



UN-HABITAT

NEPAL HABITAT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT

2024 - 2027





Nepal Habitat Country Programme Document

2024 - 2027

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2024 - 2027

Foreword UN-Habitat

The Nepal Habitat Country Programme Document (HCPD) 2024-2027 reflects the commitment to implement the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Nepal and UN-Habitat, and focuses on the areas of Federalization, Urbanization, Climate Change, Land, Housing, Basic Services, Gender, Inclusion, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, Youth and Migration.

The HCPD aligns and supports the implementation of the partnership agreement between United Nations and the Government of Nepal through the United National Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2023 -2027). The HCPD strongly supports the national priorities and also translates the over-arching objective of UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan (2020 – 2025).



The HCPD is a strategic guiding document for UN-Habitat Nepal, developed through a consultative process under the leadership of Ministry of Urban Development. It is envisaged to be implemented in partnership with various local, national, regional, and global stakeholders. This is an evolving document that helps to plan and take strategic intervention in addressing key development challenges and opportunities in Nepal, as I understand Nepal is rapidly urbanizing, as we see it as a global megatrend.

In order to advance the government's priorities in the country, it thoughtfully plans to engage with diverse stakeholders including the UN agencies, line ministries, provincial bodies, local bodies, academia, professional networks, research institutions, and civil society organizations.

I would like to express my gratitude towards the Government of Nepal for their continued support, and collaboration in shaping this document that draws the trajectory of the UN-Habitat programs in Nepal. I highly appreciate the leadership of the Resident Coordinator in Nepal in ensuring that this document aligns and supports for effective implementation of the UNSDCF.

UN-Habitat is strongly committed to support the development of Nepal. I am positive that Nepal will harness on the benefits of urbanization and pave ways for a better tomorrow of all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Kazuko Ishigaki'.

Kazuko Ishigaki
Regional Director
UN-Habitat Regional Office
for Asia and the Pacific



Government of Nepal
MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT



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Foreword

The Government of Nepal is committed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals as evident from the Nepal National Report prepared for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda for achieving the 2030 Goals. Amidst the compounding challenges due to rapid urbanization, migration and climate change with increasing need for land, housing and basic services, we acknowledge the needs of a multi-governance and integrated approach - that builds strong collaboration between sectors, governments and partners - for sustainable urban development to achieve the SDGs. Also, by 2026, Nepal is also planning to graduate from a Least Developed Country status, hence sustainable urbanization and the role of cities to function as engines of equitable economic growth becomes ever important.



With the 2015 Constitution, Nepal has embraced a federal governance structure with three-tiered government. This decentralized system empowers local governments to promote inclusive development. The structure reflects the nation's diversity and is a key to addressing urbanization and regional disparities. As Nepal navigates this path, the support of the UN and development partners remains crucial in strengthening governance, fostering balanced urban systems.

I am pleased to note the role of UN-Habitat and the Habitat Country Programme Document (HCPD) in reinforcing on-going collaborating efforts for collective commitment in fostering inclusive, safe, resilient, greener and sustainable cities and communities in Nepal. Developed in collaboration with the Government of Nepal and inputs from the multi-ministry steering committee, the HCPD outlines key priority areas focusing on sustainable and inclusive urbanization, spatial planning, basic services, land governance, climate and disaster resilience, and sustainable economies. I believe this document will serve as a vital platform to drive both immediate and long-term development efforts, advancing the shared vision for a sustainable and prosperous future for all.

I wish for successful implementation of the HCPD and a continued collaboration during this process.


Mani Ram Gelal
Secretary

Acronyms

CWIS	City Wide Inclusive Sanitation
DCO	Development Coordination Office
DUDBC	Department of Urban Development and Building Construction
GEM	Gender Equality Marker
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
GLOFs	Glacial Lake Outburst Floods
GRID	Green, Resilient and Inclusive Development
IOE	Institute of Engineering
KU	Kathmandu University
LMTC	Land Management Training Center
LNOB	Leaving No One Behind
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOFAGA	Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration
MOFE	Ministry of Forests and Environment
MOLMCPA	Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MOUD	Ministry of Urban Development
MOWS	Ministry of Water Supply
MUAN	Municipal Association of Nepal
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NARMIN	National Association of Rural Municipalities in Nepal
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NNUF	Nepal National Urban Forum
NPC	National Planning Commission
NSO	National Statistics Office
NUA	New Urban Agenda
NWSSTC	Nepal Water Supply and Sanitation Training Center
ODF	Open Defecation Free
RUPSON	Regional and Urban Planners' Society of Nepal
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SONA	Society of Nepalese Architects
UMF	Urban Monitoring Framework
UNCT	UN Country Team
UNOs	United Nations Organizations
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 UN-Habitat

