



RESIDENT COORDINATOR ANNUAL REPORT 2017





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**NEPAL'S
MAJOR
DEVELOPMENT,
POLITICAL &
ECONOMIC
EVENTS**



Nepal heralded a welcome development with the first local and provincial elections held in 20 years, moving forward on its commitments to federalization envisioned in the 2015 Constitution. By the end of 2017, the parties were still discussing the timing of the indirect elections to the Upper House and government formation, once the Federal Parliament results would be finalized, by the beginning of 2018. The various rounds of elections and the enforcement of the Election Code of Conduct impacted the delivery of development and humanitarian assistance. The roles and responsibilities in development cooperation of each of the three tiers of government is not clearly articulated. During the last quarter of 2017, development partners were engaged in ad hoc coordination discussions with newly elected local government officials requiring flexibility and adaptability by the UN Country Team in Nepal.

The local elections have also brought to office an unprecedented number of women, Dalits and people from traditionally marginalised groups, which provides a unique opportunity to have a more inclusive decision-making process.



Heavy monsoon rainfall in August 2017 triggered severe flash floods and landslides in 32 out of 75 districts in Nepal. An Initial Rapid Assessment conducted in 28 districts by the Government revealed that floods and landslides claimed 141 lives, injured 117 persons, displaced 460,900 people, and left 24 missing.

Damage to houses, infrastructure, and productive resources was severe; roughly 65,000 houses were destroyed and 120,100 houses were partially damaged. The Government led the flood response, and the Humanitarian Country Team and development partners stepped in to support the Government's efforts to focus on vulnerable groups especially among the most excluded sectors, including women and girls.

The floods impacted the economy, as they affected livelihoods, housing and the harvest. The Government of Nepal launched a Post Flood Recovery Needs Assessment to help prioritize the Government's recovery efforts. The reconstruction component was added to the portfolio of the National Reconstruction Agency (NRA), an institution that was established after the devastating 2015 earthquakes. Post-earthquake reconstruction is continuing at a steady pace with the NRA using community feedback to ensure that due attention is given to people's needs and perceptions, including women, girls and disadvantaged groups, who could be left out of the process.



Economic growth continued in 2017. Nepal saw a broad-based recovery as economic activity rebounded, inflation moderated, government revenue and spending picked up, and remittances grew, albeit more slowly than ever before. Growth was 7.5 percent in FY2017. The country is still dependent on migrant remittances with approximately 1,500 people officially leaving the country every day in 2017. Slow recovery of exports, an increase in lending rates and a fluid political environment continue to pose challenges.

Nepal undertook the Voluntary National Review at the HLPF for the Agenda 2030 implementation and the UN Country Team provided inputs on the report. High-level committees led by the Prime Minister and National Planning Commission (NPC) are coordinating with the key ministries to build a mechanism to mainstream the SDGs into the sector development, and to monitor the progress. SDG budget codes are being developed and assigned for all national programs through the national budget.

The year 2017 has been significant in terms of reforming the legal system to improve access to justice for poor and vulnerable portions of the population and for the enforcement of the Constitution in Nepal. Laws have been enacted to regulate the operation of the constitutional bodies envisioned as the human rights institutions, particularly the National Women's Commission, National Dalit Commission, National Inclusion Commission, Indigenous Peoples and Nationalities Commission, Madhesi Commission, Tharu Commission, and Muslim Commission. Several laws to regulate the functioning of the federal structures have been enacted; of note the Local Government Operation Act 2017, Inter-Governmental Fiscal Management Act 2017, National Natural Resource and Fiscal Commission Act 2017, and Employee Adjustment Act 2017.

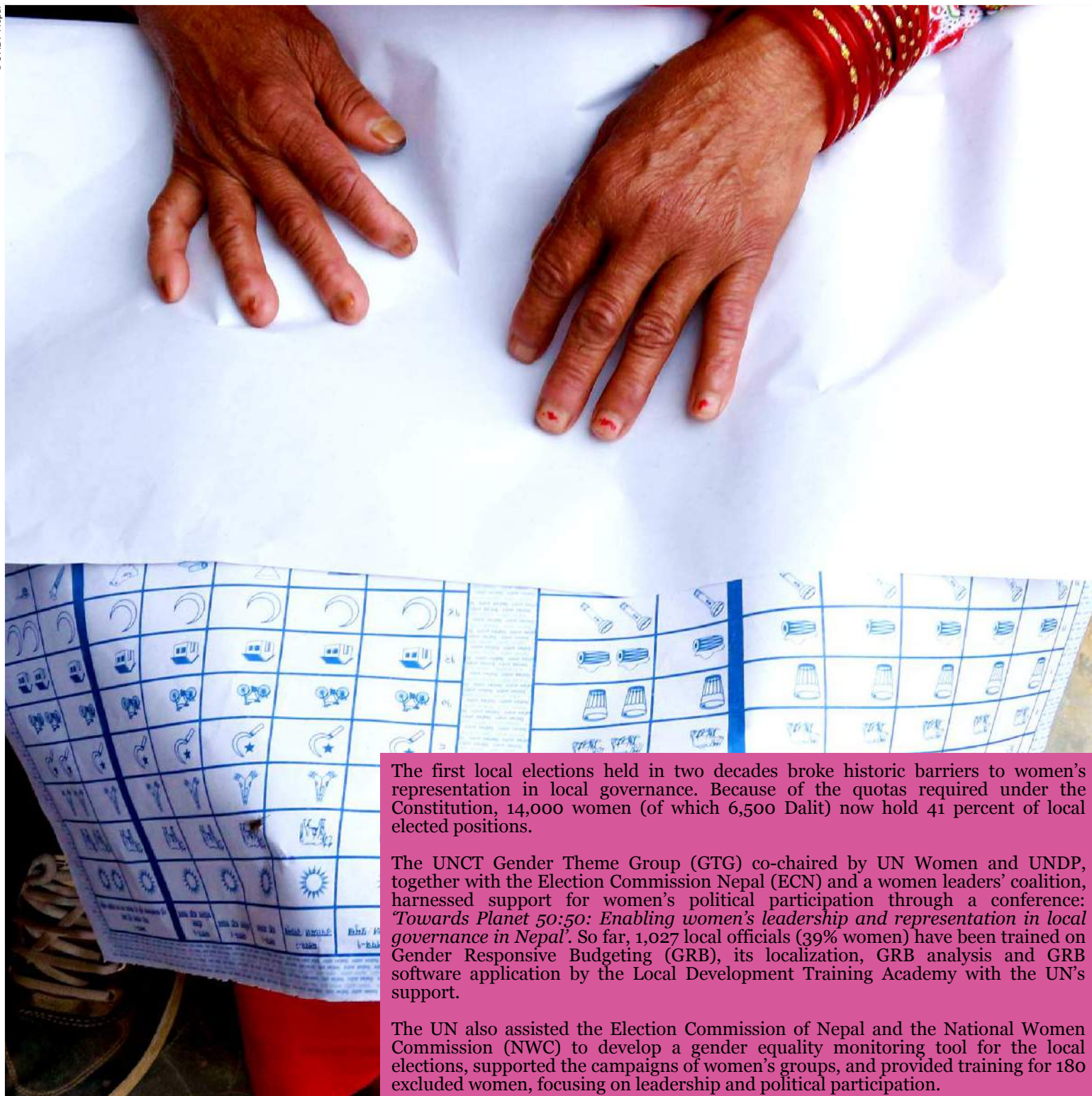
The Annual Report of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) was tabled in the Parliament. It was the first time that the NHRC report was submitted for discussion. Constitutionally, all the constitutional bodies submit their annual report to the President's office. Per the constitution, it has to be discussed in parliament to reinforce the proper implementation of the recommendations.



The Government of Nepal extended the tenure of both the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappearance (CIEDP) by a year for the third time. The primary objectives of the commissions, which were initially formed with a two-year mandate in 2015, are to resolve conflict issues and provide transitional justice to the war-era victims. Nepal extended invitations to three Special Rapporteurs (out of sixteen pending invitations), which are for the Special Rapporteur on the Right of Migrants, the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, and the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women. These would be the first visits by a Special Rapporteur in 9 years.

