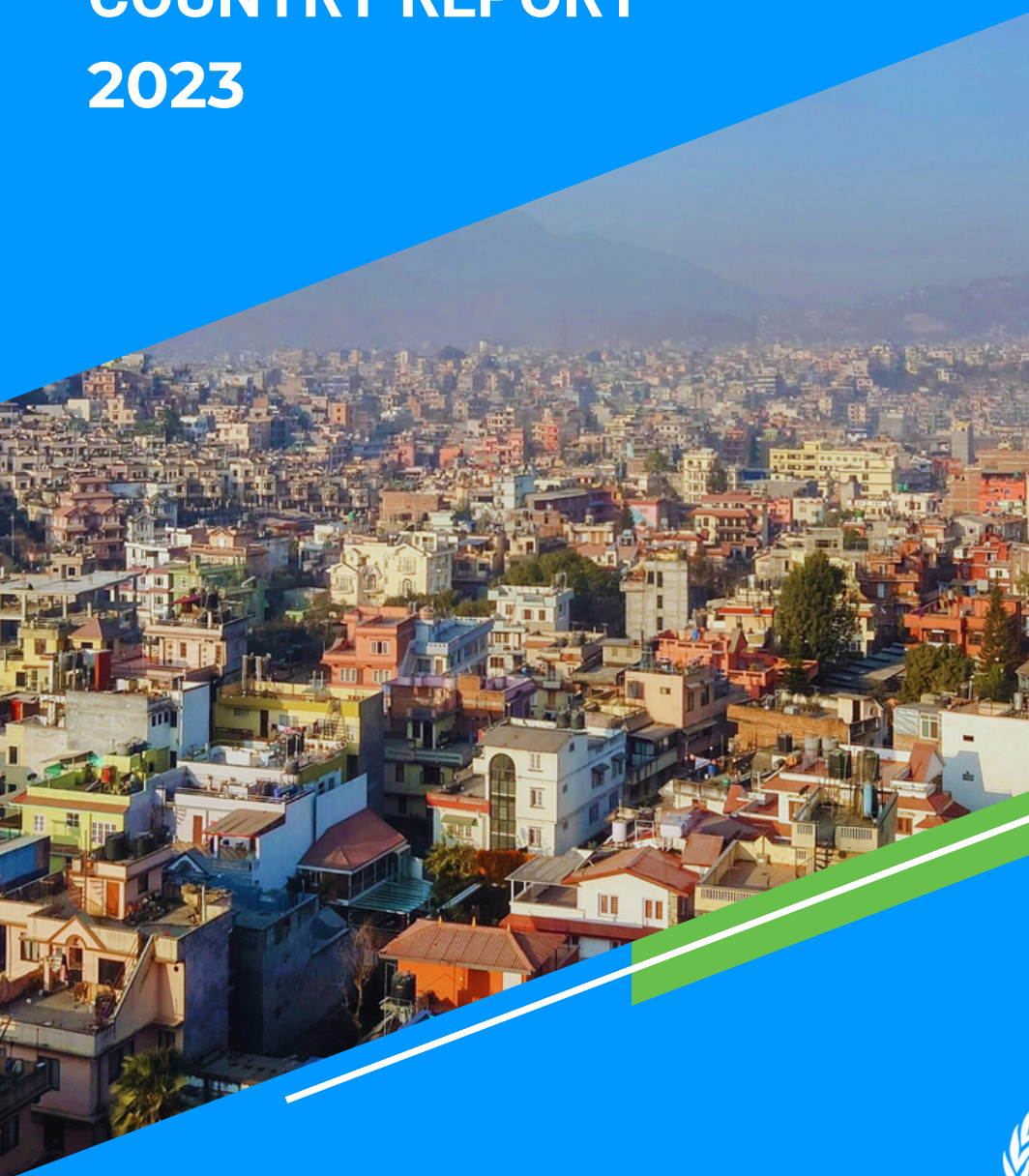


UN-HABITAT NEPAL

COUNTRY REPORT

2023



UN-HABITAT



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UN-Habitat Nepal Country Report 2023

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1. URBAN CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

Urbanization in Nepal:

Nepal is one of the ten fastest urbanizing countries. According to 2021 census, the population in urban and rural municipalities has reached 66.17% and 33.83% respectively^[1]. Urbanisation has been driven by migration from the challenging rural and remote area and conflict-stricken regions - mostly mountains and hills - to emerging towns and cities with concentration of services in search of better safety, services and livelihoods opportunities.