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), established in 1978, is the lead agency within the UN system for coordinating activities in the field of human settlement development. It is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. UN-Habitat works in over 90 countries to promote transformative changes in cities and human settlements through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance and collaborative action. It also serves as the focal point for monitoring progress on implementing the New Urban Agenda - the global plan of action adopted at the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), 2016.

1.2 New Urban Agenda and UN-Habitat Strategic Plan

The New Urban Agenda (NUA), adopted at Habitat III in 2016, represents a shared vision with commitments from the Member States and key stakeholders for a better and more sustainable future – one in which all people have equal rights and access to the benefits and opportunities that cities and human settlements can offer and in which the international community reconsiders the urban systems and physical form of our urban spaces to achieve this. The NUA recognizes the correlation between good urbanization and development, job creation, livelihood opportunities, and improved quality of life. It highlights its connection to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

The Strategic Plan (2020 – 2023)¹ repositions UN-Habitat as a major global entity, a centre of excellence and innovation, a “thought leader” and “go-to” programme that adopts a more strategic and integrated approach to solving the challenges and opportunities of twenty-first-century cities and other human settlements. The Strategic Plan promotes transformative changes in cities and human settlements through cutting-edge knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance, knowledge exchange and collaborative action to ‘leave no one and no

place behind.’ UN-Habitat’s work is framed under four mutually reinforcing and integrated Domains of Change (DOC), underpinned by a human-rights-based approach with five social inclusion dimensions:

- DOC 1:** Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban–rural continuum;
- DOC 2:** Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions;
- DOC 3:** Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment; and
- DOC 4:** Effective urban crisis prevention and response

1.3 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) (2023- 2027) is a core instrument for providing a coherent, strategic direction for UN development activities by all UN entities at a country level. It guides the entire programme cycle, driving planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of collective UN support for achieving the 2030 Agenda.

The UNSDCF of Nepal was jointly prepared with the Government of Nepal, through extensive consultative process with the stakeholders. UN-Habitat engaged in and contributed to the preparation process for the UNSDCF. It was jointly signed in March 2023, and since then, the UN agencies have formulated their country programme and plans deriving from the UNSDCF.

Nepal’s UNSDCF is guided by the following principles:

- A comprehensive human rights-based approach to development;
- A strong focus on inclusion, leaving no one behind (LNOB) and reaching the farthest first;
- Gender equality and women’s empowerment;
- Sustainability and resilience;
- Accountability and transparency

¹ https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/documents/2019-09/strategic_plan_2020-2023.pdf (now extended until 2025)



The four priority areas form the substantive content of this Cooperation Framework and closely align with the priorities and objectives of the 15th plan, the second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

Priority 1

Sustainable, resilient and inclusive economic transformation

Priority 2

Inclusive and transformative human development

Priority 3

Environmental sustainability, climate and disaster resilience

Priority 4

Governance, federalism, participation and inclusion

1.4 Purpose of the Habitat Country Programme Document

The UN-Habitat Country Programme Document (HCPD) 2024-2027 for Nepal is a strategic guiding document closely aligned with the UNSDCF-Nepal and UN-Habitat's mission to develop inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and communities. HCPD outlines the priority areas, mirrored in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of Nepal (Ministry of Finance to work with Ministry of Urban Development) and UN-Habitat, focusing on sustainable urbanization, spatial planning, basic services, land governance, climate and disaster resilience, and sustainable economy. HCPD is a dynamic document, continuously revisited to address the needs of the most marginalized in the evolving context of rapid urbanization. HCPD identifies and addresses key challenges in Nepal's city and community development with flexible strategies for immediate humanitarian and long-term development efforts. Additionally, HCPD serves as a platform to engage a wide range of stakeholders in advancing UN and government priorities in Nepal.