Nepal, as Colombo Process Chair, convened multi-stakeholder consultations on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) at national and regional levels. These consultations have been instrumental in identifying priorities, challenges and opportunities related to broader migration for actions both at national and regional levels. The national position paper on GCM has been developed by the Government of Nepal which provides a solid framework for the stakeholders to prioritize actions to protect and promote the rights of migrants and their families.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOINED UP WORK



The first local elections held in two decades broke historic barriers to women's representation in local governance. Because of the quotas required under the Constitution, 14,000 women (of which 6,500 Dalit) now hold 41 percent of local elected positions.

The UNCT Gender Theme Group (GTG) co-chaired by UN Women and UNDP, together with the Election Commission Nepal (ECN) and a women leaders' coalition, harnessed support for women's political participation through a conference: *'Towards Planet 50:50: Enabling women's leadership and representation in local governance in Nepal'*. So far, 1,027 local officials (39% women) have been trained on Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB), its localization, GRB analysis and GRB software application by the Local Development Training Academy with the UN's support.

The UN also assisted the Election Commission of Nepal and the National Women Commission (NWC) to develop a gender equality monitoring tool for the local elections, supported the campaigns of women's groups, and provided training for 180 excluded women, focusing on leadership and political participation.



The year 2017 also marked 11 years of resettlement of Bhutanese refugees from Eastern Nepal, with over 112,000 resettled in 10 years (more than 90% of refugees), and 4,278 in 2017 alone. The United States of America accepted the largest numbers of refugees, followed by Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Denmark, Norway, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. This has been a coordinated effort of 8 receiving countries, the Government of Nepal, UNHCR, which identified and assessed the resettlement needs of refugees, and IOM which provided pre-screening, medical exams, and moved refugees to third countries.

The Government of Nepal continues to host the remaining 7,422 refugees. The success of the resettlement program has created the necessary space to pursue alternative durable solutions, focusing on local solutions and facilitating dialogue on voluntary repatriation. The three UN agencies (IOM, UNHCR, WFP) meet regularly with Diplomatic missions to coordinate strategy and ways forward to achieve alternative durable solutions. In 2017, refugees' access to local services was enhanced particularly in the areas of health, education, livelihood and social protection.

The UN assisted in establishing e-linkage between the National Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) of the Foreign Employment Promotion Board and the district level Migrant Resource Centres at the District Administration Office operated by NGOs to provide information sharing on laws and policies related to foreign employment, awareness of human trafficking, and possible ways to minimize risks of trafficking throughout the migration cycle.

More than 15,000 aspirant migrant workers benefited from the MRC services in 2017. Furthermore, the UN facilitated a bi-lateral agreement between the Government of Nepal and the Government of Jordan to support decent work conditions for Nepali migrant workers and set mechanisms to prevent forced labour and human trafficking.

After signing the agreement, women were able to migrate for domestic work through formal channels and thus minimized risks of trafficking. As a result of the community based programme on empowerment of women and their rights to mobility, some of the local governments have started allocating funds to improve access to local employment opportunities for women and prevent trafficking. In total, about 35,000 women benefited from women empowerment programmes at the community level in 2017.

The economic rehabilitation support to the survivors of trafficking including the vulnerable returnee women under the project “The Future We Want: Creating Sustainable Foundations for Addressing Human Trafficking and Unsafe Migration of Women and Girls in Nepal” was implemented in partnership between IOM and UN Women. It resulted in 300 migrant women workers and victims of trafficking from Dhading and Sindhupalchowk districts to be trained in vocational and entrepreneurial skills to facilitate better employment opportunities for their livelihoods



ADVANCING THE SDGs IN NEPAL





In 2017, Nepal presented the Voluntary National Review at the HLPF. With the UN's support, the National Planning Commission has initiated the revision of its preliminary SDG country position paper (prepared in January 2016) to include updated baselines of post-earthquake data. Simultaneously, a cost and financing strategy was being developed.

The National Planning Commission held meetings with civil society and the private sector to update the framework and the indicators. The UN provided comments on the updated SDG baseline report, which was collated and submitted to the National Planning Commission and is now being finalized. The UN is working with the M&E division of the National Planning Commission to help revise the national M&E guidelines.

The objective is to ensure that the guidelines, prepared 4 years ago before the launch of the SDGs, are brought in line with the global indicator framework, and, in the spirit of "leaving no one behind," incorporating the required levels of disaggregation of data on indicators by sex, location, caste and income groups.



The National Planning Commission (NPC) initiated the national strategic review of SDG 2 as an independent, analytical and consultative exercise, which aims to provide a comprehensive and detailed understanding of the status of food and nutrition security in Nepal. WFP provided technical support to NPC in collaboration with FAO and UNICEF to carry out the review.

The review has been guided and supervised by an Advisory Group chaired by the chief of the Agriculture, Forestry and Cooperative Division of the NPC. The Advisory Group members include the secretaries of several ministries including Health, Agriculture, Women, Finance and others. WFP, UNICEF and FAO have served as the secretariat to facilitate the activities of the Advisory Group and provide technical and financial support to the strategic review.



The Ministry of Education and education sector development partners, including UNICEF, organized the Joint Review Meeting (JRM) of the School Sector Development Plan's (SSDP) first year of implementation in November.

Some of the main improvements during the 2016/17 fiscal year were the increase in the number of children entering grade 1, and an increased enrollment rate up to grade 8 and grade 10. The latter confirms ongoing improvement in the internal efficiency of the public-school sector and improved transition from basic to secondary level. The critical review of the Education programme allows it to improve the quality of learning with a lens on equity and will contribute to the Government of Nepal's objective of achieving SDG 4.



Nepal has already mainstreamed Sustainable Development Goals and Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in the current Nepal Health Sector Strategy (NHSS) 2015 - 2020. The strategy recommends four strategic directions to achieve UHC which are: (1) equitable access to health services, (2) improved quality of care, (3) health systems reform, and (4) multi-sectoral approach. As the development of the SDGs and the NHSS was done simultaneously, the mid-term review planned in 2018 will provide an opportunity to assess to what extent this strategy is aligned with the SDGs and where there is a gap; it will also propose additional strategies and approaches towards the end of 2018.

WHO supported the Ministry of Health to revise the National Mental Health Policy and to draft mental health legislation through consultative process. Both awaiting final endorsement. In line with the cumulative national and international experience, a Community Mental Health Packages was developed along with a training curriculum.

The UN signed an agreement with Yeti Airlines to promote the SDGs. The agreement is to collaborate to undertake joint initiatives to raise awareness of the SDGs and mobilize relevant stakeholders and advocate for their contribution to the achievement of the Goals.

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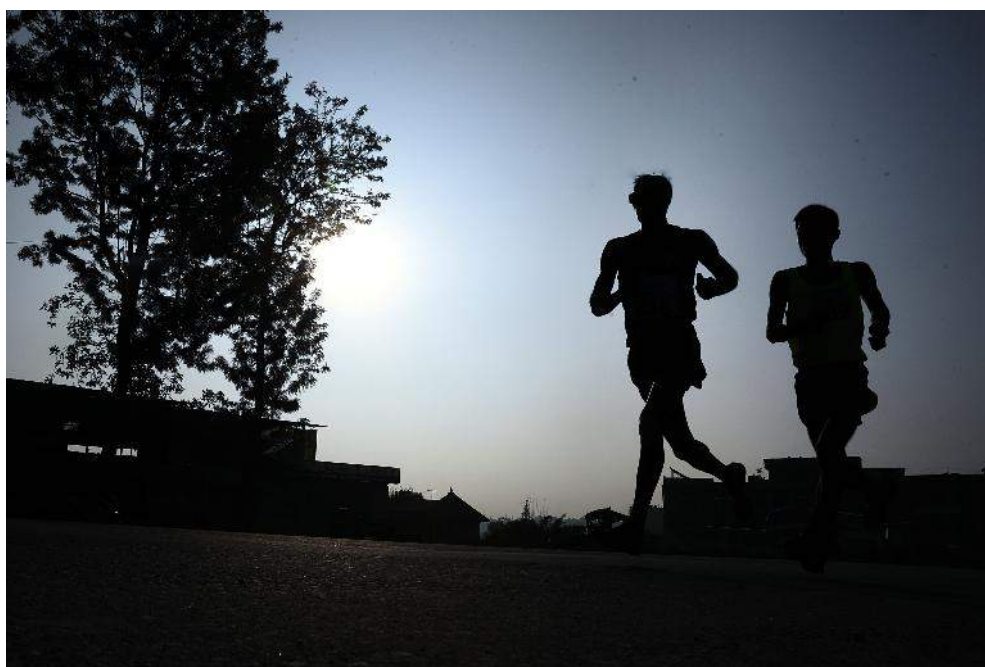
The partnership would also explore, adopt and promote innovative and sustainable business models in the aviation and tourism industry that would help Nepal meet certain SDG indicators in the areas of climate change adaptation, poverty reduction and gender equality. Yeti Airlines also branded two new aircrafts with the SDG logo. The UN collaborated with Buddha Air to have a page in their in-flight magazine on the SDGs.