Following the adoption of a new Constitution in 2015, Nepal has shifted from a unitary to a federal system of governance with a three-tiered structure. The country now has 7 provincial and 753 local governments at the sub-national level of which 293 are urban municipalities (were only 58 until 2014). The conversion of rural to urban municipalities has led to unplanned urbanization creating many challenges. Most municipalities lack an established revenue source leading to inability to invest in infrastructure, environment, security, and basic services to match urban growth^[2]. Currently, urban environmental concerns such as pollution, land use, squatter settlements among others are growing leading to climate change. **In climate vulnerability indices, Nepal is consistently among the 15 most climate vulnerable countries in the world.** Thus, poor in both rural and urban are the ones who are more vulnerable to the impact of the climate change. Specially, informal settlements are subject to increasing risk as they do not comply with land use planning and building codes.

Amidst rapid urbanization in the federal transition, the Government of Nepal (GoN) has made strong commitments to achieving the SDGs and meet the international commitments to promote inclusive and sustainable development by 2030. **In 2021, Nepal is ranked 98th of 163 countries in overall SDG achievement performance having 66.2 SDG Index Score. In regard to the Nepal's progress on SDG 11 i.e. Sustainable cities and communities, it is stagnated^[3].**

Nepal has National Urban Development Strategy (NUDS) developed in 2017 by Government of Nepal, Ministry of Urban Development that addresses critical issues related to urban development sectors such as system, infrastructure, environment and economy. NUDS also deals with mechanisms vital in realizing the desirable condition of the four development sectors, namely investment, finance, governance and land management. With a vision of balanced and prosperous national urban system, it provides desirable conditions and strategies for its realization in next 15 years.

[1] Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS).2021. National Population and Housing Census 2021

[2] Common Country Analysis (CCA) United Nations Country Team Nepal

[3] Sustainable Development Report 2022

2. FACTSHEET



29,164,578
POPULATION^[4]



66.17 %
URBAN MUNICIPAL POPULATION^[4]



1,208.2 USD
GDP PER CAPITA (2021)^[5]



0.602 (MEDIUM)
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT^[6]
INDEX



AGRICULTURE SECTOR ENGAGES^[4]
AROUND 57.3% OF THE TOTAL
POPULATION



95.5 % HOUSEHOLDS USE^[7]
ONE OR THE OTHER TYPE
OF TOILET FACILITY & 11%
POPULATION ARE
CONNECTED TO SEWAGE



23.8% OF THE TOTAL^[4]
HOUSEHOLD HAVE FEMALE
OWNERSHIP IN HOUSE
AND LAND



2026
EXPECTED YEAR TO^[8]
GRADUATE FROM LDC
STATUS



1.34 Million
LANDLESS & INFORMAL^[9]
SETTLERS

[4] Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS).2021. National Population and Housing Census 2021

[5] World Bank, 2021

[6] HDR, 2021/2022

[7] Policy and Legal Assessment of Urban Sanitation in Nepal, MoWS, 2022

[8] <https://www.un.org/ldcportal/content/nepal-graduation-status>

[9] Panday, U.S.; Chhatkuli, R.R.; Joshi, J.R.; Deuja, J.; Antonio, D.; Enemark, S. Securing Land Rights for All through Fit-for-Purpose Land Administration Approach: The Case of Nepal. Land 2021, 10, 744.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/land10070744>

3. PORTFOLIO OF UN-HABITAT IN NEPAL

Past Engagements

Year	Areas of Engagement
During the 80s	Reconstruction of EQ damaged school buildings
1990 - 1997	Urban management, National Shelter Policy and National Building Codes
1997-2015	Rural Urban Partnership Programme, Resettlement of landless HHs displaced by Koshi Flood, Cities and Climate Change Initiative of KV, Water for Asian Cities Programme, WASH Life Saving Support Project, Solid Waste Management (Act and Guidelines), Access to WASH, Access to Land for Sustainable Peace, Green Homes and Sustainable Housing
2015 - 2023	Global Sanitation Fund Programme, Emergency Earthquake Response post 2015 earthquake, Integrated Urban Development and Spatial Planning, Sustainable Tourism and Green Growth, Green Technologies, Urban Data, COVID response, Parya Sampada