2. COUNTRY ANALYSIS

2.1 Federalization

Nepal’s path to peace and reconciliation began with the 2006 comprehensive peace accord, highlighting republic and federalism as the core values of democracy (Loktantra). The Interim Constitution, declared on January 15, 2007, transitioned Nepal into a Federal Democratic Republic.² This constitution aimed to address the issues of class, ethnicity, region, and gender, advocating for an inclusive, democratic federal system. The 2015 Constitution further solidified federalism, establishing three tiers of government—federal, provincial, and local—each with distinct authority and responsibilities. This structure grants local and provincial governments significant autonomy in lawmaking, budgeting, and public service delivery, supported by financial grants and tax collection authority. While the federal government focuses on the national policies and standards. The decentralized system aims to promote democracy with holistic and balanced development, with the UN and development partners committed to supporting and strengthening this federal governance system.

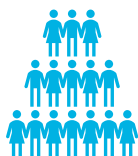
2.2 Urbanization

The 2015 Constitution of Nepal restructured the country into a three-tiered governance system, with 753 local governments, of which 293 are classified as urban municipalities (6 metropolitan cities, 11 sub-metropolitan cities and 276 municipalities) and 460 as rural municipalities.³ The current classification presents challenges, as many urban municipalities exhibit rural characteristics, while some rural municipalities are developing as market centers that resemble small towns. The 2021 National Population and Housing Census data show 66.17% of Nepal’s population live in urban municipalities, and 33.83% reside in rural municipalities, based on administrative classification of the municipalities into urban and rural.⁴ Classifying all municipal population as urban population could not reflect the ground reality, with most urban municipalities still rural in the landscape. Hence, understanding the need for an innovative

approach to assessing the degree of urbanization in Nepal, an analysis was undertaken using the DEGURBA⁵ (Degree of Urbanization) tool on the 2021 Census data that derive population distribution in three categories: urban population 27.07%, peri-urban population 39.75%, and rural population 33.19%, with an increase in urban and peri-urban population in the last ten years.⁶

Federalization, implemented through the 2015 Constitution of Nepal, aimed to decentralize the existing governance system and promote balanced regional development. This restructuring has significantly influenced urban and regional development by empowering local governments to manage and plan urban growth according to local needs and context. As a result, cities and settlements across different provinces have gained greater autonomy and resources to address infrastructure deficits, enhance public services, and stimulate economic activities tailored to local contexts. However, challenges remain, such as disparities in capacity and resources among local governments, to undertake urban planning with a long-term development vision, resulting in haphazard urban expansion.

Internal migration from rural to peri-urban and urban areas is significant in Nepal, driven by the search for better economic opportunities, improved access to education and healthcare, and overall enhanced living conditions. This migration profoundly affects both urban and rural regions, leading to critical issues such as land use conversion and sprawl, shortage of housing and stress on basic infrastructure, environmental degradation, increasing disaster, climate vulnerability, economic disparities and informality. The rural areas with declining population by over 5% in the last 10 years⁷ have also resulted in increased per capita investments on infrastructure, impacting their sustainability and efficiency. Hence, the territorial approach of planning to strengthen urban-rural linkages should be prioritized.



29.1 M (2021)
POPULATION



0.92%
POPULATION GROWTH



1,447 USD (2024)
GDP PER CAPTA



7.8 M (27%)
URBAN POPULATION

² <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/nep127536.pdf>

³ <https://lawcommission.gov.np/en/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Constitution-of-Nepal.pdf>

⁴ https://censusnepal.cbs.gov.np/results/files/result-folder/National%20Report_English.pdf

⁵ <https://unhabitat.org/applying-the-degree-of-urbanisation-a-methodological-manual-to-define-cities-towns-and-rural-areas>