The 11th Kathmandu Marathon was organised under the slogan "Run for SDGs" and brought together over 2,600 runners. The event recognized the role of sport in promoting many of the cornerstones of the Sustainable Development Goals—such as better health and well-being, social cohesion and inclusion.

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Participants competed across four categories: the full marathon (42.195K), half-marathon (21.097K), a 5K race, and, in line with the principle of "leave no one behind," the SDG Marathon also included a special "3-kilometer wheelchair race" geared at athletes with disabilities.





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The UN Country Team identified a list of 17 resource persons (eminent Nepali citizens) to write about each SDGs. The articles they produced were published in a Nepali and an English newspaper. Together with the narrative, there was an infographic related to each specific goal.

The UN in partnership with the Society of Economic Journalists in Nepal (SEJON), conducted four trainings/orientations to over 150 Nepali journalists [including women] across the country. The half-day training helped the local journalists understand the SDGs, Nepal's status vis-a-vis SDGs, ways to integrate SDGs into their reporting and the role the media can play in helping Nepal advance the SDGs. The training also helped the journalists hone their skills, particularly on development reporting. Each of these orientations had a session specially dedicated to "development reporting". The trainings were organized in partnership with local chapters of the Federation of Nepalese Journalists, the largest umbrella organization of professional journalists in Nepal. UN experts, government officials and senior editors from Nepal's top media outlets were involved as trainers in the program.

A High-Level Conference on the role of the Private Sector for Sustainable Development in Nepal was held in November. This event was organized by KOICA, Embassy of Korea, Local Global Compact Network of Nepal and UNDP. More than 200 business leaders, representatives from Government, civil society and development partners were present. At the end of the conference a declaration was adopted and included the announcement of the establishment of a Nepal Business Coalition for the SDGs, which will be a key pillar of our SDG work, along the Youth Alliance for the SDGs, the Civil Society Forum for the SDGs, and the Government, at federal, provincial and local levels.

During the event, the UN signed MoUs with the Confederation of Nepali Industries (CNI), the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), the Federation of Women Entrepreneur Association of Nepal, the Hotel Association of Nepal, and the Nepal Bankers Association. The MoUs focus on joint work to inform, advocate and mobilize for the achievement of the SDGs as well as improve the business environment for sustainable development. These organizations are key members of the Coalition, open for individual business leaders to join.



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A four-member delegation from the Government of Nepal visited Cambodia to see how the Government of Cambodia has undertaken their strategic review of SDG 2. They had a series of meetings with the Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister, senior Cambodian Government Officials, donors and UN Agencies that are actively participating in the SDG2 process in Cambodia. The delegation attended the meeting where the Strategic Review document and recommended strategy was officially approved.

The Nepal Youth Council (a youth led and youth run NGO with branches in different districts of Nepal) in collaboration with UNDP have organized SDG Festivals in every province of Nepal to localize the SDGs. More than 150 young women and men from two provinces had discussions with the Local Government Unit representatives, local NGO representatives and CSO representatives on prioritizing SDGs at the provincial level and gave recommendations to the government units on taking actions for the localization of those priority goals.



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**IMPLEMENTING
HUMAN
RIGHTS &
UNIVERSAL UN
NORMS IN
NEPAL**



In 2017 Nepal was elected a member of the Human Rights Council. The UN has continued to advocate for Nepal's commitment to its international obligations in the treaties to which they are party.

The international obligations and commitments feature prominently in the UNDAF 2018-2022. The UN championed with the Government and through the UNDAF to ensure that there is continued attention on Human Rights, with a focus on traditionally marginalized groups, whether it is due to caste, ethnicity, gender or geography. Agencies of the UN Country Team worked closely with development partners (and in consultation with the Government) to develop a GESI framework for development partners to use in the implementation of their programs.



The UN has continued its advocacy to have the Truth and Reconciliation Act amended in accordance with international norms and standards, as well as the Supreme Court verdict of February 2015. The UN also pursued a victim-centric approach to the transitional justice process and has worked with the Conflict Victims Common Platform (an umbrella coalition for survivors of the decade-long conflict) to prepare a strategy.

The strategy will form the basis on which the CVCP can seek support from development partners, the UN and others. The UN continued to collaborate and advocate with victims groups and civil society on transitional justice and reparations related issues. UN agencies implemented a victim's assistance program in collaboration with CVCP and especially survivors of Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) through coordination with the Government of Nepal, CSOs and 1325 action groups in the development of the National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 second phase. The evaluation of the first NAP indicated a huge gap in terms of inclusion of conflict victims since its inception, mainly issues related to CRSV survivors.

The five district consultations with a total of 159 participants constituting 85 % of female representatives discussed over the recommendations and inputs to be incorporated into the second NAP. The major recommendation of the consultation focused on three basic services i.e. health, education and employment.

With the joint efforts of IOM and UNDP, conflict victims from the selected districts also had an opportunity to directly interact with TRC commissioners on issues related to the delay of the transitional justice process and ways forward for the commission. The UN played a significant role in the nomination of two female CVCP representatives to work along with the NAP drafting committee chaired by the Joint Secretary of Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR).

The IOM also supported the holding of a national level consultation to validate the findings of the feedback and comments received from the districts. Lastly, a meeting of the UN Task Force Group on CRSV was organized and the recommendations from the districts were presented and substantial inputs from the UN counterparts were received to revise the draft recommendation document. A South-South exposure mission to Cambodia for stakeholders involved in the drafting, which led to the development of a proposed non-judicial reparation program under the NAP II, especially targeting victims of CRSV. UN Agencies in partnership with CVCP also continue to engage with relevant government ministries and commissions to advocate for comprehensive reparations programs.

