crisis communications approach to ensure consistent One UN messaging. Through close coordination, media monitoring, real-time social listening, and bilingual social media campaigns, the joint campaign promoted the importance of information integrity while maintaining the United Nations' neutrality and human rights focus. Over a two-week period, joint messaging on de-escalation, information integrity, countering misinformation and disinformation, and respect for human rights reached more than 35 million views, reinforcing public trust in the United Nations as a credible and principled voice during a sensitive national moment.

2.5. LESSONS LEARNED AND EVALUATIONS

1

Provincial planning can be optimized by aligning with demographic realities

Demographic evidence proved decisive in reshaping policy narratives and guiding investment decisions in Nepal following the endorsement of the National Population Policy 2025 and the preparation of the National Transfer Accounts. The analysis revealed trends of a declining school-age population, rizing youth out-migration, and increasing old-age dependency in most provinces. These prompted provincial governments to shift investment in education from expanding basic infrastructure to consolidating schools and the redeployment of teachers in low student density areas. This aims to improve education quality, increase budget allocations for old-age friendly health services and address non-communicable diseases, expand employment services with increased investments in vocational skill and entrepreneurship development opportunities for youths, strengthen programmes targeting migrant and returnee migrant workers, and substantially enlarge social protection coverage including contribution based social protection.

2

Targeted service prioritization can strengthen maternal and newborn care

A key lesson from the 2025 national EmONC assessment is that service quality and referral effectiveness are significantly enhanced when resources are strategically prioritized rather than uniformly distributed. Building on the findings of the 2021 Maternal Mortality Survey, Nepal undertook a comprehensive review of EmONC facilities across five provinces. The assessment showed that prioritizing facility readiness, 24/7 functionality, and geographic accessibility using GIS/AccessMod analysis, having 165 well-functioning EmONC sites rather than the current 230 would be sufficient to sustain national coverage. This evidence underscores the importance of harmonized, targeted United Nations support to help the Government of Nepal rationalize EmONC networks, optimize limited resources, strengthen referral pathways, and accelerate reductions in preventable maternal and newborn deaths.

3

Policy implementation requires strong public financial management

Evidence-based strategies only lead to impact when paired with strong public financial management systems. Several priority policies, including the School Health and Nutrition Strategy, remain pending formal approval, underscoring the need for sustained advocacy and alignment with government processes including those for public financial management. Another key lesson is that domestic resource optimization must accompany policy reforms to ensure sustainable implementation. In response, United Nations agencies are intensifying technical assistance on budgeting, expenditure tracking, and coordinated policy follow-through to help Nepal meet its food security and nutrition commitments.

4

Climate-informed, evidence-based, integrated WASH planning, monitoring, and implementation deliver more resilient and scalable results

Integrated health-water-environment surveillance, sanitation bottleneck analyses, laboratory-integration pilots, and evaluation of provincial policy rollouts showed that fragmented planning and uneven enforcement undermine the quality and sustainability of WASH services. In contrast, unified planning, financing, and implementation anchored in climate-risk analysis produces scalable outcomes and integrated monitoring strengthens early risk detection and reduces inefficiencies. These insights informed the United Nations Country Team to shift investment towards cross-sector early-warning systems and support integrated, government-led planning processes across provinces. This included the institutionalization of integrated surveillance systems that monitor water quality, sanitation safety, wastewater related hazards, WASH-related disease outbreaks, and climate- or environment-related risks for early warning and coordinated WASH responses.

5

Inclusive, equitable education systems advanced through evidence-based decisions

Several major studies completed in 2025 generated evidence with system-wide implications for equitable learning. Research on adolescent girls' return to school, disability inclusion, and assessments of distance-learning modalities in non-formal education highlighted that inclusive systems require context-specific approaches that respond to barriers faced by girls, children with disabilities, and marginalized learners, while offering flexible alternatives for disadvantaged groups. The national comprehensive sexuality education endline survey underscored the importance of skills-based, age-appropriate curricula while analysis of the Midday Meal programme, with a focus on neurodivergent children, highlighted the need for nutrition-sensitive and disability-responsive provisioning. A gap analysis of the National Qualifications Framework identified pathways for more flexible linkages across formal, non-formal, and technical education and vocational training. These findings informed the scale-up of effective practices and strengthening of technical education and vocational training, non-formal education, and comprehensive sexuality education frameworks, while guiding provincial and municipal planning.