⁶ https://api.giwms.gov.np/storage/36/posts/1704182419_97.pdf

⁷ https://api.giwms.gov.np/storage/36/posts/1704182419_97.pdf



2.3 Climate Change

Nepal is highly vulnerable to climate change due to its fragile topography, climate-sensitive livelihoods, and limited adaptive capacity of the communities.⁸ The temperature in Nepal has been rising by 0.056°C per year from 1971 to 2014, leading to glacier retreat, new glacial lakes, and Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs).⁹ With melting Himalayas, Nepal is experiencing increased downstream events such as erosion, landslides, flash floods, and droughts, significantly impacting lives and livelihoods. By 2050, climate change could cost Nepal 2.2% of its annual GDP.¹⁰ Nepal has implemented several national initiatives to address climate change, such as the Environment Protection Act (2019), National Climate Change Policy (2019), Climate Resilience Planning & Budgeting Guideline (2019), Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act (2017) and Regulation (2019), National REDD+ Strategy (2018), National Energy Efficiency Strategy (2018) and 2nd National Determined Commitment (2020). The National Adaptation Plan Until 2025 aims to build adaptive capacity and resilience of the vulnerable communities and the sectors through an integrated approach, mainstreaming the agenda in the policies and plans at all tiers of the government and ensuring equitable resource mobilization for climate adaptation. By implementing these plans, Nepal seeks to reduce

climate change effects and build a climate-resilient society through enhanced adaptation planning and urgent actions.

2.4 Land, Housing, and Basic Services

The 2015 Constitution of Nepal ensures access to housing and food sovereignty as fundamental rights of the citizens, including access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities as essential for a decent living. The Right to Housing Act (2018) and WASH Act (2022) ensure the right to housing and basic services. However, there is a significant gap in ownership of housing and access to basic services in Nepal, where 12.8% of households live in rented properties. The safety of housing units is critical due to pre-existing vulnerability to earthquakes. About over 2 million non-engineered housing stock spread nationwide, like those damaged by the 2015 and 2023 earthquakes, they pose a critical threat to the humanitarian crisis as already witnessed in the 2023 Jajarkot earthquake.¹¹ In Nepal, 43% of households are without access to piped water. In addition, only 16% have access to safe water, 5% without toilet facilities and 39% without safe sanitation.¹²

⁸ [https://climate.mohp.gov.np/attachments/article/167/Second%20Nationally%20Determined%20Contribution%20\(NDC\)%20-%202020.pdf](https://climate.mohp.gov.np/attachments/article/167/Second%20Nationally%20Determined%20Contribution%20(NDC)%20-%202020.pdf)

⁹ https://www.dhm.gov.np/uploads/dhm/climateService/Observed_Climate_Trend_Analysis_Report_2017.pdf

¹⁰ <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/42811/assessing-costs-climate-change-and-adaptation-south-asia.pdf>



Access to land is fundamental, with the National Land Policy (2019) reflecting the provisions in the 2015 Constitution that ensure the security of land tenure and land ownership and protection of land rights. However, in Nepal, over 1.34 million households are identified as landless and near landless, with people living in informal settlements who are at constant threat of eviction. Further, without legal land ownership documents, they cannot produce collateral to access financial resources for economic opportunities and receive basic services.¹³ The 8th amendment in the land legislation and the formation of the land commission in 2020 are important steps towards providing security of tenure to the landless and regularization of informal tenure. However, with frequent dismissal and reconstitution of the

commission, the work progress is too short of the stipulated target. Landless and poor farmers cultivating land under sharecropping or informal arrangements like verbal contracts without the security of tenure cannot invest in improving their productivity. At the same time, they face exploitation of their produce, hence exacerbating vulnerability in terms of food insecurity. Inadequate understanding and investment in sustainable land management, both in rural-urban areas and agricultural or human settlements, is an increasing issue. Concern for tenure-responsive and risk-sensitive land use planning at national, sub-national and local levels and their integration for implementation across the three tiers of the government is recognized but missing across sectoral planning.



