

Empowering Lives

FIVE YEARS OF
ENGAGEMENT IN NEPAL

IN PICTURES

2013-2017



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*



THIS PHOTO BOOK presents a snapshot of results from UNDP's last programming cycle (2013-2017) in the areas of inclusive economic growth, democratic governance, resilience, gender equality and innovation.

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FOREWORD

The past five years have been marked by historic achievements for Nepal and its people. The country was able to successfully conclude a participatory constitution-writing process and promulgate a new constitution through a democratically elected Constituent Assembly, paving the way for its transformation into a federal democratic system. The subsequent elections of local, provincial and federal governments in 2017 were a tremendous success, both in terms of quality and mobilization, demonstrating the strong attachment of the Nepali people to democracy. With all these positive developments coupled with demonstrated progress in human development, including in poverty reduction, Nepal has set the ground to propel itself to newer heights in the years to come.

However, this period was also marked by unprecedented tragedies such as the 2015 earthquakes, which claimed the lives of nearly 9,000 people and damaged around a million houses, and the 2017 floods that affected 1.7 million people. Several challenges remain in areas including governance that hinder Nepal's progress on its development pathway. Key structural reforms in both the economic and governance sectors are still required to sustain the impact of development gains and ensure their resilience to natural and man-made shocks.

Through all these highs and lows, UNDP worked alongside the Government of Nepal and other international and national development partners to strengthen institutions and capacities and empower communities through advocacy, policy support and projects defined and agreed to with Government, as part of the UNDP Country Programme Action Plan (2013-2017).

This photo book captures and presents some of the defining moments of UNDP's programming in Nepal during this period and is meant as a tribute to the dedication of many Nepalis from all over the country in all walks of life who made our interventions impactful. While it does not present a comprehensive picture of the programme and its achievements, we hope this book will provide a quick peek into what we did in the past five years.

In close partnership with the Government, civil society, development partners, academia and the private sector, UNDP delivered a comprehensive program package of US\$140 million, focused in the areas of inclusive economic growth, democratic governance, resilience, post-disaster recovery, gender equality, social inclusion and innovation. Our results contributed to Nepal's success against the Millennium Development Goals and lay a strong foundation for its efforts towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

As we look back on our achievements, we commit to deliver on our agreed projects going forth and look forward to continued fruitful engagements and partnerships throughout the new programme cycle for 2018-2022. We believe that, together, we can contribute to a better, safer, more inclusive and prosperous Nepal where everyone can lead a dignified and empowered life.



Valerie Julliand
UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR AND
UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE



Renaud Meyer
COUNTRY DIRECTOR
UNDP NEPAL









INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH



REDUCING POVERTY THROUGH ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Over the past five years, UNDP has created stable income for over 70,000 people, mostly women and people from vulnerable groups, through the Micro Enterprise Development Programme (MEDEP) funded by Australia. Since its launch in 1998, the programme has created over 130,000 micro-entrepreneurs and generated over 342,000 direct and indirect jobs. The government has now adopted the model and is implementing its own Micros Enterprise Development for Poverty Alleviation (MEDPA) programme in all 77 districts.



**INCREASED ACCESS TO
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

With the support of UNDP, over 16,000 micro entrepreneurs were able to mobilize loans totaling over Rs. 400 million from different financial institutions.



HELPING REFORM THE TVET SECTOR

In view of the changed federal context, UNDP aided the Government to usher in much-needed reforms in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) policies and programmes by directly engaging over 1,000 stakeholders, including representatives from government and non-government organizations.





COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE & LIVELIHOODS

With funding from the Government of Mauritius, International Medical Corps and Bridgehead Limited—UNDP restored/constructed over 420 community infrastructures, such as irrigation canals, collection/market centres, drinking water schemes and agricultural roads, among others, benefitting over 200,000 people in earthquake-hit districts.



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ACCESS TO CLEAN AND AFFORDABLE ENERGY

With support from UNDP and the Global Environment Facility, over 90 micro-hydro plants were installed with a total capacity of 3,626 kW, powering over 36,000 homes and 1,100 new enterprises.
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INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

SUPPORTING FREE, FAIR AND CREDIBLE POLLS

In partnership with EU, UNDP assisted the Election Commission of Nepal to hold free, fair and credible polls, at the local, provincial and federal levels, through a comprehensive programme that included technical support to establish biometric voter roll of 12+ million voters, voters' education, capacity building and policy support.