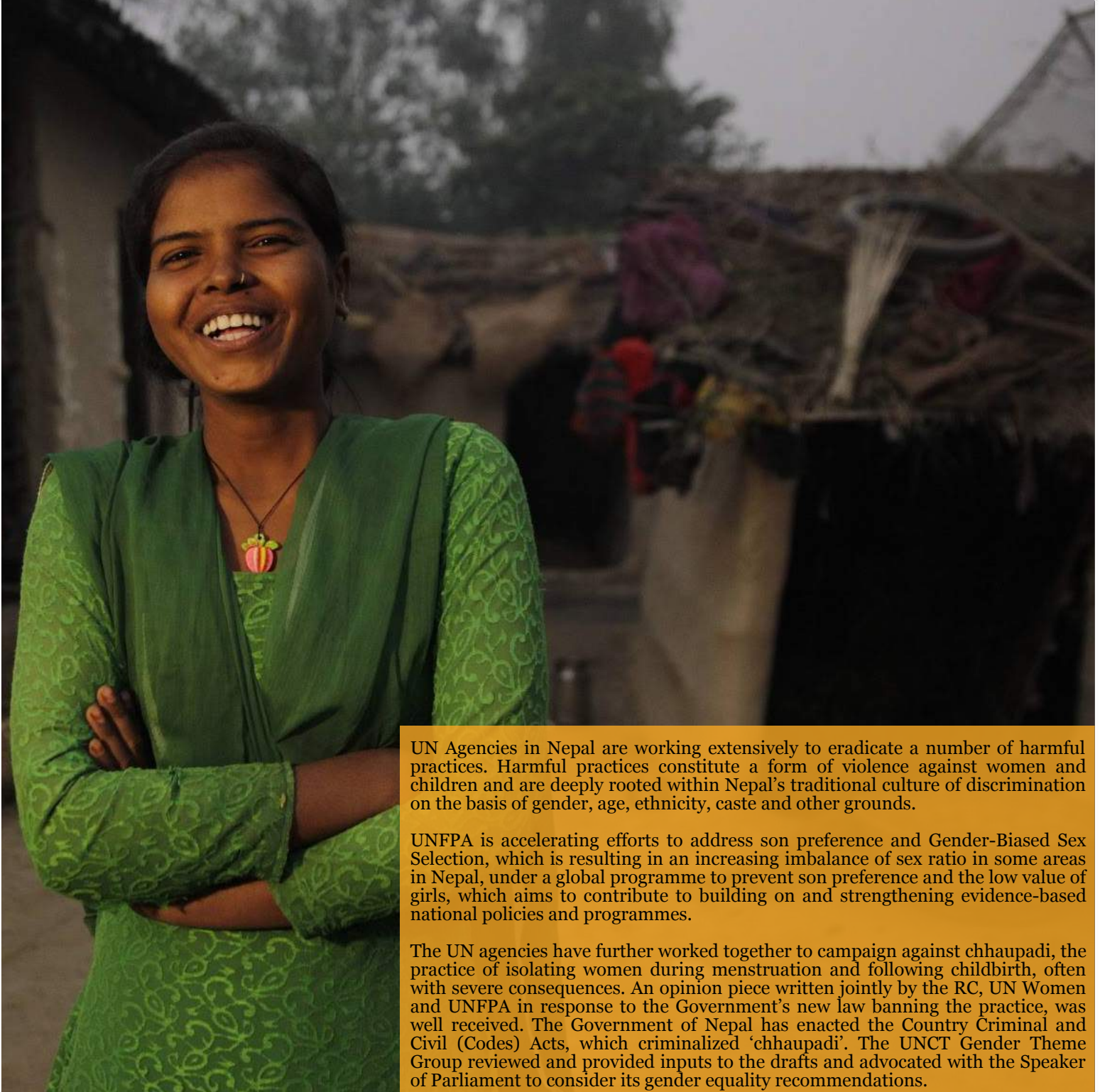




The National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage was developed and launched in 2016 with technical support from UNFPA and UNICEF. At the national level, both UNFPA and UNICEF worked jointly to support the government and the national steering committee to finalize the National Action Plan and strengthen the coordination mechanism to deliver a multi- sectoral response. The agencies took a lead role in supporting the implementation of the plan based on their mandate and partnership with relevant line ministries.

At the local level, where agencies implement similar interventions, efforts have been made to work in different locations to ensure the greatest possible outreach to girls and boys as well as their families and communities. At the systems level, where the agencies have different comparative advantages, the interventions of UNFPA and UNICEF are designed to be mutually reinforcing. For instance, UNICEF focuses heavily on strengthening the school sector and its retention of girls, while UNFPA places its focus on the health system strengthening, to promote youth friendly health services. Both agencies promote improved linkages between the sectors.

UNFPA is collaborating with the National Women's Commission to prepare a national inquiry on Child Marriage, which aims to examine existing legal and policy frameworks for gaps and inconsistencies, review implementation of the National Strategy to End Child Marriage, and review existing evidence on what approaches have proved more and less successful in the fight against child marriage.



UN Agencies in Nepal are working extensively to eradicate a number of harmful practices. Harmful practices constitute a form of violence against women and children and are deeply rooted within Nepal's traditional culture of discrimination on the basis of gender, age, ethnicity, caste and other grounds.

UNFPA is accelerating efforts to address son preference and Gender-Biased Sex Selection, which is resulting in an increasing imbalance of sex ratio in some areas in Nepal, under a global programme to prevent son preference and the low value of girls, which aims to contribute to building on and strengthening evidence-based national policies and programmes.

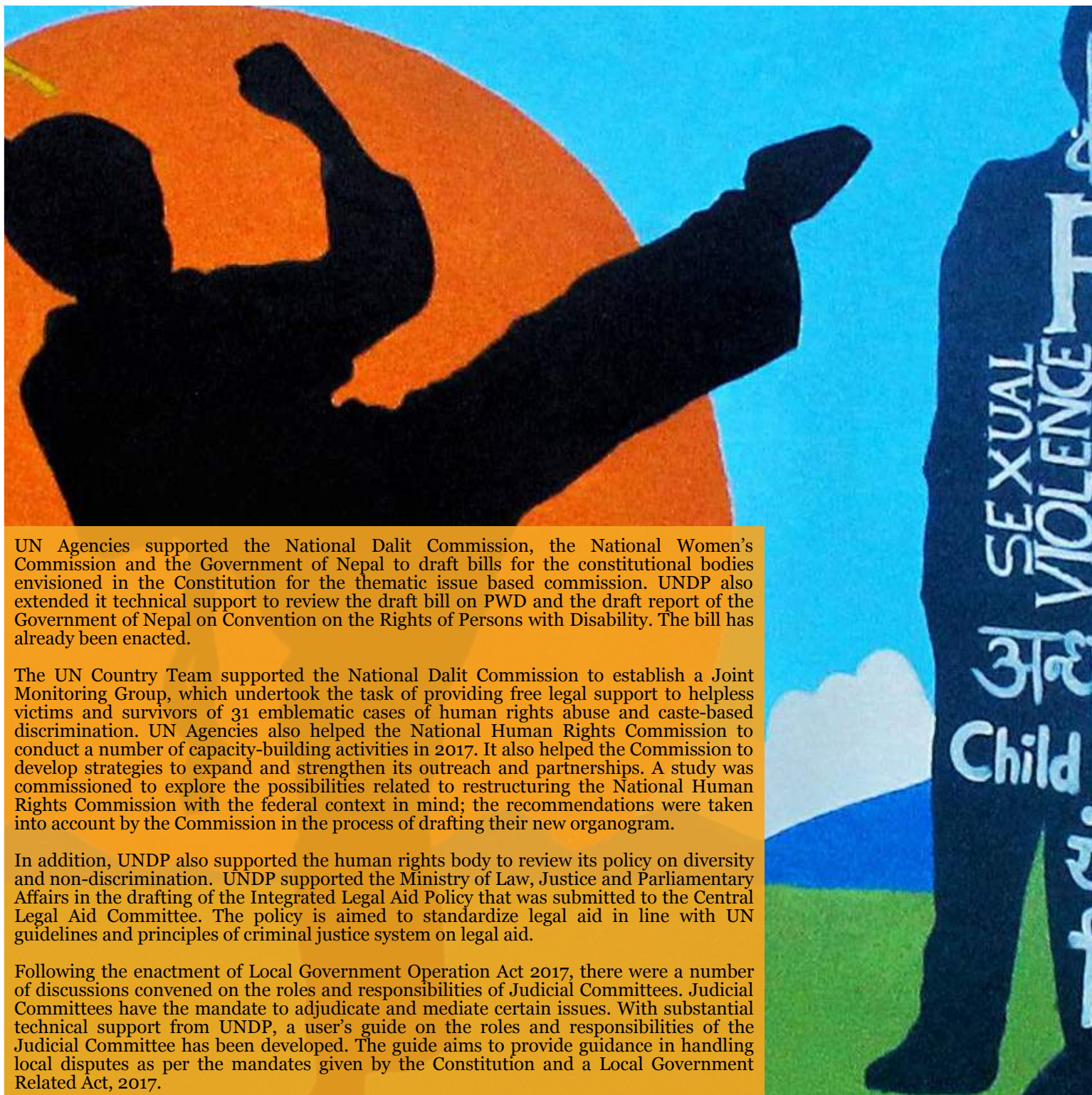
The UN agencies have further worked together to campaign against chhaupadi, the practice of isolating women during menstruation and following childbirth, often with severe consequences. An opinion piece written jointly by the RC, UN Women and UNFPA in response to the Government's new law banning the practice, was well received. The Government of Nepal has enacted the Country Criminal and Civil (Codes) Acts, which criminalized 'chhaupadi'. The UNCT Gender Theme Group reviewed and provided inputs to the drafts and advocated with the Speaker of Parliament to consider its gender equality recommendations.



The Mayadevi Temple in Lumbini was lit up in orange lights to mark the beginning of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence to challenge violence against women and girls. This was done by the Lumbini Development Trust in collaboration with the UNCT Gender Theme Group.

UNODC delivered a briefing on the ratification and accession process for the UN Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Smuggling of Migrants (SOM) Protocols for the Government of Nepal and civil society representatives. Nepal has already ratified the United Nations Transnational Organized Crime Convention, the parent convention of the TIP and SOM Protocols. UNDP extended technical and financial support to the Legislative Parliament Committee of Legislature Parliament to enact the codes namely; National Penal (Code) Act, National Criminal Procedure (Code) Act, National Civil (Code) Act, National Civil Procedure (Code) Act, Criminal Offence (Punishment Determination and Enforcement) Act. The enactment of these codes has been a significant step in reforming and strengthening rule of law in Nepal. These legislations aim to standardize the legal system, complying with international standards and thereby enhancing the administration of justice.