1.34 M
LANDLESS & INFORMAL
HOUSEHOLDS



19%
ACCESS TO SAFE WATER



11%
CONNECTED TO SEWAGE



23.8%
HOUSEHOLD WITH
FEMALE OWNERSHIP
IN HOUSE & LAND

¹¹ <https://undpnepal.medium.com/retrofitting-of-existing-housing-stock-has-great-potential-to-manage-earthquake-risk-effectively-fcf02ccf94b4>

¹² <https://censusnepal.cbs.gov.np/results>

¹³ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/country-reports/ahrc5038add2-visit-nepal-report-special-rapporteur-extreme-poverty-and>



2.5 Gender, Inclusion, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Nepal faces complex social issues, including gender inequality, exclusion, and the need for robust protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). The 2015 Constitution of Nepal envisions an inclusive state that guarantees equality, social justice, and freedom from discrimination, with policies ensuring the rights of women and historically excluded groups. Nepal, as a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), commits to ensuring independent living and full participation for persons with disabilities by providing equal access to the physical environment, transportation, information, and services.

Efforts such as the Gender Equality Policy (2021) and the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Strategy 2021-2023 aim to empower individuals across various social dimensions, including women, gender minorities, persons with disabilities, marginalized communities, and many more. However, disparities remain, as evident from the decline in Nepal's Gender Gap Index score from 0.692 in 2022 to 0.659 in 2023¹⁴, and its rank on the Gender Inequality Index is 113th, with a score of 0.452 out of 191 countries.¹⁵ To address these challenges, UNSDCF has underlined gender equality, inclusion, leaving no one behind (LNOB) and reaching the farthest first as the guiding principle, including implementation of PSEA policies to protect vulnerable populations from exploitation and abuse, ensuring timely and appropriate responses to allegations and providing victim-centered support.



0.622 (2025)
HDI INDEX



2026
EXPECTED YEAR TO GRADUATE
FROM LDC STATUS

2.6 Youth and Migration

Nepal, with a youth population of 12,412,173 aged 16-40, i.e. 42.55% of the total population, has the potential to harness demographic dividend. However, it faces significant out-migration, both professional and non-skilled, driven by limited economic opportunities, high unemployment rates, and low wages, particularly in rural areas. Over 2.1 million Nepali citizens live abroad, representing 7.4% of the national population, with men making up 81.3% of this group. Feminization of the agriculture sector and the lack of human resources in key sectors, particularly construction and brown jobs, are emerging challenges to be tackled. Additionally, a considerable number of Nepali students seek education overseas, with 416,364 'no objection certificates' issued between 2008/09 and 2020/21. Migration has increased remittances, which amounted to USD 8.2 billion or 23.8% of Nepal's GDP in 2021.¹⁶ While remittances bolster the economy and reduce poverty without strategic investment, they create dependency and brain drain. The government has introduced policies promoting employment, skill development, and entrepreneurship to address youth migration, as outlined in the 15th Five-Year Plan (2019/2020–2023/24). However, effective implementation and coordination of stakeholders remain challenging, with an evident increase in unemployment, necessitating comprehensive policies for job creation and youth empowerment.

¹⁴ https://widgets.weforum.org/GGGR/edition-23-ranking/pdf/2023/gggr_index_2023_098_NPL.pdf

¹⁵ <https://data.un.org/DocumentData.aspx?id=471>

¹⁶ https://dofe.gov.np/uploads/document/Document_2023032801210.pdf

3. UN-HABITAT IN NEPAL

UN-Habitat in Nepal

UN-Habitat started its operation in Nepal to support reconstruction after the 1988 earthquake and with office establishment in 2007. It has continued its work in collaboration with partners ranging from the government and local authorities to a wide cross-section of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and civil society groups. Aiming for a better livable and sustainable urban area and human settlements, its mission is to promote social and environmentally sustainable settlement development and achieve adequate shelter for all.

UN-Habitat support to the Government and people of Nepal is primarily focused on four sectors: Urban Planning and Climate Change; Land Reform and Management; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; and Inclusive Development and Housing. UN-Habitat works

with national, sub-national and local governments, providing technical support for policy formulations, particularly land, WASH and urban policies, strengthen capacities for localization of the policies, and collaborating to demonstrate policy implementation at the local level through projects.

UN-Habitat in Nepal remains committed to supporting the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and SDGs through mainstreaming Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Development in its processes. UN-Habitat aims to continue supporting the Government in mainstream planning through land management with provision of basic services, including decent livelihood, focusing particularly on the needs of the most marginalized - urban poor, slum-dwellers, landless, women and youths.