In the run up to the 2017 local, provincial and federal elections, UNDP helped reach over 200,000 voters through voter-education initiatives.



**EMPOWERING WOMEN TO TAKE CHARGE**

Over 52,000 local women, including from Dalit and other marginalized communities, were trained on leadership and participation, which encouraged over 4,000 of them to file their candidacy in the 2017 local elections. Out of them, over 1,000 got elected to decision-making positions in the local governments.



**ENSURING ACCESS
TO JUSTICE FOR ALL**

Over 200,000 people—most of them women, representing Dalit, indigenous groups and other vulnerable communities—received free legal-aid services, counseling and information through Socio-Legal Aid Centres and information desks set up at district-level courts across the country.





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SUPPORTING LEGAL REFORMS

Altogether, 34 laws and bills -- including civil and criminal codes and procedures -- relating to the rights of women, Dalits, minorities and constitutional commissions were reviewed to ensure they were aligned with Nepal's constitution and international treaty obligations. This initiative was funded by Denmark, Finland and Norway.
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**FAMILIARIZING YOUTH
WITH THE PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY**

UNDP was able to engage over 1,000 youth, including women, LGBTI, persons with disabilities, Dalits, indigenous peoples, representatives of Madhesi and other ethnic minorities in parliamentary exercises and debates on the Sustainable Development Goals through mock youth parliament sessions.

SHARPENING PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT

With UNDP support, over 270 members of parliaments and Parliament Secretariat staff enhanced their skills and knowledge on oversight, lawmaking and outreach functions.





IMPROVING LOCAL GOVERNANCE

With the technical and financial assistance of UNDP and other partners, the Government of Nepal's Local Governance and Community Development Programme was able to engage some 1.21 million citizens (39 % women), 4700 social mobilizers and 44,000 grassroots organizations in civic oversight functions at the local governments ensuring effective local governance.



PROMOTING SOCIAL COHESION

Over 5,000 youth leaders, including members of all political parties and civil society were oriented and engaged in social cohesion promotion initiatives such as collaborative leadership dialogue, collective farming, inter-religious dialogue, sports competitions and community-led social enterprises across the country.



REDUCING RISKS OF FLOODS

With support from UNDP and the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Nepal successfully completed the world's highest altitude climate adaptation action at the Imja Glacier lake in the Everest region, which included lowering the water levels and installing a community-based early warning and response system. Over 87,000 people in downstream communities have been made safer with this project.



ADAPTING TO A CHANGING CLIMATE

UNDP, in partnership with DFID and EU, was able to implement 2,300 local adaptation actions, such as construction of irrigation canals, ponds, rainwater-harvesting tanks and drip irrigation systems benefitting over 600,000 people from 14 climate-vulnerable districts.





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PROMOTING SAFER BUILDING PRACTICES

With financial support from the European Union and in collaboration with local governments, UNDP trained over 2,400 masons and carpenters on earthquake resilient construction and oriented over 40,000 house owners and general public on resilient and affordable houses through public outreach events, including mobile tech clinics in earthquake-affected districts.





**BRINGING GOVERNMENT
CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE**

UNDP supported the National Reconstruction Authority launch a toll-free service, helping more than 6,000 house-owners tackle their construction-related problems and queries.





ELECTRIFIED EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES

UNDP helped to power three Snake-Bite Treatment Centers in the southern plains of Nepal, each with a 1.5 kWp Solar PV back-up system. Snakebites are common in many Terai districts, particularly during the rainy season, and well-equipped anti-venom centers with 24-hour power backup are critical to save people's lives.





RESPONDING TO DISASTER

In the aftermath of the 2015 earthquakes, UNDP supported Nepal to respond to the disaster through needs assessment and implementation of early recovery programs. With funding from China and UN's Central Emergency Response Fund, UNDP's recovery support packages—including cash-for-work schemes, free animal health camps, basic household needs such as improved cook stoves, water filters and hygiene kits, improved crop seeds and reconstruction of critical community infrastructures—directly benefitted 360,000 affected people.