Key Past Projects

WATER FOR ASIAN
CITIES PROGRAMME

2006-2013

GLOBAL SANITATION
FUND

2010-2020

CATALYTIC
SUPPORT TO
LAND ISSUES

2013-2015

GREEN HOMES-
PROMOTING
SUSTAINABLE
HOUSING IN NEPAL

2013-2016

SHELTER PROVISION FOR
THE MOST VULNERABLE
HOUSEHOLDS BEFORE
AND DURING THE
MONSOON

2015-2016

PARYA SAMPADA:
SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
AND GREEN GROWTH FOR
THE HERITAGE
SETTLEMENTS OF
KATHMANDU VALLEY

2018-2022

4. ONGOING PROJECTS

Mainstreaming Leave No One Behind (LNOB) in Urban Policies and Programs (SDG 6 & 11) in South Asia Project

The ongoing urbanization in South Asian countries has resulted in many benefits, but it has also created several challenges for vulnerable and marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities. To address these challenges and ensure that no one is left behind in reaping the benefits of growth, the project aims to strengthen the capacities of government entities in data and assessment mechanisms. Through this project, the inclusion of persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups are being strengthened in fundamental sector of urban development under SDG11- Sustainable Cities and Communities for integrated urban development and SDG 6-Clean Water and Sanitation. Overall, the project aims to strengthen the capacities of government entities in data and assessment mechanisms to understand the needs of marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities, and ensure that inclusive, safe concepts are integrated into urban policy and planning frameworks.

🕒 **Duration:** January 2020
– December 2023

🤝 **Donor:** UNDESA

💰 **Budget:** USD 31,904


Key Achievement

- Capacity Building of Dhulikhel City Disability Council, 50 Engineers/Architects, more than 125 students of architecture and 30 IT/communicational professional on digital and physical accessibility through sensitization workshop, accessibility audit and accessibility audit training.
- Sensitization of disability inclusive development among school children through child art competition, and more than 40 DPOs in inclusive city planning and accessible infrastructure development through policy dialogue, workshops, and trainings.
- Awareness generation among around 100 local leaders for promoting accessible public infrastructure through exposure visit and policy dialogue.



Application of the Degree of Urbanization (DEGURBA) for Production of Comparable Urban Data in Nepal

DEGURBA (degree of urbanization) approach is a tool that provides uniformity and a basis for comparison between cities, towns, and areas within and across countries on the measurement of various indicators on SDG 11. The project has a goal of strengthening the capacity of national governments to adopt and integrate the DEGURBA approach into their data management structures. The training was delivered in partnership with UN-Habitat, central Bureau of Statistics of Nepal and the European Commission. Further, DEGURBA will be used to analyse 2021 census data followed by technical trainings to link data with SDG reporting.

 **Duration:** June 2022 - October 2023

 **Donor:** European Union


 **Estimated Budget:** USD 40,000


Expected Achievement

- Strengthened capacities of Local and Regional Governments to develop Voluntary Local Reviews and localize the SDGs to advance the post-pandemic recovery process
- Enhanced multilevel governance and interlinkages between local and national governments as well as regional and international processes on SDGs implementation and COVID-19 recovery.

Fostering COVID-19 Recovery and SDG Implementation Through Local Action in Asia-Pacific, Arab and African Countries

Cities have been and still are the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic. The UN Secretary General's policy brief on COVID-19 in an Urban World indicates that 90% of COVID cases were reported in urban areas in July 2020. The size of their populations and their high level of global and local interconnectivity have made cities particularly vulnerable to the spread of the virus. Economic losses due to the pandemic have far wider-reaching impacts than on their immediate populations. Since COVID-19 affects urban neighborhoods and groups of people in cities differently, addressing it requires a granular, localized understanding of cities and local realities. Thus, the project aims to promote inclusive post-pandemic recovery and advance the localization of the SDGs in selected countries in Asia and the Pacific, Africa, and the Arab States.