The new Penal Code criminalizes several harmful social practices and has also adopted non-custodial approach of punishment. A costed plan for the implementation of these codes has been developed. UNDP provided technical and financial support to lead this process.



UN Agencies supported the National Dalit Commission, the National Women's Commission and the Government of Nepal to draft bills for the constitutional bodies envisioned in the Constitution for the thematic issue based commission. UNDP also extended its technical support to review the draft bill on PWD and the draft report of the Government of Nepal on Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability. The bill has already been enacted.

The UN Country Team supported the National Dalit Commission to establish a Joint Monitoring Group, which undertook the task of providing free legal support to helpless victims and survivors of 31 emblematic cases of human rights abuse and caste-based discrimination. UN Agencies also helped the National Human Rights Commission to conduct a number of capacity-building activities in 2017. It also helped the Commission to develop strategies to expand and strengthen its outreach and partnerships. A study was commissioned to explore the possibilities related to restructuring the National Human Rights Commission with the federal context in mind; the recommendations were taken into account by the Commission in the process of drafting their new organogram.

In addition, UNDP also supported the human rights body to review its policy on diversity and non-discrimination. UNDP supported the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs in the drafting of the Integrated Legal Aid Policy that was submitted to the Central Legal Aid Committee. The policy is aimed to standardize legal aid in line with UN guidelines and principles of criminal justice system on legal aid.

Following the enactment of Local Government Operation Act 2017, there were a number of discussions convened on the roles and responsibilities of Judicial Committees. Judicial Committees have the mandate to adjudicate and mediate certain issues. With substantial technical support from UNDP, a user's guide on the roles and responsibilities of the Judicial Committee has been developed. The guide aims to provide guidance in handling local disputes as per the mandates given by the Constitution and a Local Government Related Act, 2017.

**COOPERATION
WITH
PEACEKEEPERS,
POLITICAL &
HUMANITARIAN
ACTORS**

The UN and the Humanitarian Country Team once more focused on preparedness for recurrent disasters. It updated its Emergency Response Plans (ERP) for Floods just prior to the monsoon, so that the contingency plan and all clusters were ready to roll-out the response, which was later needed. In August, as the rain caused some of the worst floods in decades, the Ministry of Home Affairs requested the Humanitarian Country Team to roll out the ERP, to which the HCT and the clusters promptly responded. OCHA ROAP provided information management and communications support to the Humanitarian Country Team, but primarily it was the clusters who were in a position to respond together with the implementing partners. To ensure that the concerns of women and the most vulnerable groups were not left out, the UN supported the Women Friendly Disaster Management Group to gather information on major gender issues/needs, gaps and responses in the affected districts, the findings of which informed the revision of major humanitarian tools and guidelines.

The Humanitarian Country Team deepened its collaboration with Durham University on their work on seismic risk assessment. The scenarios form the basis of the ERP for earthquakes. The modelling has gained in sophistication and is not only integrating accessibility, but also the Human Development as a proxy for resilience.

In June, WFP started an emergency preparedness project with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), to set up a logistics backbone of six humanitarian hubs throughout the country and train local emergency responders to operate the hubs and increase capacity to respond to frequent local and infrequent large national disasters. The UN supported WFP and MoHA to implement a cost recovery system for the Humanitarian Staging Area at Tribhuvan Airport, jointly used by UNICEF, WHO, WFP and MoHA to preposition humanitarian emergency response supplies. Health Emergency Operation Centers (HEOCs) were established in each of three provinces (province number 4, 5 & 7) by WHO, and handed over to the Ministry of Health.

WHO will establish the HEOCs in the remaining provinces once the provincial headquarters are finalized by the government. Six hub hospitals in Kathmandu valley are now fully equipped with tested mass casualty management plan and Emergency Medical Logistics Warehouse having critical health-related stockpiles for responding to any mass casualty events. WHO is replicating the hub hospital preparedness activities in the four hub hospital networks in province 5 and 7.

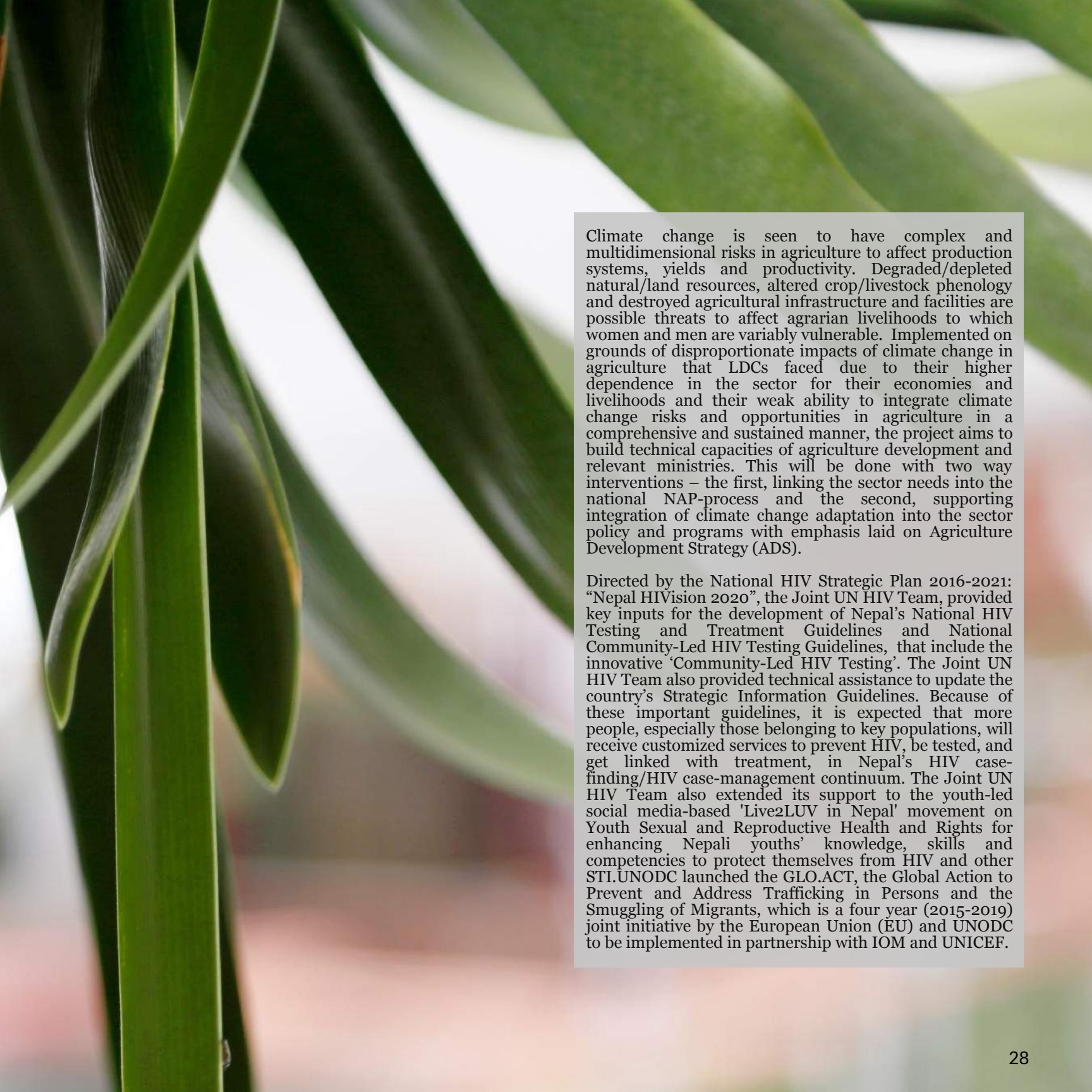


RESULT OF JOINED UP APPROACHES OF THE UNCT

UNICEF and UNFPA have been working together since 2015 to support interventions to end child marriage through the Global Programme on Accelerating Action to End Child Marriage. The agencies work to empower adolescent girls and boys, involving families, communities and religious leaders, to create an enabling environment at the local level and to ensure health and education services respond to their particular needs. The agencies engage at the policy level to promote the implementation of the National Strategy to End Child Marriage. The year 2017 saw the drafting of an Action Plan with M&E framework to support implementation of the national strategy. The two agencies supported around 9,000 girls and boys to participate in a year-long life skills training. Recognizing that the girls require the support of their parents, the agencies also delivered a version of the training package aimed at parents in 2017, reaching nearly 4,000. The project has also contributed to expanding the pool of knowledge around child marriage in Nepal with the finalization of a baseline prevalence report as well as a further analysis report on Adolescent Girls in Nepal.