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BREAKING GENDER STEREOTYPES

UNDP, in partnership with The Kathmandu Post, launched a seven-part video series, a mix of short films, invisible theatre and animation, dramatizing some of the existing discriminatory practices in Nepal, but with the gender roles swapped. This was able to reach over 2 million people online, generating intense debate on the need for breaking stereotypes and changing behavior.
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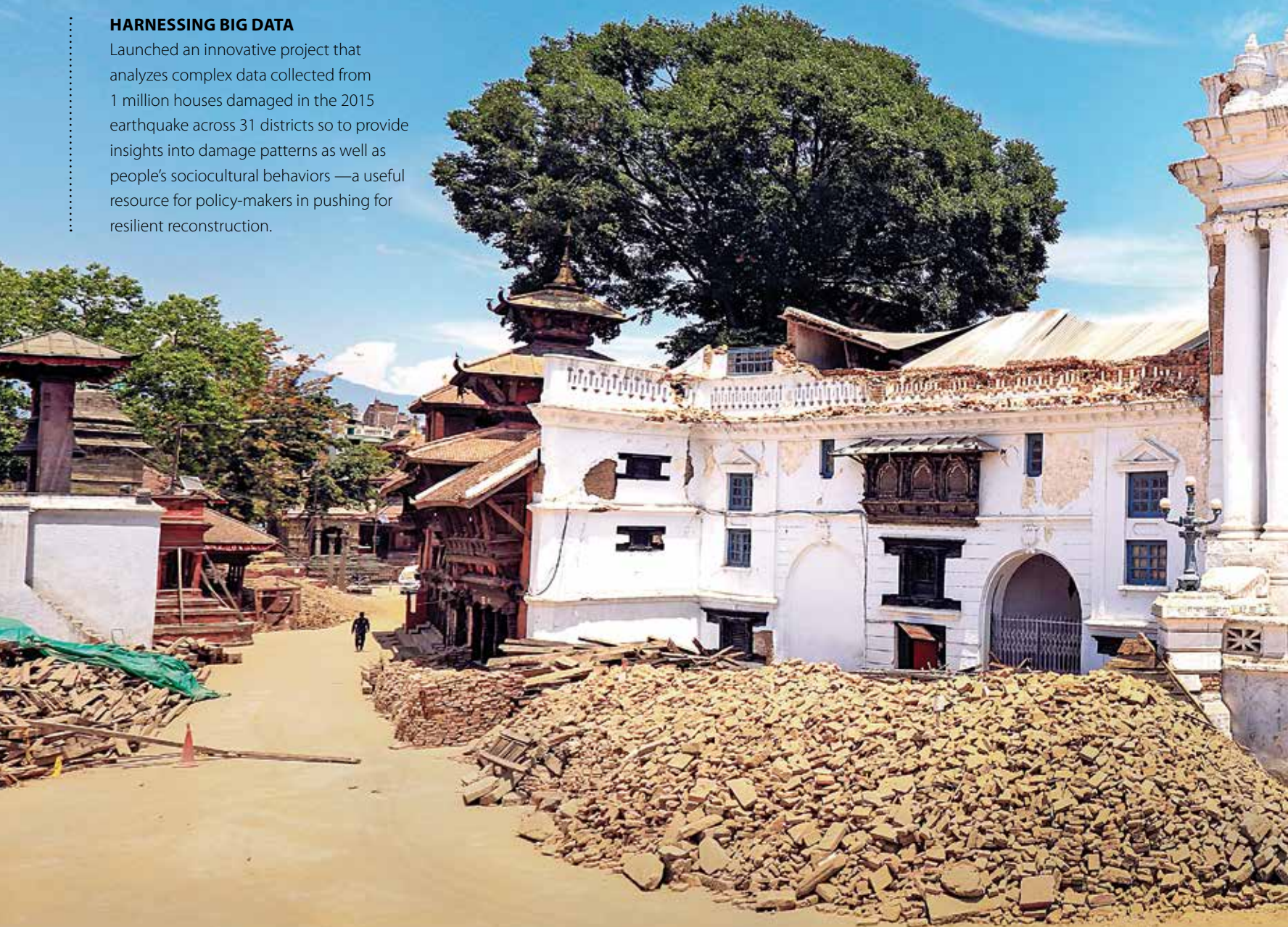
INNOVATION FOR SDGS

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 Sustainable Development Goals. 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 SDGs.