It all starts at home
Local actions for sustainable
cities and communities



Key Achievements



National Open Defecation Free Campaign: Supported 19 districts and 762 local governments (then VDCs and municipalities) and reached 3.5 million people directly for access to sanitation facilities in support of the national campaign. Nepal was declared ODF in September 2019.



The National Land Policy was adopted in 2019. Based on pilot projects conducted in different areas, a Fit-for-Purpose Land Administration Strategy was developed, paving the way for the necessary technical, legislative and institutional framework for land allocation to the landless and regularization of informal tenure. With the model provided, the government has rolled out process in 728 municipalities with participatory enumeration of more than 1 million landless and informal settlers. Temporary land tenure card (Nissa) distribution and Land Ownership Certification for Landless people and informal settlers continue. With UN-Habitat's assistance in the 14 local governments, 7 have reached the stage of distributing 1,173 land ownership certificates (25% of the total certificates distributed by the government). Additionally, it supported the issuance of 80,033 temporary land tenure cards (Nissa) in the 14 LGs mentioned.



Heritage Recovery and Livelihood Support: Reconstructed 20 public infrastructures in heritage settlements, provided entrepreneurship development training to 600 individuals, delivered skill development training to 400 individuals and trained 151 people as skilled masons. Supported establishment of enterprises to promote eco-heritage tourism to support earthquake recovery post 2015 earthquake.



Promoting sustainable housing through Green Home: Green building guideline drafted with MOUD, along with technical support to three municipalities, training of 625 youths on green building technology, market linkages and strengthening of SMEs on green technologies that benefitted 286 aspiring entrepreneurs and 224 mainstream designers and real-estate developers and mass campaigns promoting sustainable housing.



Post-earthquake support: In response to the 2015 earthquake, assistance was provided to the most vulnerable and impoverished families through immediate support for winterization, drinking water, temporary sheds, and other support. Similarly, 1,780 families received help with temporary shelter construction, 618 families were assisted with rental or host family support, 10 Community Learning Centres were established, and over 10,000 families were informed about the "Build Back Better" initiative. The Housing Reconstruction and Recovery Platform was established to support coordinated action by the government and non-government agencies.



Mainstreaming LNOB in Urban Polices & Programs: Support in the revision of the GESI Guideline of MOUD, develop accessibility audit procedure, preparation of catalog of Accessible Public Toilets, capacity building of 50 Engineers/Architects, over 125 students and 30 IT/communicational professional on digital and physical accessibility.



Promotion of Urban Agriculture for urban food security: Developed training manual and mobile-based application (Karesa) to promote roof-top farming. Municipal level TOT for 45 urban farmers and community-level training for 220 home-based women, including demonstration farms in Madhyapur Thimi and Lalitpur Metropolitan city.



Degree of Urbanization: Analysis of 2011 and 2021 census data to derive degree of urbanization for classification of the lowest administrative unit in Nepal, using global tool for harmonized definition of urban areas, was endorsed by the government, as reflected in plans and policies.



Innovative Green Solution: 150 and 220 vulnerable/low-income households received improved cooking stoves and solar systems respectively, providing alternative energy solutions with multiple benefits. Innovative green technologies were demonstrated to combat extreme heat and water scarcity with heat-insulating paint (room temperature of a school decreased by 10 degrees, benefitting students from marginalized communities) and rainwater harvesting systems.



Collaborate with the government to convene and organize various national and international events, workshops and dialogues, facilitating knowledge exchange, partnership and cooperations across regions and stakeholders.



4. MAIN AREAS OF COLLABORATION

4.1 Alignment with UNSDCF & Green, Resilient & Inclusive Development

UNSDCF sets out an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient development pathway for Nepal. For the realization of over-arching development goals, it frames the theory of change that ensures green, sustainable and competitive business environment is achieved; Inclusive and resilient economic growth occurs; higher quality education, health, nutrition, food, water and sanitation outcomes are attained; advanced, disaster-resilient society that sustainably uses and manages resources; improved coordination of key functions across the three tiers of governance is accomplished; critical gaps in the legal framework and its transparent implementation are achieved; stronger and more deliberate emphasis is placed on women, young people, persons with disabilities, marginalized and vulnerable groups. UNSDCF focuses on those farthest behind, being able to contribute to and benefit equitably with the core principles of a human rights-based approach, leaving no one behind, gender equality and women's empowerment, sustainability and resilience, accountability, and transparency.