 **Duration:** May 2023 - March 2024

 **Donor:** Development Assistance

 **Budget:** USD 2.2 Million


Expected Achievement

- Strengthened capacities of local and regional Governments to develop Voluntary Local Reviews and localize the SDGs to advance the post-pandemic recovery process.
- Enhanced multilevel governance and interlinkages between local and national governments as well as regional and international processes on SDGs implementation and COVID-19 recovery.

Scaling City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) Services in Nepal

This is a global normative project aimed at supporting UN-Habitat's ongoing efforts to refine global methodologies and assessment tools for SDG 6.2 and SDG 6.3.1. The project, jointly implemented by UN-Habitat and UNICEF, will also support the development of generic technical guidelines, tools, training materials and knowledge management products such as case studies, thematic learning notes and technical notes on the City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) approach at global and regional level contextual for the country adaptation.

These normative products will be tested, adjusted, and validated in four pilot countries, with UN-Habitat leading implementation in Nepal and Kenya with UNICEF leading implementation in Ethiopia and Bangladesh. The project will also build national and subnational capacity to integrate and advance CWIS in national-level programming (through national urban policies) and integrate CWIS approach and principles into Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA) network of partners.

 **Duration:** January 2021 - May 2026

 **Donor:** Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

 **Estimated Budget:** USD 1.6 Million


Key Achievement

- Urban sanitation policy advisor support for backstopping sector on advancing CWIS to Ministry of Water Supply (MOWS)
- Secretariat role for City Wide Inclusive Sanitation Alliance Nepal (CWISAN) that coordinated the alliance and gear the discussions in liaison with MOWS
- Secretariat Role for CWIS Technical Working Group (TWG) led by Ministry as a bridge between CWISAN and Government of Nepal (GON)
- Capacity Building on CWIS anchored with Government MOWS / National Water Supply And Sanitation Training Center (NWSSTC) for annual workplan on rolling out the training modules (Agreement of Cooperation with Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management (DWSSM))
- Support to Strengthen sanitation attributes and CWIS indicators in MOWS initiated National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Management Information System (NWASH MIS) Portal



Support to Land Reform Initiative in Nepal

The Support to Land Reform Initiatives in Nepal is built on to address one of the focus areas- “Technical Support to the promotion of access to land for the landless, land tenure security and sustainable land management” through the UN Multi Partner Trust Fund and followed up by the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) funding. The goal of the GLTN intervention initiated in late 2016 is to facilitate the implementation of a Fit-For-Purpose (FFP) Land Administration Country Strategy, provide policy support, and develop capacity to facilitate land reform as overseen by the Constitution of Nepal. Thus, GLTN support in Nepal has been strategic in the sense that it has (1) undertaken necessary background study of the local land tenure and land governance situation, (2) supported the Government in the development of necessary policy framework, (3) undertaken pilot projects in different contexts to design implementation toolkits, (4) developed a Fit-for-Purpose land administration (FFPLA) country implementation strategy, and (5) supported in the development of necessary legislation and institutional framework.

 **Duration:** September 2016- ongoing

 **Donor:** Global Land Tool Network

 **Budget:** USD 750,100


Key Achievement

- Government of Nepal approved National Land Policy, 2019. Fit for Purpose Land Administration Country Strategy document was adopted.
- Land Act (Seventh Amendment) and Housing Rights Act were enacted to implement the constitutional provisions of “land to the landless Dalits” and “right to adequate housing”.
- Land Use Act, Land Act (Eighth Amendment) and the Land Regulations (Eighteenth Amendment) were enacted in 2020. The Acts relate to improve general land governance and have provisions in support to the implementation of land Policy and FFP approach.
- In the 14 municipalities, collection of applications of 90,871 HHs were supported by UN-Habitat out of which IVR of 74,822 HHs were completed, and temporary cards distributed. Mapping of 75,789 parcels were undertaken. Total 437 land ownership certificates (LOC) were already issued, and rest are in the process (as of 31st May 2023).