6 Targeted, data-driven reforms expand CRV equity and resilience

Inequality assessments, resilience analyses, and completeness reviews reaffirmed that civil registration gaps persist along gender, caste, ethnicity, and geography, requiring targeted, data-driven interventions. A national resilience assessment further showed that CRVS systems remain vulnerable to shocks, underscoring the need for decentralized capacity and reducing digital redundancy. These guided the United Nations in advancing equity-focused strategies, localized outreach, data interoperability, and resilience-oriented reforms to ensure CRVS systems remain inclusive, robust, and aligned with SDG target 16.9.

7 Effective gender-based violence prevention requires legal enforceability, clear mandates, and costed coordination

The internal review of the joint programme Gender Based Violence Prevention and Response II highlighted that Nepal has made progress in developing GBV-related laws and policies, but weak legal enforceability, unclear institutional mandates, and uneven functionality of multisector coordination mechanisms undermine implementation. Key lessons from the review included the importance of costed provincial and local implementation plans, strengthened coordination platforms, and aligning reforms with federal, provincial, and municipal mandates to improve accountability. The review also emphasized the need to advance gender-responsive budgeting and address inconsistencies in application and reporting. In response, the United Nations in Nepal is helping link gender-responsive budgeting processes with GESI costed implementation plans and national accountability frameworks, ensuring that budgets function as levers for sustaining survivor-centred services and prevention efforts.

8 Integrated multidisciplinary approaches advance climate actions

The mid-term review of the joint programme Renewable Energy for Resilient Agri-Food Systems found that linking renewable energy to climate resilient agri-food systems improved food security in 20 local governments, which was highly valued by stakeholders. A hybrid service delivery model integrating private sector expertise with community-led procurement led to sustainable management of the renewable energy systems. The review found that the private sector engagement model with competitive service providers, hands-on training, remote IT monitoring, and digital payment systems helped address capacity gaps while cutting costs and boosting revenue from surplus electricity sales, offering important lessons to scale up impact with financial sustainability. The review also identified the challenges in accessing climate finance and emphasized the need for continued advocacy and technical support. Incorporating insights from the review, the United Nations is assisting the Government of Nepal to access climate finance, build resilient infrastructures, pilot hybrid service delivery models, expand the adoption of clean energy, scale up climate resilient agriculture and food systems, roll out integrated data systems, and promote inclusive climate governance with anticipatory action, disaster risk reduction and response, and achieve long-term targets for emissions reductions and adaptation.



Sumana Chaudhary from Surkhet with her mushroom harvest.
©EWPN/Robic Upadhaya

9 Targeted and coordinated support strengthens inclusive governance and peacebuilding

Mid-term reviews of the Parliamentary Support project showed that focusing on law making, oversight, and representation, especially for members of parliament who are women or from marginalized groups aligns directly with federal and provincial constitutional mandates. Similarly, monitoring of Nepal's Second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security highlighted the importance of participatory mechanisms for conflict-affected women while revealing coordination, resourcing, and oversight challenges. The Empowered Women and Prosperous Nepal joint programme review identified implementation of a clear and comprehensive GESI plan with integrated pathways for gender empowerment and committed local government leadership as key requirements to ensure the advancement and sustainability of long-term outcomes. These reviews and assessments underscored the value of coordinated cross-agency approaches and sustained collaboration with government, civil society, and communities. The United Nations is applying these lessons by strengthening portfolio-based support, promoting inclusive participation in governance and peacebuilding, and guiding the design of the Third National Action Plan and other future initiatives.