WHO and UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Government of Nepal to develop and endorse the Comprehensive Multi-Year Plan 2017-21 (cMYP 2017-21) of National Immunization Program (NIP) of Nepal. The cMYP streamlines the immunization planning process at national level into a single comprehensive and costed plan. It takes into account the global vaccine plan and the South-east Asia Regional Vaccine Action Plan (SEARVAP) along with Sustainable Development Goals. This cMYP is fourth in its series and will be the guiding document for the five years to come. It will help in identifying the activities which will prevent and reduce mortality, disability and morbidity occurring from the disease which are preventable through vaccination. The cMYP 2017-2021 envisions “to provide every child and mother high-quality, safe and affordable vaccines and immunization services from the national Immunization Program in an equitable manner”.

FAO and UNDP are contributing to the national NAP-process directly in association with the Ministry of Population and Environment operated activities, and the other way, through NAP-Agriculture Project in collaboration with ministries of agricultural development in Nepal. ‘Supporting Nepal to Integrate Agriculture Sectors into NAPs’, the national component of the Global NAP-Ag Project supported by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany via International Climate Initiative, aims to integrate climate change concerns as they affect agricultural sector-based livelihoods into the NAPs as well as associated national and sectoral planning and budgeting processes, which has leverages to SDGs (agenda 2030).

A close-up photograph of several long, narrow, green leaves of a plant, possibly a banana or similar tropical fruit. The leaves are arranged in a fan-like pattern, with some in sharp focus and others blurred in the background. The lighting is bright, highlighting the texture and veins of the leaves.

Climate change is seen to have complex and multidimensional risks in agriculture to affect production systems, yields and productivity. Degraded/depleted natural/land resources, altered crop/livestock phenology and destroyed agricultural infrastructure and facilities are possible threats to affect agrarian livelihoods to which women and men are variably vulnerable. Implemented on grounds of disproportionate impacts of climate change in agriculture that LDCs faced due to their higher dependence in the sector for their economies and livelihoods and their weak ability to integrate climate change risks and opportunities in agriculture in a comprehensive and sustained manner, the project aims to build technical capacities of agriculture development and relevant ministries. This will be done with two way interventions – the first, linking the sector needs into the national NAP-process and the second, supporting integration of climate change adaptation into the sector policy and programs with emphasis laid on Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS).

Directed by the National HIV Strategic Plan 2016-2021: “Nepal HIVision 2020”, the Joint UN HIV Team, provided key inputs for the development of Nepal’s National HIV Testing and Treatment Guidelines and National Community-Led HIV Testing Guidelines, that include the innovative ‘Community-Led HIV Testing’. The Joint UN HIV Team also provided technical assistance to update the country’s Strategic Information Guidelines. Because of these important guidelines, it is expected that more people, especially those belonging to key populations, will receive customized services to prevent HIV, be tested, and get linked with treatment, in Nepal’s HIV case-finding/HIV case-management continuum. The Joint UN HIV Team also extended its support to the youth-led social media-based ‘Live2LUV in Nepal’ movement on Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for enhancing Nepali youths’ knowledge, skills and competencies to protect themselves from HIV and other STI. UNODC launched the GLO.ACT, the Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants, which is a four year (2015-2019) joint initiative by the European Union (EU) and UNODC to be implemented in partnership with IOM and UNICEF.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW PARTNERSHIPS

In order to ensure meaningful participation of youth in the planning process, UNDP and UNFPA built the capacity of national youth networks to help them reflect their perspectives in the National SDG Baseline Report, the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, and the Voluntary National Review Report 2017 on SDGs. Stakeholders in 5 districts, including newly elected local officials, were oriented on the youth policy, youth vision 2025 and the SDGs. 54 youth from district youth networks were also trained to be trainers on SDG localization; these young people now constitute a roster of resource people for rolling out youth-focused SDG trainings at local level. A further 658 youth at the local level were provided with advocacy skills training around SDGs 3,5,6,8 and 16.

UNFPA organized two interactive workshops in Kathmandu for about 60 youth volunteers and public health students around data related to SDGs 3 (health) and 5 (gender equality and empowerment) drawing from the 2016 Nepal Demographic and Health Survey. UNFPA continued to promote youth volunteerism at central and district levels in collaboration with Youth Peer Educators Network (YPEER Nepal) to educate and inform a large number of young people on issues concerning sexual and reproductive health and rights. The YPEER Nepal network implemented the “1 YPEER 1 School” programme – a peer education programme on sexual and reproductive health and rights - in 24 public schools covering 6 districts and reaching nearly 500 young people who have since participated in local planning processes and advocated for more investment in concerning sexual and reproductive health and rights and comprehensive sexuality education for young people. An English language youth-friendly booklet on SDGs developed by UNFPA in 2016, was translated into Nepali in 2017 – this has been disseminated widely across the country and is also being used extensively by youth networks and organizations throughout.



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The Urban Health Initiative was launched to tackle the health impact of air pollution in Nepal’s capital city. The Urban Health Initiative is a collaboration between WHO, UNHabitat, and ICIMOD. In 2017, the Ministry of Health, UNFPA, GIZ, WHO and the Real Medicine Foundation signed a collaborative agreement in support of “Midwifery Education and Cadre”. The purpose of this arrangement is to facilitate a more coherent and coordinated approach toward midwifery in Nepal as per the standards of WHO and ICM.

IOM has renewed its MoU with ICIMOD with an understanding that joint initiatives will be undertaken in areas related to Migration, Climate Change, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction. IOM and ICIMOD are in the process of developing new initiatives in close partnership with Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Labor. The Migration and Climate Change Strategy has also been developed by the Ministry of Environment and Population highlighting the roles and responsibilities of different Ministries as well as IOM and ICIMOD to better understand the climate change and migration nexus in Nepal.



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In 2017, UNDP continued to engage youth in advancing the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development through exclusive programs and events while also integrating the youth component in regular interventions around economic empowerment, civic engagement and resilience -- the three key areas of focus identified by UNDP's Youth Strategy. Mock-youth parliament sessions have comprised another facet of UNDP's efforts to augment youth engagement in democratic processes and advocacy for Agenda 2030. A continuous effort from 2016 to 2017, the Parliament Support Project under UNDP has been partnering with the Association of Youth Organizations Nepal (AYON) to hold 11 such events, covering all seven provinces, and directly involving over 1,000 youths—comprising around 20 percent women, five percent Dalits, 17 percent Janajati, 19 percent Madhesis, 10 percent from the LGBTI community and 20 percent youths with disabilities. And, as a testament to the positive impact of the experience on the confidence and leadership qualities of participants, several went on to file their candidacies in the local-level elections in some districts.



Nepal's business community expressed its firm commitment to contribute to the country's sustainable development, helping it achieve the SDGs by 2030. The Chaudhary Foundation pledged, at the 2017 Family Planning Summit in London, to revitalize the family planning programme in Nepal and join the FP2020 global movement to protect the rights of women and girls to quality family services, along with the core partners UNFPA, USAID, DFID, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Chaudhary Foundation is also working on improved warehousing and supply chain management, strengthened communication and outreach on family planning, and is supporting the recently launched UNFPA mobile application "Khulduli" (curiosity) which provides sexual and reproductive health information for adolescents and young people.

Likewise, Nepal's top business associations including the Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI), Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), Federation of Women Entrepreneurs' Associations of Nepal, Hotel Association Nepal, National Business Initiative and the Nepal Bankers' Association announced the creation of a "Nepal Business Coalition for SDGs," which calls on all businesses to align with Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. The coalition, fully backed by these organizations, encourages private sector entities to adopt the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals as part of their business plans, collaborate to undertake joint initiatives to foster the achievement of the Goals, mobilize other relevant stakeholders and advocate for their contribution to achievement of the Goals, and jointly work on policy reforms to improve Nepal's business environment.