A Safety Net of Innovative Land Tenure Solutions for Near-Landless Sharecroppers and for a Greener Rural Nepal

The project is focused on rural landlessness as a root cause of poverty and inequality. Landlessness also stunts agricultural and economic innovation, and that prevents progress on agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) targets of Nepal's 2nd Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). The project builds on the extensive assistance of Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) to Nepal, which adopted the National Land Policy in 2019 and the 8th Amendment to the Land Law in 2020, as a pathway to land tenure security to 25% of Nepal's population living with (near-)landlessness. For this project, a collaboration is set with 4 municipalities in one province of Nepal, in the Chure region focusing on households in situations of vulnerability from Tharu indigenous community to be assisted. The objective of project is to contribute to Nepal's climate commitments for green and just (inclusive and equity based) development, by introducing innovative approaches to reducing landlessness and improving resilient land use and livelihoods in 4 municipalities.

 **Duration:** June 2023- June 2027

 **Donor:** Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) of the Republic of Korea

 **Estimated Budget:** USD 3.3 million

Expected Achievement

- Nepal's 2nd NDC (2021-2030) on AFOLU targets implemented in 4 municipalities.
- 4 municipalities and 1 provincial government with strengthened capacity to pursue NDC targets and to plan and implement carbon-neutral rural development.
- Increased capacity of the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation at the federal and provincial levels to implement a greener, more just development of rural Nepal in the relevant sectors.
- Direct beneficiaries – 8,100 near-landless households with securer tenure, 6,000 farmers benefiting from improved livelihoods opportunities and sub-projects targeting 1,000 women and youth (details below)
- Partnerships strengthened between Government of Nepal, MAFRA, UN-Habitat, 2 Korean Governmental Institutions, Nepali NGOs, and 1 Korean NGO.

5. PROJECT PROPOSALS

5.1. Direct Implementation



Partners:

UNDP, Ministry of Urban Development- MoUD, Municipalities



Duration: 5 years



Location: 15-20 municipalities in Karnali and Sudur Paschim provinces



Target Group: People having houses (rural stone masonry houses) in municipalities vulnerable to seismic, local engineers, municipal engineers and masons



SDG:



Estimated Budget: USD 5 Million

Seismic Risk Reduction of Rural Houses (S3RH)

Context:

Earthquakes do not kill people, but weak structures do hold water as an earthquake of moment magnitude 8.3-8.4 on 16 September 2015, in Chile (a developing country), led to loss of 12 lives while an earthquake of relatively much lesser moment magnitude in Nepal (a developing country), on 25 April 2015 led to a loss of about 9,000 lives and injured 22,000 people. This Gorkha earthquake, Nepal resulted in damage to over 1.5 million houses in 32 districts, of which 80% were of low-strength masonry.

The loss of housing has an impact beyond physical loss of structure, which includes emotional and psychological trauma, protection issues and loss of livelihood, as several households are used as work sheds. It is important to highlight that Nepal has 2.2 million vulnerable houses (33% of the total housing stock), built with traditional non-engineered technologies. In the western region (Karnali and Sudur Paschim provinces, the low-strength masonry accounts for 62.5% (600,000 houses) of the total housing stock, which highlights the alarming situation. Several studies including Durham university have highlighted the vulnerability of this region and as per one scenario (mw 8.6 earthquake), the total estimated number of damaged buildings in Sudurpashchim and Karnali provinces, would be 52,672 and 42,238 respectively .

This calls for an urgent, systematic, and large-scale retrofitting intervention in Nepal to reduce seismic risk. This concept note suggests a phased approach for retrofitting vulnerable houses using existing housing mechanisms and built upon the learnings from past interventions. The note recognizes the significance of sustainability, scale as well as medium to long term implementation, under the leadership of GoN with support from development partners.



Project Description:

The S3RH programme will build upon the existing SNAK (Surakshit Nagarik Awas Karyakram-SNAK is implemented by GoN through DUDBC from 2019 with the objective to strengthen housing of poor people by providing NPR. 50,000 for replacing the thatched roof with CGI sheet and creating provision of timber at an affordable price) framework by bringing flexibility in terms of existing safety compliance of replacing thatched roofs with CGI sheets and adding elements of retrofitting for making houses resilient to seismic risks.

The programme will strengthen the existing safer housing concept of SNAK by adding provision of retrofitting features such as splints and bandages, containment mesh and bracing. These retrofitting features are relevant for rural stone masonry houses, which is also the focus of the current SNAK programme.