2.6. UNCT RESOURCE MOBILIZATION IN 2025[48]

2025

Total Required
US$158.5M

Total Available
US$144.2M

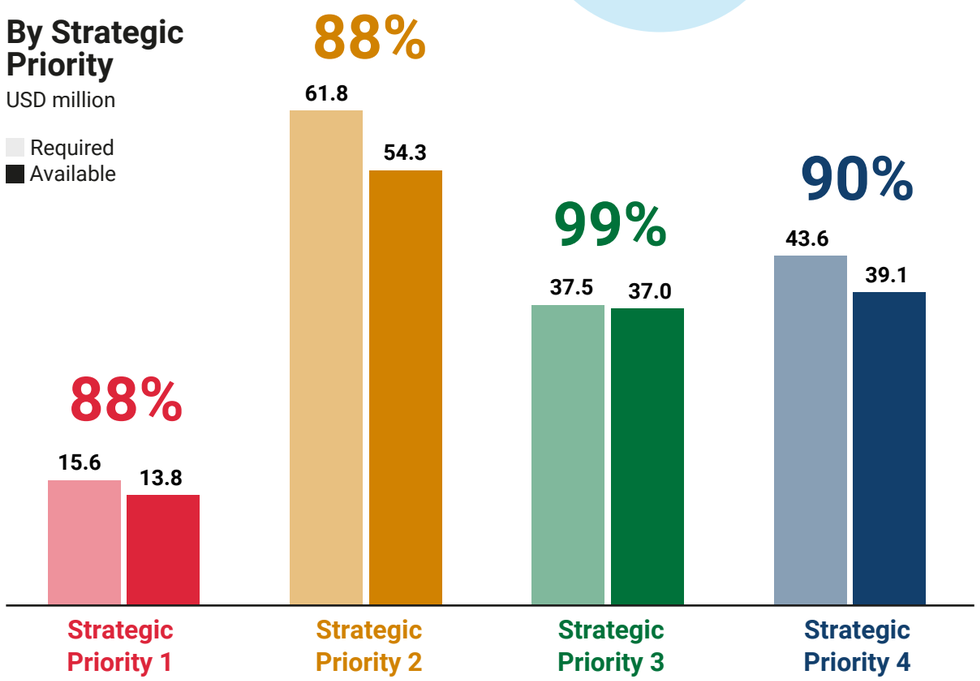
Overall Coverage
91%



Funding Gap
US$14.3M

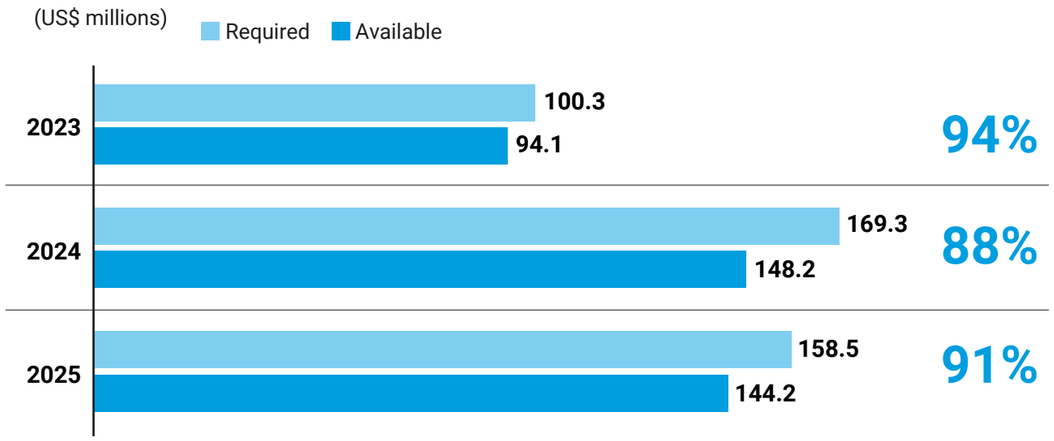
By Strategic Priority

USD million



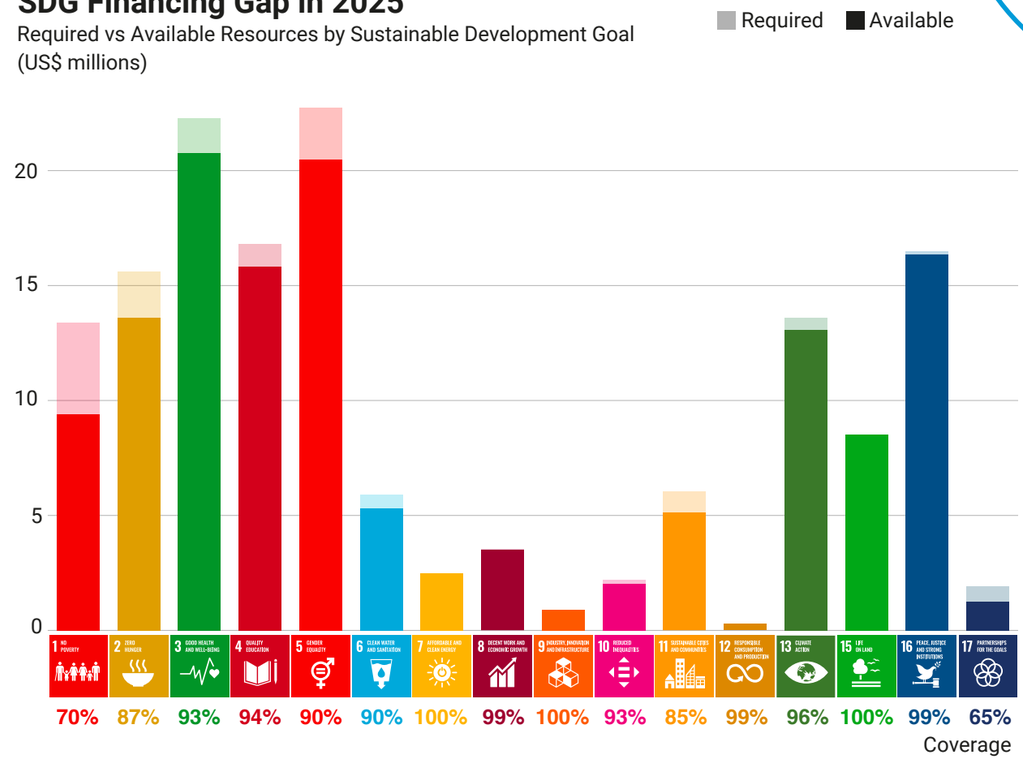
Resource Mobilisation Across Years

(US$ millions)



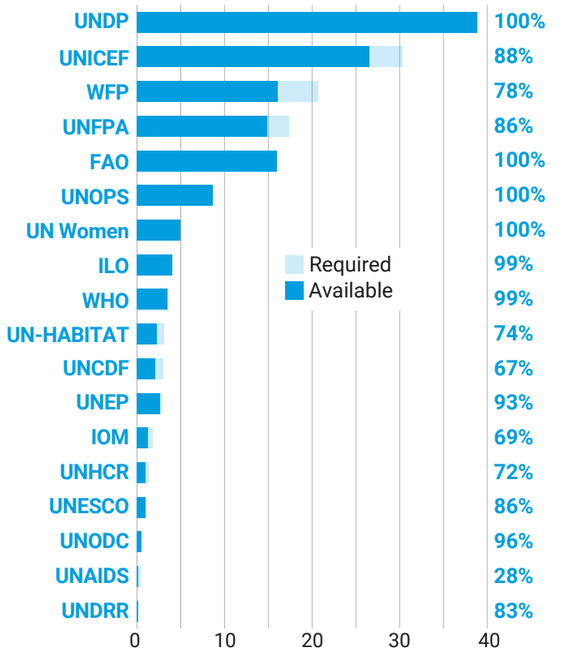
SDG Financing Gap in 2025

Required vs Available Resources by Sustainable Development Goal (US$ millions)



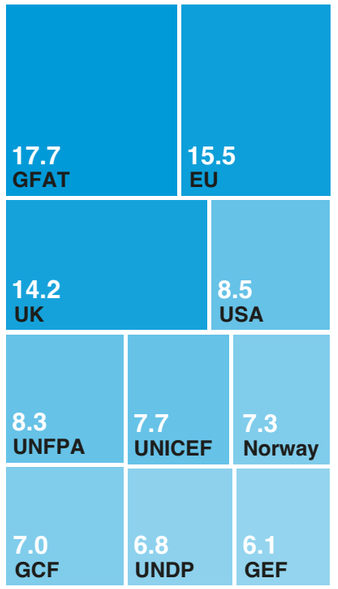
Resource Mobilisation by United Nations Agencies in 2025

Required vs Available Resources (US$ millions)



Top 10 contributing partners

(US$ millions)



CHAPTER 3
UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM KEY FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR

As Nepal prepares for an important year marked by elections and LDC graduation, the United Nations Country Team will focus on collective, system-wide action that strengthens national capacities, rebuilds trust, and elevates the agency of youth and marginalized groups as a transformative force. Our priorities for 2026 emphasize coherence, efficiency, and impact at scale.