UNDP Nepal and the Himalayan Consensus Institute (HCI) entered into a partnership to collaborate in the areas of crisis prevention and conflict mitigation. This project is a joint initiative for crisis and conflict mitigation in the Himalayan region, highly impacted by climate change. The partnership will focus, among other things, on developing systematic early warning systems ahead of environmental catastrophe to aid governments and communities in their response.

UNDP and the Chaudhary Foundation-social initiative of Chaudhary Group agreed to collaborate to undertake joint initiatives to promote and increase awareness of the SDGs focusing on the role of the private sector's and mobilize stakeholders to contribute to the achievement of the Goals. The partnership will also optimize the Chaudhary Foundation's contribution to, and involvement in, local economic development by strengthening linkages between micro entrepreneurs and their businesses that would help Nepal meet some specific SDG indicators in the areas of poverty reduction, gender equality, industry, innovation and infrastructure.

HIGHLIGHTS OF JOINT RESOURCE MOBILIZATION



For the 2017 floods, the Humanitarian Country Team developed a Joint Response Plan. The total cost of the JRP was USD 40 Million out of which USD 15 million was funded. The CERF Secretariat provided an additional USD 5 million. UN WFP and UNICEF set up a joint response to prevent and treat malnutrition during the 2017 floods. This joint response received 2 million pounds in funding from DFID was implemented in six flood affected districts. The UN Country Team in Nepal submitted several joint funding proposals, including to the Third UNPRPD Funding Round on Disability and Human Rights: Access to Services and Opportunities. The UNCT also submitted six joint proposals for the undg A-P 2030 Agenda Implementation Fund.

The Resident Coordinator fund-raised USD 4 million from the Government of Thailand for reconstruction efforts in the earthquake affected areas. Funding for the Resident Coordinator's Office was also raised to the amount of USD 1,5 million (from the Government of Norway and DFID).

**INNOVATION
IN
PROGRAMME &
OPERATION**



The Common Feedback Project initiated after the 2015 Earthquakes, was rolled out in 2017 flood affected areas of the Terai after the August floods. The project collects feedback on the perceptions of the victims in order to inform policy decisions. DOCO provided funding to roll the project out to nine districts with the lowest HDI score soliciting feedback on the development priorities in the UNDAF in order to inform the programming of the UNDAF.

To strengthen advocacy for non-judicial reparations, women survivors of conflict were capacitated on audio visual storytelling, using their own experiences of violence during the conflict with. The approach enabled the survivors to recount and process their experiences of violence with less distress and improved strength.

The innovative medium of expression brought out fresh hope and determination for the CRSV survivors to pursue justice from a more determined and enlightened perspective. This effort built learning from the UN Trust Fund to end violence against women initiative with The Story Kitchen. The innovative work of development partners in adopting a 'Common GESI Framework for Development Partners in Nepal' has made the coordination and substantive cohesion less daunting, especially in the field of gender equality and social inclusion. The framework was developed by the IDPG GESI group, co-chaired by UN Women and USAID. It has so far been effective in framing negotiations among international development partners and Civil Society Organizations on the topics of women's rights, gender mainstreaming and social inclusion.



UNFPA launched an Android-based mobile application aimed at adolescent boys and girls, together with the Ministry of Health. The mobile app, *Khulduli* (curiosity), promotes the sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescents in Nepal by empowering them with accurate information and helping them adopt a healthy lifestyle. Today, less than a third of Nepali adolescents have access to the sexual and reproductive health information they need, according to a recent study by GIZ.

The app, which is in Nepali language, will be available via Android's Play Store, and can be accessed across Nepal by those who has access to Wi-Fi or mobile data services. Once downloaded, the '*Khulduli*' app can be navigated both online and offline. Through UNFPA's partnership with the Chaudhary Foundation, phones sold by the Chaudhary group will have the app pre-downloaded starting in 2018.

Similarly, the iData project under UNDP aimed to show how blending data and behavioural science can encourage urban planners and communities to invest in earthquake resilient settlement plans and homes. The project analyzes complex data collected on 1 million houses damaged in the 2015 earthquake across 31 districts to gain insights into damage patterns as well as people's socio-cultural behaviors.

A mobile-based application developed in partnership with Microsoft Innovation Center helped UNDP deliver over US\$ 4 million recovery assistance packages funded by People's Republic of China to over 31,000 homes with unprecedented accuracy and swiftness in flood-affected areas in Nepal. The application has potential to be replicated in any post-disaster recovery programmes.



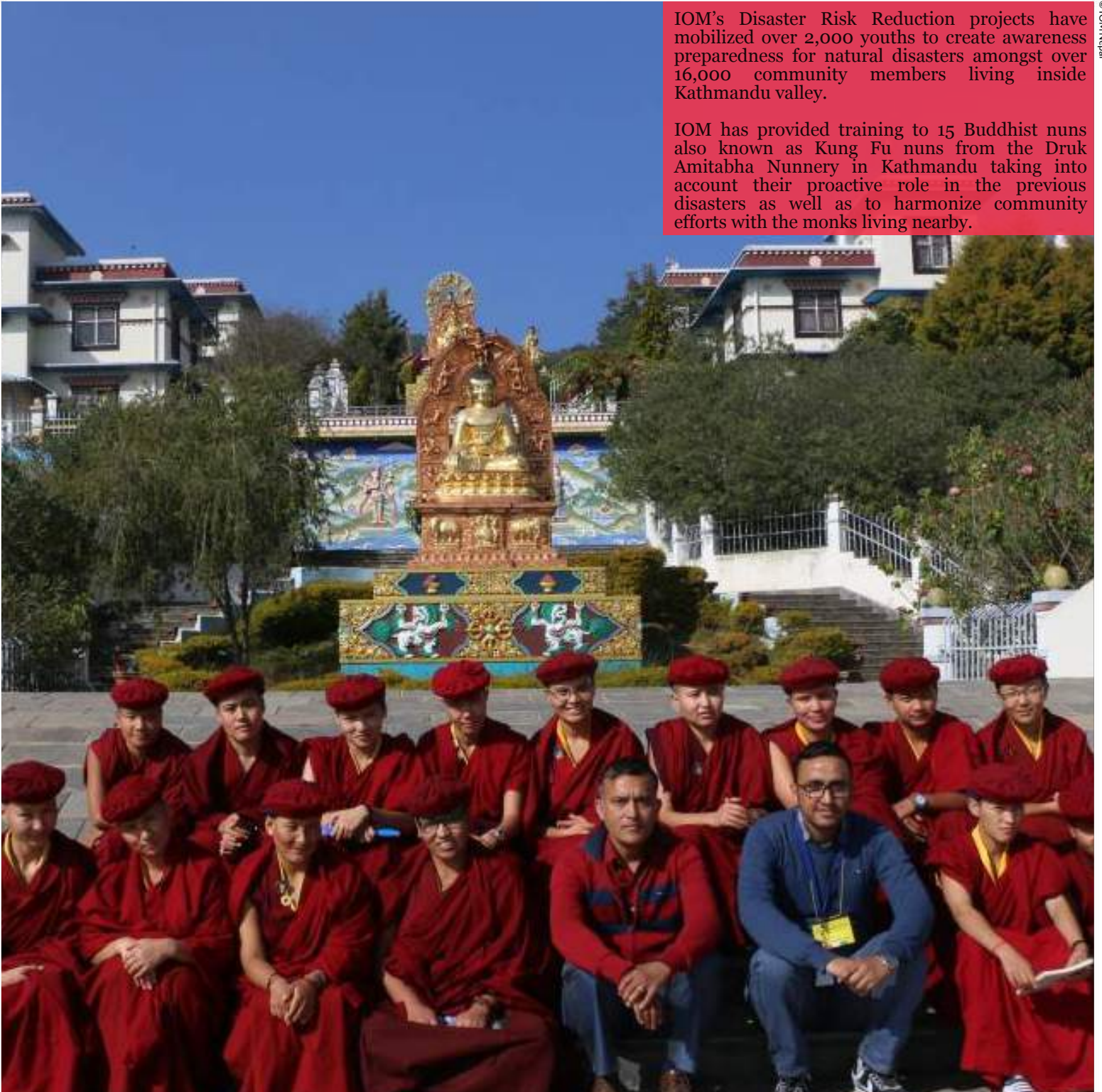
UNDP has collaborated with the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology to set up full-fledged new Automatic Weather Stations in three districts: Sermathang in Sindhupalchowk; Raatanangla and Guranshe in Surkhet; and Melung in Dolakha. These stations are designed to measure weather parameters, such as precipitation, temperature, humidity, solar radiation, wind speed/direction and soil temperature, among others, and disseminate the data in real time, enabling more comprehensive climate study. Nepal's House of Representatives launched, with UNDP's support, an online live cast system to air in real time the parliamentary discussions, bringing the people's representatives closer to the people.