Strengthening the owner driven approach, the fund will be transferred to the beneficiary account, following the same mechanism as in reconstruction. However, the criteria for the release of funds in tranches will be revised with a retrofitting inspection checklist, integrating seismic safety features, along with validation at multiple levels from the local level representatives to DLPIUs.

Objectives:

The objective is to strengthening of existing traditional housing stock in Nepal through retrofitting houses on a significant scale.

Outcome:

- strengthening of existing traditional housing stock in Nepal through retrofitting houses on a significant scale. An effective implementation of this component will help achieve the targets of vulnerability reduction in Nepal. Further, retrofitting will emerge as a cost-effective alternative to new constructions.


The programme seeks to demonstrate retrofitting of 500 houses in most seismically vulnerable municipalities and further positively influence another 50,000 house owners to undertake retrofitting by generating awareness, building confidence and capacity building among local human resources, including masons/ artisans and engineers/ architects, with regard to retrofitting technologies.




Urban Resilience through Gender-responsive and Inclusive Green Public Space

 **Partners:**
UN Women

 **Duration:** 3 Years

 **Location:** Ghorahi, Tillotama, Tansen in Lumbini province and Budhanilkantha, Hetauda, Bidur municipalities in Bagmati province

 **Target Group:** Women and girls, especially from vulnerable and excluded groups (single women, PWDs, home-based workers, returnee migrants, informal workers, LGBTIQ+ communities); boys, adolescents and youth (through child clubs and alliances, schools and local institutions); and municipal and ward officials.



 **Estimated Budget:** USD 2.5 million

Context:

From 1990 to 2018, urbanization grew at 2.9 % per year, and from 2018 to 2050 it is expected to witness a striking rate of 2 % growth. Hence, haphazard urbanization, economic pressure and limited capacity have led to the emergence of several urban spontaneous problems, such as a deficit of basic services, degradation of the environment, the disintegration of cultural heritage, an increase in poverty, heightening security issues and vulnerabilities, etc. Consequently, the issue of open green spaces in urban areas has largely remained ignored in both policy discourse as well as the practice of urban development. Nepal lacks an unambiguous policy to promote open green spaces in urban areas, nor does it have a policy to monitor encroachment on existing public spaces. This has resulted in the reduction of open spaces that are disproportionately distributed in the country's municipalities.

The importance of public open green spaces in Nepal's urban areas became evident during the 2015 earthquakes, as evacuation spaces provided a safe refuge for people and were used for temporary shelters. During the recovery efforts, these spaces were also used to store construction materials for rebuilding houses, seeds and fertilizers for agriculture-based livelihood options, etc.

Nepal's existing open public spaces do not serve its population equally. A survey conducted by Action Aid and supported by UN Women in four districts (Dhading, Bhaktapur, Sindhupalchok and Nuwakot) of Nepal among women and girls, highlighted the issue of safety in these spaces. Women and girls face violence, sexual harassment and abuse on public transport, the streets, markets, homes, workplaces and educational institutions. Women's fear of violence restricts their movement, limiting their use of public spaces, which results in denying their full enjoyment of a range of human rights. The survey found that more than 50 % of women felt highly unsafe using public transportation and being in public spaces during both quiet and busy times of the day, primarily due to the design of the space itself and the lack of proper lightning and surveillance infrastructure. The report further suggested the need for improving women-friendly infrastructure for safer public spaces.



Project Description:

The project will promote more inclusive, public green spaces in Nepal that contribute to building urban resilience and social harmony, enhancing the quality of day-to-day life in cities and nurturing healthy socio-cultural and economic activities. These public green spaces will act as safer evacuation areas during natural disasters and foster climate-smart solutions by helping reduce carbon footprints by enhancing the microclimate and porosity of the area. This project aims to benefit all Nepali citizens, specially prioritizing women and youth's participation in the planning and development of cities, their safety concerns, economically viable options for them and their digital advancement.