A woman displays handmade paper produced from banana fibre in Sudurpaschim Province, creating eco-friendly alternatives under UNDP's GREEN portfolio.
©UNDP Nepal/Suraj Ratna Shakya

The key priorities for 2026 are:

Inclusive and Sustainable Employment Generation, in Particular for Youth

The United Nations will continue to champion the global accelerator for decent jobs and social protection to increase the creation of decent work, expand social protection floors, and reduce vulnerabilities. The United Nations will focus in particular on youth-centred job creation, where young people are seen as partners and agents for change.

Enabling Governance and Normative Reforms for Investment and Enterprise

The United Nations will support governance and regulatory frameworks that improve the climate for business, de-risk productive investment, enable fair competition, and unlock private investment and quality job creation. This will also include a focus on micro, small and medium enterprises, increasing their scale, exports, and integration into value chains.

Democratic Space, Mis/Disinformation

The United Nations will provide support that counters hate speech and mis/disinformation, and support the expansion of civic space, including meaningful participation of women, youth, and marginalized communities. Partnerships with media, tech platforms, and civil society will be leveraged to promote accurate information and respectful discourse.

Human Rights, Rule of Law and Transitional Justice

The United Nations will continue supporting Nepal to fulfil its international human rights treaty obligations, including following up on recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review, in close collaboration with national human rights institutions and civil society. Assistance will also advance transitional justice in line with international standards, embed social justice principles across policies and services, and strengthen prevention of and response to GBV.

LDC Graduation

The United Nations will continue assisting the Government of Nepal on LDC graduation, including the LDC Graduation Readiness Assessment, implementation of the smooth transition strategy action plan, reporting on the Doha Programme of Action and the Awaza Programme of Action. Technical support will help sustain momentum on structural transformation, export diversification, human assets, and resilience to ensure that graduation is durable.

SDG Acceleration

Aligned with the Sixteenth Plan, the United Nations will support SDG transitions that deliver the highest returns for people and the planet. This includes continuing the work on the six SDG accelerators and ensuring that Nepal considers their progress against the SDG indicators.

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

The United Nations will continue to prioritize climate action and resilience in line with Nepal's national priorities and international commitments. Focus areas will include support for the development and implementation of the NDC 3.0 Implementation Plan, finalization of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and the Early Warning for All Roadmap. This will be accompanied by further scaled initiatives for disaster risk reduction and management, anticipatory action, and climate change adaptation, as well as continued support to the Government of Nepal to access additional climate finance. The United Nations will also continue to strengthen climate resilient WASH systems by enhancing monitoring and surveillance capacities, supporting NDC 3.0 WASH commitments, improving groundwater management, engaging communities, and fostering partnerships to scale resilient solutions while bolstering preparedness across all levels of government.

ENDNOTES

1 https://www.nrb.org.np/category/economic-bulletin/macroeconomic-indicators-of-nepal/

2 https://www.nrb.org.np/category/economic-bulletin/macroeconomic-indicators-of-nepal/

3 http://drrportal.gov.np/

4 https://dpnet.org.np/uploads/files/Summary%20for%20Policy%20Makers;%20Vulnerability%20and%20Risk%20Assessment%20and%20Identifying%20Adaptation%20Options_compressed%202023-08-14%2005-18-56.pdf

5 https://socialchange.org.np/publications/nepal-and-climate-change/

6 https://www.nrb.org.np/category/economic-bulletin/macroeconomic-indicators-of-nepal/

7 https://giwmscdnone.gov.np/media/app/public/36/posts/1719375782_27.pdf

8 https://www.nrb.org.np/category/economic-bulletin/macroeconomic-indicators-of-nepal/

9 https://www.who.int/nepal/news/detail/07-04-2025-nepal-marks-world-health-day-with-renewed-commitment-to-maternal-and-newborn-care