The Government of Nepal and international development partners have pledged to Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Development pathway through Strategic Action Plan (GRID-SAP). GRID-SAP intends to harness the natural capital for growth, climate benefits, decent job creation and food security involving, among others agriculture, land and water resources management; green and low-carbon disaster-resilient infrastructures; increasing resilience by strengthening key systems including disaster risk and sustainable land management; and ensuring inclusive economy such that excluded groups are not left behind. GRID-SAP has identified ten priority transitions, including- Sustainable and inclusive land management; Green, resilient and inclusive cities;

Resilient water supply and sanitation; Improved air quality; Sustainable solid waste management; and leveraging human capital.

The theory of change of HCPD strongly aligns with and contributes to UNSDCF outcomes that will support Nepal in ensuring green, resilient, inclusive, and sustained development of the cities and human settlements. To achieve this, HCPD prioritizes focusing on 1) Inclusive development, security and prosperity for all, 2) Green and livable settlements with improved overall quality of life, 3) Climate and disaster resilient development, and 4) Localize urban planning through strengthened multi-level governance, for inclusive and sustainable human settlements.

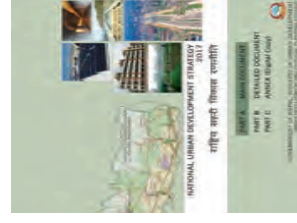
4.2 Consultations for Formulation of HCPD

In preparing HCPD, inputs were taken from ministries, development partners and urban stakeholders through various means. UN Joint Work Plan was the guiding document to prepare the Logical Framework for HCPD. Likewise, bilateral meetings during mission in March 2024 of the Human Settlement Officer to Nepal with the development partners, World Bank, JICA, ICIMOD, EU, USAID including UN Resident Coordinator's Office, provided inputs in strengthening Framework of HCPD. Further, Framework and Implementation Plan of HCPD was presented and endorsed by UN-Habitat Steering Committee in two consecutive meetings in Dec. 2023 and June 2024. The UN Resident Coordinators Office have confirmed the alignment of HCDP with UNSDCF (2023-2027) that substantially contribute to the UNCT's collective effort to achieving the strategic priorities/outcomes.