Public green spaces are the key to making cities more inclusive, resilient and sustainable than they are today, significantly improving the quality of life for all residents. With this in mind, the effective and durable transition of cities into sustainable and safer urban settings requires:

- a) A shift from unplanned urban development – as is typically common in Nepal – towards a planned and systemized approach that utilizes appropriate tools, guidelines, expertise and good practices generated locally and globally for gender-responsive planning and integrates climate change and environmental sustainability into urban development projects.
- b) Increased women's leadership and the meaningful inclusion of youth, women, girls and others, linking them to specific tools, technical advice, models and partnerships that UN-Habitat and UN Women will leverage for vulnerable groups in the analysis, planning, execution, and evaluation of urban development projects. This process will take into account the perspectives of different groups for developing inclusive cities.
- c) Promote the agency of girls, young women and other vulnerable groups to participate and advocate for their right to safer cities and

access economic opportunities in both digital and non-digital markets for enhancing livelihood opportunities (including economically viable livelihoods for poor women vendors).

d) Create awareness and sensitization on harmful practices, GBV, harmful social norms and stereotypes at the community level to increase sense of safety and non-discrimination.

e) Build the capacity and strengthen institutions to meet urban challenges in a sustainable manner to mainstream and guide these processes for wider replication and upscaling.

Objective:

The objective of this project is to place women and girls at the forefront of inclusive, safe and sustainable urban development and improve their quality of life. This project aims to "Promote Green, Inclusive, Gender-Responsive and Safer (GIGS) public spaces through digital transformation and people-centred urban planning processes that will enhance resilience and quality of life in urban municipalities in Nepal".

Outcome:

- Comprehensive City/Municipal Plans are put in place to preserve and promote existing and new Green, Inclusive, Gender-Responsive and Safer (GIGS) public open spaces, promoting urban resilience.
- Increased agency of women/girls and stakeholders to participate in municipal urban planning processes through digital empowerment, creating an environment for improved gender equality and reduced gender-based discrimination.



Partners:

Government of Nepal/Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management



Duration: 2 Years



Location: Madhesh Province



Target Group: Government (Capacity development & Planning); Women & Girls in vulnerable situations



SDG:



Estimated Budget: USD 2 million

Implementing Sanitation and Hygiene Fund Program

Context:

On any given day, around 300 million women and girls menstruate¹ but often do not have the means to manage their menstrual health and hygiene (MHH) safely. More than half of the population of Nepal is female between ages of 15 and 44. It is estimated that everyday approximately 237, 250 women menstruate in Nepal alone. Myths, misconceptions, and misinformation still exist about periods which lead to stigma and can negatively affect women's health and lives. The Global Sanitation Fund (GSF) under Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) has transformed to the Sanitation and Hygiene Fund (SHF). The SHF aims to achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and to end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations by investing in country-led programmes following the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 6.2.

Project Description:

The government implemented the Global Sanitation Fund (GSF) Program under the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) through UN-Habitat Nepal as an Executing Agency (EA). The GSF Programme has received USD 11.4 million in two phases enabling 3.5 million people to gain sustained access to improved sanitation facilities within an ODF environment benefiting six million people.

The SHF is collaborating with the Government of Nepal to scale up household sanitation and hygiene services, promote Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH), WASH in Schools and HCF and support innovation on Safely Managed Sanitation. The programme will implement country specific promotional activities against SHF priority activities considering global environment, provisions in WASH sector policies, country status and initiatives on WASH, sustainability of ODF, scaling up of total sanitation aligning with the SDG 6.2 and sector needs and challenges.



Objective:

The objectives of this project are to scale-up Household Sanitation and Hygiene Services; address Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH) Gaps while Promoting Empowerment of Women and Girls; increase Sustainable Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and MHH Services in Schools and Health Care Facilities; and support Innovation towards Safely Managed Sanitation, Hygiene and MHH.



Outcome:

- Total Sanitation Master Plan and piloted
- National MHH Plan and piloting and piloted Vulnerable groups (women and girls) have proper understandings of menstrual hygiene through coordinated WASH and MHH interventions in communities by all tiers of government.
- Increase HMM facilities in institutes.
- Decrease in absentees of menstruating schoolgirls



5.2. Technical Assistance



Partners:

Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), Ministry of Urban Development (MOUD), National Planning Commission (NPC), Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MOFAGA), Department of Survey (DOS), Development Partners, RUPSON, UNFPA



Duration: 2 Years



Location: Nepal



Target Group: Government, Policymakers



SDG:



Estimated Budget: USD 500,000

State of Urbanization

Context:

The world is urbanizing rapidly with an estimated 70% of the world population to be residing in urban areas by 2050. Asia Pacific region is one of the fastest urbanizing regions with half of the region's population already living in the urban areas by 2018, while rural areas are witnessing the decline in population.