10 https://nepalsdgforum.org/uploads/attachments/cqcvxyd8msowlpij.pdf

11 https://www.unicef.org/nepal/media/28566/file/Final_Nepal%20Multiple%20Indicator%20Cluster%20Survey%202024-25.pdf

12 https://nepalsdgforum.org/uploads/attachments/cqcvxyd8msowlpij.pdf

13 https://www.unicef.org/nepal/media/28566/file/Final_Nepal%20Multiple%20Indicator%20Cluster%20Survey%202024-25.pdf

14 Multidimensional poverty is an index that measures the percentage of households in a country deprived along three dimensions –monetary poverty, education, and basic infrastructure services – to capture a more complete picture of poverty. Cf. https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/brief/multidimensional-poverty-measure

15 https://nepalsdgforum.org/uploads/attachments/cqcvxyd8msowlpij.pdf

16 https://www.unicef.org/nepal/media/28566/file/Final_Nepal%20Multiple%20Indicator%2 0Cluster%20Survey%202024-25.pdf

17 https://nepalsdgforum.org/uploads/attachments/cqcvxyd8msowlpij.pdf

18 https://www.unicef.org/nepal/media/28566/file/Final_Nepal%20Multiple%20Indicator%20Cluster%20Survey%202024-25.pdf.

19 https://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/Country-Profiles/MPI2025/NPL.pdf

20 https://phcnepal.com/health-acedimia/health-research/health-financing-of-nepal-towards-universal-health-coverage/

21 Source of data is UNCT Annual Performance Review and reflect combined contribution of United Nations or the results from them.

22 Source of data is UNCT Annual Performance Review and reflect combined contribution of United Nations or the results from them.

23 Source of data is UNCT Annual Performance Review and reflect combined contribution of United Nations or the results from them.

24 https://giwmscdnone.gov.np/media/pdf_upload/Flash%201%20Report%202081%20(2024)_hzq1zgz.pdf

25 https://giwmscdnone.gov.np/media/pdf_upload/Flash%201%20Report%202081%20(2024)_hzq1zgz.pdf

26 https://www.unicef.org/nepal/media/28566/file/Final_Nepal%20Multiple%20Indicator%20Cluster%20Survey%202024-25.pdf.pdf

27 Source of data is UNCT Annual Performance Review and reflect combined contribution of United Nations or the results from them.

28 Source of data is UNCT Annual Performance Review and reflect combined contribution of United Nations or the results from them.

29 Source of data is UNCT Annual Performance Review and reflect combined contribution of United Nations or the results from them.

30 Source of data is UNCT Annual Performance Review and reflect combined contribution of United Nations or the results from them.

31 Source of data is UNCT Annual Performance Review and reflect combined contribution of United Nations or the results from them.

32 Land Right Continuum: The landless have not yet received official land certificates called Lalpurja but have received temporary documents that are either a copy of a record of verification of eligibility by the land commission based on review of application documents and field visits, a recommendation from the local government on eligibility of the landless household for land distribution from the government (following review of application and verification of eligibility by the land commission), or a copy of a record of formal executive decision/resolution of the local government for distribution of government land to the eligible landless household.

33 The Seven Municipalities are: Sangurigadhi Rural Municipality of Dhankuta district, Hanumannagar Kankalini Municipality of Saptari district, Ichchhakamana Rural Municipality of Chitwan district, Madi Rural Municipality of Kaski district, Banganga Municipality of Kapilvastu district, Sannitriveni Rural Municipality of Kalikot district and Mohanyal Rural Municipality of Kailali district of Nepal.

34 https://euc-word-edit.officeapps.live.com/we/wordeditorframe.aspx?ui=en-US&rs=en-US&wopisrc=https%3A%2F%2Funitednations.sharepoint.com%2Fsites%2FDCO-WG-UNCT_NPL%2F_vti_bin%2Fwopi.ashx%2Ffiles%2Fc1bef9e7caa042649df780275f227b1c&wdenableroaming=1&mscc=1&hid=2B3BF4A1-0003-F000-836B-9931DC5CDA95.0&uih=sharepointcom&wdlcid=en-US&jsapi=1&jsapiver=v2&corrid=117d7a6f-7edc-178b-f20f-a1b4696f9cd8&usid=117d7a6f-7edc-178b-f20f-a1b4696f9cd8&newsession=1&sftc=1&uihit=docaspx&muv=1&ats=PairwiseBroker&cac=1&sams=1&mtf=1&sfp=1&sdp=1&hch=1&hwfh=1&dchat=1&sc={"pmo"%3A"https%3A%2F%2Funitednations.sharepoint.com"%2C"pmshare"%3Atrue}&ctp=LeastProtected&rct=Normal&wdorigin=Other&afdflight=93&csiro=1&instantedit=1&wopicomplete=1&wdredirectionreason=Unified_SingleFlush