HARNESSING BIG DATA

Launched an innovative project that analyzes complex data collected from 1 million houses damaged in the 2015 earthquake across 31 districts so to provide insights into damage patterns as well as people's sociocultural behaviors—a useful resource for policy-makers in pushing for resilient reconstruction.

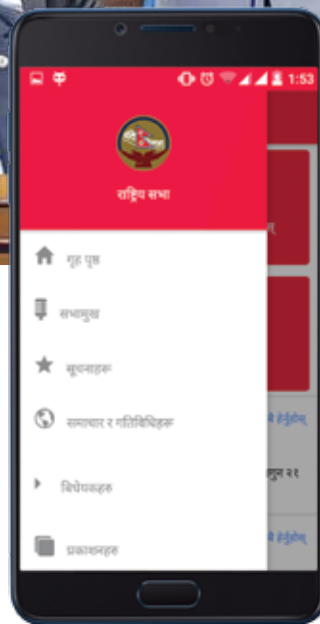




INNOVATION

संविधानसभाको कार्यालय, काठमाडौं, नेपाल
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PARLIAMENT GOES LIVE

With UNDP's support, Nepal's House of Representatives launched an online livecast system to air in real time the parliamentary discussions, bringing the people's representatives closer to the people and promoting transparency in governance.



INCREASING EFFICIENCY IN POST-DISASTER RECOVERY

A mobile-based app developed in partnership with Microsoft Innovation Center helped UNDP deliver over US\$4 million in recovery assistance packages funded by China to 31,000 homes in flood-affected Terai. The app has potential to be replicated in other post-disaster programmes.

TOWARDS BETTER GOVERNANCE IN BUILDING PRACTICES

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





**HOUSING INNOVATION
FOR RESILIENT RECONSTRUCTION**

UNDP introduced two innovative low-cost housing models, approved and adopted by the Government, that resolved two major issues: the high cost of building a quake-resilient house and the difficulty in transporting construction materials in remote mountain areas.

DATA TO THE RESCUE

UNDP collaborated with the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology to set up automatic weather stations in three districts that measure weather parameters and disseminate the data in real time, enabling more comprehensive climate study.





••• **A MILESTONE IN ACCESS TO JUSTICE**

UNDP has supported the digitization of the attorney system, targeted at streamlining and simplifying case management, asset management and cause-list management—through the use of specified software systems. This has resulted in ease and accuracy in registering, compiling and updating of information online, and helped to accelerate service delivery. And as proof of its confidence in the initiative, in 2017, the Government of Nepal invested a sum of Rs. 40 million on the e-attorney system.

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BIOMETRIC VOTER REGISTRATION

The Election Commission of Nepal, with technical support from the Electoral Support Project (ESP/UNDP), was able to register more than 15 million voters using photographs and biometric profiling, which resulted in a more reliable voter register. Not only was the software support valuable in terms of voter registration for future electoral cycles and reduced voter fraud, but it also raised the ECN's credibility and strengthened its institutional capacity.



LIVELIHOODS TECHNOLOGY TESTED AND ROLLED OUT

Young Nepali engineers designed, tested and introduced an innovative allo (textile) processing machine with help from the UNDP Innovation Fund. The machine is geared to increase production efficiency, and saves time, resources and money for hundreds of rural allo enterprises. The technology was rolled out in 16 districts in 2017.

Allo, a biodegradable fiber extracted from the Himalayan nettle shrub, has become one of Nepal's major export items. With support from UNDP, over 100 entrepreneurs are currently producing allo fiber and garments across the country, and the value of allo exports came to around Rs. 5 million in the last five years. Some innovative machines to extract allo fiber were also invented and made available to entrepreneurs in several districts.







UNDP NEPAL

UNDP works in about 170 countries and territories, helping to achieve the eradication of poverty, and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion. We help countries to develop policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities, institutional capabilities and build resilience in order to sustain development results.

UNDP Nepal has been supporting the people of Nepal in battling poverty and related challenges since it opened an in-country office in 1963. Much of this support has gone into building the capacity of government agencies, civil society and community groups, and into bringing these groups and donors together to design and implement successful interventions in poverty alleviation. UNDP Nepal works together with the people and the Government of Nepal, the international development partners and the private sector in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).





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