Zero-energy hydrams installed by the Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme and the Center for Rural Technology Nepal have enabled irrigation for the benefit of vegetable farmers in rural Kavre. UNDP introduced two low-cost housing models that used local construction materials, adopted and approved by the Government of Nepal. The model not only provided homes to those who had lost theirs in the earthquake, but also helped raise awareness regarding safer reconstruction practices.

Similarly, three municipalities in the Valley have made an official shift in favor of improved governance in building practices and compliance with the National Building Code with the adoption of the Electronic Building Permit System, initiated by UNDP.

IOM's Disaster Risk Reduction projects have mobilized over 2,000 youths to create awareness preparedness for natural disasters amongst over 16,000 community members living inside Kathmandu valley.

IOM has provided training to 15 Buddhist nuns also known as Kung Fu nuns from the Druk Amitabha Nunnery in Kathmandu taking into account their proactive role in the previous disasters as well as to harmonize community efforts with the monks living nearby.



UNDP, in partnership with Nepal's leading newspaper, The Kathmandu Post, launched a seven-part video series, a mix of short films, invisible theater and animation, that presented instances of casual sexism and discriminatory practices prevalent in Nepali society, but with a twist: conventional gender roles were swapped.

Launched through Facebook and Twitter, the series drew huge response, drawing 1500+ comments, 6000+ shares and over 2 million views in just a few weeks' time, illustrating the value of such hypothetical virtual scenarios in getting people to think, talk and transform attitudes to do with gender and equality.

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Over 1,000 youths were engaged in designing and testing innovative technologies, including robotics and remote sensing, that have the potential to help accelerate efforts to achieve the SDGs.

Organized in partnership with Nepal Robotics Association and Nepal Engineers' Association, Yantra SDGs provided young inventors an opportunity to test out creative ideas that linked automation and the achievement of the SDGs.

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**OPPORTUNITIES
TO SUPPORT
NATIONAL
PARTNERS IN
INTEGRATED
DEVELOPMENT**

'Federalization and devolution, cross cutting themes and new ways of working,' was the topic of the UNCT retreat at the beginning of 2018. The newly elected local units present an exciting opportunity for the local development processes and also for bringing the SDGs and governance to the local level. The newly elected female representatives as well as representatives from traditionally marginalized groups constitute a new group of people with influence on local and national development processes, which will be a departure from past practices. In the coming year, the global and regional best practices that the UN brings to the table as well as the expertise in governance and capacity building will prove invaluable.

The UN also has a key role to play, which has also been articulated by development partners, in convening, coordination as well as sharing information and analysis with both development partners and the Government of Nepal. With the start of the new UNDAF 2018-2022, there are ample opportunities for the UN to support national partners in integrated development policy and programme development. The four areas of the UNDAF are aligned with the national plans and programmes, but a key element in the year ahead will be to identify how the national policies will be articulated and implemented at the provincial and local level. The UN will also focus on working with the Government on meeting the aspirations on achieving the SDGs as well as graduating to a MIC by 2030.

The federalization process will provide challenges to the UN as there are still crucial elements to be decided, determined and interpreted in the days ahead. At the same time the first local elections in 20 years with a big number of elected female and Dalit representatives provides a unique opportunity for service delivery and accountability at the local level. The UN will come together to work on the issue of migration, both in terms of the rights of migrants, the processes for finding employment abroad, the conditions of the families staying in Nepal and re-integration upon their return. The ambition for the UN Country Team is to develop a System Wide Action Plan to help in strategizing the UN support for this area. This will, amongst other things, build on consultations that have already occurred in relation to the Global Compact on Migration and in tandem with Nepal's Chairmanship of the Colombo Process. The UN will continue to work with the Government on reconstruction and recovery both from the 2015 earthquakes, but also the 2017 monsoon floods.

With the Humanitarian Country Team and clusters, the UN will update its Emergency Response Plan for floods, but also revise the Emergency Response Plan for another major earthquake – based on the seismic risk modelling developed by Durham University. Both Emergency Response Plan in order for the UN and Humanitarian system to be able to support the Government of Nepal in the eventuality of another major natural calamity.



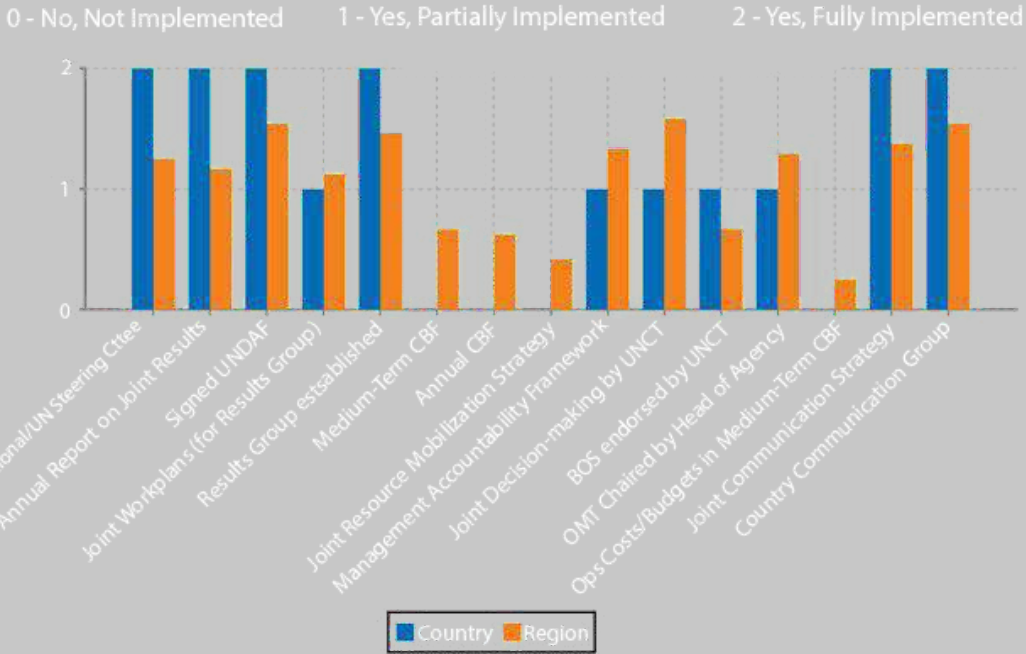
The UN Country Team Nepal is continuously working to implement the Delivering as One (DaO) principles and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) by implementing joint programmes, using common services for cost effective operations utilizing the best practices among the agencies. In line with UNDAF (2013-2017), a Joint National/UN Steering Committee chaired by National Planning Commission and UN Resident Coordinator played a key role as an oversight accountability for the strategic direction, results achievement and overall coordination for UNDAF implementation and to promote one program priorities.

In order to deliver on its UNDAF commitments, the UNCT continued to implement the Delivering as One (DaO) principles. As Vice-Chairs of the seven UNDAF Outcome Steering Groups (OSGs), Heads of Agencies continued to support senior government officials to lead the UNDAF Outcomes. UNCT Implemented most of the core elements (11) of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of Delivering as One (DaO).

Many parts of the Business Operation Strategy (BOS) were already implemented. Under the leadership of UN Country Team, the Operation Management Team (OMT), where possible, has started joint procurement, finance and human resource management, ICT and Administration. The BOS team has been formed and started to draft a roadmap for implementing Business Operation Strategy (BOS). Various inter-agency groups by thematic/functional area were active in 2017: Gender Theme Group, Inter-Agency SDG Working Group, Group on HIV/AIDS, M&E Group, Operations Management Team, UN Transitional Justice Task Force, UN Communications Group etc. remained operationally effective for supporting ONE UN approach.

In 2017, joint Annual Work Plans (AWPs) of result groups were developed. A joint initiative from UN agencies developing and implementing the joint programs on gender equality and women's rights, human rights, land tenure, environmental sustainability and many more delivered a good synergy on results achievement and to support sustainable development goals.

Implementation of Standard Operating Procedures







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