35 https://genderatwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/MEASURING-SOCIAL-NORM-CHANGE-THROUGH-STORYTELLING_-web-version.pdf

36 The local governments are in Bagmati Province are: Chadragiri Municipality, Panauti Municipality, Hetauda Submetropolitan.

37 The local governments are : Sanfebagar Municipality (Achham), Barekot Rural Municipality (Jajarkot), Gurbakot Municipality (Surkhet).

38 The local governments are: Sanfebagar Municipality (Achham), Barekot Rural Municipality (Jajarkot), Banfikot Rural Municipality (Rukum West), Gurbakot Municipality (Surkhet), Mahabu Rural Municipality (Dailekh), Beldandi Rural Municipality (Kanchanpur), Ishannath Municipality (Rautahat), Bishnu Rural Municipality (Sarlahi).

39 The local governments are: Sanfebagar Municipality (Achham), Barekot Rural Municipality (Jajarkot), Banfikot Rural Municipality (Rukum West), Gurbakot Municipality (Surkhet).

40 This also included the adoption of key implementation and operational instruments, such as the human rights due diligence guideline, the guidelines for grievance management system (GSM) for private sector, the e-governance blueprint, the child budget coding procedures, the global compact for migration (GCM) national implementation plan, CEDAW Roadmap, Media and Information Literacy Guidelines, Education Training Center's Media and Information Literacy Action Plan and Intergovernmental fiscal federalism reforms to decentralize issuance of business PAN (Permanent Account Number) to local levels.

41 CEDAW: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

42 BIPAD: Building Information Platform Against Disaster – a national database on disaster incidents in Nepal.

43 The local governments are: Ilam Municipality (Ilam) (Adpoted), Amargadhi Municipality (Dadeldhura), Kalaiya Sub-Metropolitan City (Bara), Chautara Sangachowkgadhi Municipality (Sindhupalchok), Sulikot Rural Municipality (Gorkha) (Adopted), Gurans Rural Municipality (Dailekh), Bhajani Municipality (Kailali), Kailari Rural Municipality (Kailali).

44 Four local governments include Rajpur Mulicipality (Rautahat), Laxminiya Municipality (Dhanusha), Icchhakamana Rural Municipality (Chitwan), and Bhimsenthapa Rural Municipality (Gorkha)

45 The Herman Goldstein Award recognizes police agencies and officers worldwide that engage in effective efforts for problem-oriented policing. It has been provided by the Center for Problem Oriented Policing at Arizona State University since 1993 and the Nepal Police was a finalist for the Award for their work: 'Community-Police Partnership for Social Transformation: Campaign to End Chhaupadi Practice in Marku Village of Achham'.

46 Source of data is UNCT Annual Performance Review and reflect combined contribution of United Nations or the results from them.

47 Source of data is UNCT Annual Performance Review and reflect combined contribution of United Nations or the results from them.

48 Source of data is UNCT Annual Performance Review and reflect combined contribution of United Nations or the results from them.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AI	Artificial Intelligence
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
COP	Conference of Parties
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
EWPN	Empowered Women, Prosperous Nepal Joint Programme
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEDSI	Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HPV	human papillomavirus
ID	Identification Documents
IDPG	International Development Partners Group
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
INFF	Integrated National Financing Framework
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LDC	Least Developed Country
LEAF	Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance
LGBTQIA	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NPR	Nepalese Rupees
NSDCFF	Nepal Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Fund
PSEA	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SUPER	Strengthening Urban Preparedness, Earthquake Preparedness and Response
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIC	United Nations Information Center
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODA	United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
VAT	Value-added tax
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

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