In Nepal, the population in urban municipalities has reached 66% of the total population based on the census of 2021, with an increased number of urban municipalities from 58 in 2012 to 293 in 2017. The definition of urban population is yet to be contested as the urban municipalities are defined through population parameters than density, economy and services.

However, it is important to note that Nepal is the fastest urbanizing country in the region and will see increased trend in the future. Nepal needs to prioritize sustainable urbanization so that the cities and its agglomeration can function as the engines of growth to realize the transformative effect that urbanization can bring for Nepal to graduate from the least developed country.

However, significant challenges remain in sustainable urban development that includes environmental management, resilient economic transformation, land and strategic housing developments, and management and maintenance of infrastructure supporting human settlements.

Sustainable urban growth needs to be guided by urban planning but this requires greater access to reliable, coherent and comparable data. Thus, one of the key challenges and inhibiting factors for sustainable urban development in Nepal is the scarcity of urban data for guiding evidence-based policy and project formulation to mobilize limited resources. In the federal context, lack of basic data and information to make effective and rational decisions on urban services and to better target investment has limited the effectiveness of the local authorities to guide urbanization.



The National Urban Development Strategy (NUDS) has highlighted issue of poor urban data, making the urban interventions far from integrated, managed, and monitored. NUDS also stresses the institutionalization of the system for regular data updates and monitoring in municipalities.

With urban data, the possibilities are endless and can help in the informed development of different sectors such as economy, education, employment, energy, environment and climate, governance, health, urban development, population dynamics, research & innovation, security, social issues, transport and accessibility, to government, non-government, private organization and other urban actors. The pivotal role of data-backed new technologies for the municipal governments can be instrumental for good governance, to improve service delivery, making them more accessible, efficient and less costly.

Project Description:

The State of urbanization in Nepal will present an updated and well-informed analysis on the state of urbanization in Nepal. The report will capitalize on utilizing the 2021 census data and its Community Questionnaire encompassing data on settlements, housing, infrastructure, services, resilience and economy collected at the ward level (lowest administrative unit), conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS). Both quantitative and qualitative approaches will be used to analyze the CBS data, which will be further collated with a broader dataset that incorporates available other sectoral, social and economic data that are available within different agencies, with the focus on preparing a composite dataset with spatial representation that would lead to the establishment of a systemized countrywide urban data system. The process will be as important as the output with the focus on capacity development of the government officials to analyze the data and use it in urban planning and design, which is the fundamental strategy that this project will adopt.

The State of the Cities report will have a dedicated Chapter to present the Degree of Urbanization (DEGURBA) of Nepal, to present the realistic and evidence backed picture of “urban” population and its distribution in Nepal. UN-Habitat in collaboration with CBS, MOUD and other line ministries have been engaged in the

process of generating degree of urbanization of 2011 census data, using the DEGURBA tools development for UN-Habitat with support from EU for generating harmonized definition of urban in the global context. The DEGURBA tool will further be used to analyze the census 2021 data for deriving Degree of Urbanization and the changing trend in past 10 years to present the urbanization pattern and changing urban population distribution that further categorizes urban population and area in various levels of urbanization.

Likewise, analysis and interpretation of the data by local and international urban experts will add value to the report, which will be an important tool or resource in formulating urban policies, programs and investments as projects, thus supporting Nepal to achieve several international commitments (NDC targets, LDC graduation) and SDGs targets, primarily Goal 11 of building inclusive, safe and sustainable cities and human settlements in the coming years.

Objective:

The Specific objective of the project is to generate composite urban database with improved data management system to prepare State of Cities report in collaboration with the Government of Nepal - that encompasses physical, social, economic, environmental and governance dimensions. The database will be generated based on the analysis of available demographic and multi-sectoral data to derive results with spatial representation, in supporting informed and evidenced-based policy and programme formulation for next 10 years, for sustainable, balanced and integrated urban development at the national, provincial and local levels.

Outcome:

- Country wide urban database with improved data management system that encompasses physical, social, economic, environmental and governance dimensions for informed and evidence-based policy and programme formulation
- Support for the preparation of Sector Improvement Plan

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



UN-HABITAT

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