4.3 Alignment with International and National Priorities & Policies

International & National Priorities, Policies & Frameworks	HCPD Objective: Green, Resilient, Inclusive and Sustained Development of the Cities and Human Settlements			
	HCPD Priority 1: Inclusive development, security & prosperity for all	HCPD Priority 2: Green & livable settlements with improved overall quality of life	HCPD Priority 3: Climate & disaster-resilient sustainable development	HCPD Priority 4: Localize urban planning through strengthened multi-level governance
UN-Habitat Strategic Plan (2020 - 2025)	1.2 Increased and secure access to land and adequate and affordable housing 1.3 Effective settlements growth and regeneration	1.1 Increased and equal access to basic services, sustainable mobility and public space	3.3 Effective adaptation of communities and infrastructure to climate change 3.1 Reduced greenhouse gas emissions and improved air quality 4.3 Enhanced resilience of the built environment and infrastructure	2.2 Increased and equitably distributed locally generated revenues
	SDG 1: No poverty SDG 2: Zero hunger SDG 5: Gender equality SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	SDG 3: Good health and well-being SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities	SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities SDG 13: Climate action	SDG 5: Gender equality SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities
New Urban Agenda	Adequate housing (33), tenure security (35), heritage revitalization (38), inclusive economic development (45, 47)	Inclusive development - urban poverty (25); social/ basic services & physical infrastructure (29, 34); universal access (36); green inclusive public spaces (37)	Clean environment and healthy society (55); urban energy and energy efficiency (75); cities resilience and DRR (77); adaptation and ecosystem-based adaptation (80)	Gender-responsive and human rights based (26); spatial planning and sustainable management (51); urban and territorial planning (72)
UNSDCF 2023-2027	OUTCOME 1: By 2027, more people, especially women, youth, the most marginalized and poor, increasingly benefit from and contribute to inclusive, resilient, and sustainable socio-economic transformation at federal, provincial, and local levels.	OUTCOME 2: By 2027, more people, especially women, youth, children, and the most marginalized and poor, increasingly participate in and benefit from equitably improved quality social services at federal, provincial, and local levels.	OUTCOME 3: By 2027, more people, especially women, youth, and the most marginalized and poor, increasingly benefit from and contribute to building an inclusive, sustainable, climate-resilient, and green society and reduce impacts of disasters at federal, provincial, and local levels.	OUTCOME 4: By 2027, more people, especially women, youth, and the most marginalized and poor, increasingly participate in and benefit from coordinated, inclusive, accessible, participatory, transparent, and gender-responsive governance, access to justice and human rights at federal, provincial, and local levels.
16th Development Plan	Promotion of inclusive employment opportunities for strengthening vulnerable communities. Management of landless Sukumbasi and informal settlers and ending to encroachment. Balanced development for reducing poverty and inequality and Creating Equitable Society.	Well-managed, modern, and safer settlements through integrated infrastructure development. Modern, sustainable and Systematic Urbanization and Human Settlements Development. Balanced development for reducing poverty and inequality and Creating Equitable Society.	Balance between environment and development. Control of natural and human induced disasters and management of risks	Well-managed, modern, and safer settlements through integrated infrastructure development. Modern, sustainable and Systematic Urbanization and Human Settlements Development. Sustainable Development Goals and Green Economy.

National Urban Policy (2024)	P1: Develop prosperous national urban systems and urban morphology	P2: Expand access to resilient urban infrastructure	P2: Expand access to resilient urban infrastructure P3: Maximize resource mobilization for managed urban development	P4: Enhance inter-regional coordination and urban governance
National Urban Development Strategy (2017)	S42. Promote innovative, economic and environment friendly buildings S73. Plan and implement urban regeneration programs in historic core areas and the disaster affected urban centers. S74. Emphasize mainstreaming of informal urban economy.	S12. Provide basic infrastructure services in all urban areas –based on appropriate norms and standards S60. Promote/ maintain minimum stipulated open space in urban areas	S50. Promote multi-hazard approach in dealing with disasters including climate change S51. Promote integrated safer settlement	S9. Integrate future provincial capitals with the development of national and sub-national urban systems. S66. Address issues related to special groups in urban development S92. Empower municipalities to undertake urban development programs and projects
National Sectoral Policies	National Land Policy (2019): Pillars 1 - Security of land tenure and land ownership and protection of land rights. Pillar 6: Good governance in land administration and sustainable land management. National Land Act (2020): Participatory land governance, hierarchy of land use and enforcement.	WASH Policy (2022): Explicit on Municipal Wide Inclusive Sanitation. WASH ACT (2023): Sewered and non-sewered sanitation. National Environment Policy (2019): Control pollution, solid waste management, greening of cities and settlements.	Climate Change Policy (2019): Sector Rural and urban habitats: Climate-friendly villages and cities through safe, sustainable and resilient habitats and infrastructures. NDC Implementation Plan (2023) SWM, mobility, green building, integrated & climate resilient urban development.	Local Government Operation Act (2017): 2015 Constitution of Nepal established a federal system 3-tiered government with significant autonomy to the local government that further defines their roles, responsibilities and enabling effective management of local resources, development projects and public service delivery for urban development.



4.4 Priority Areas of Habitat Country Programme Document

Aligned with the national priorities and policies, UNSDCF (2023 – 2027) and the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan (2020 – 2025), the **Habitat Country Programme of Nepal** (2024 – 2027) aims to contribute to **Green, Resilient, Inclusive and Sustained Development of the Cities and Human Settlements in Nepal**, through partnership, collaboration and intervention under four prioritized areas:

Priority 1: Inclusive development, security & prosperity for all

Priority 2: Green & livable settlements with improved overall quality of life

Priority 3: Climate & disaster-resilient sustainable development

Priority 4: Localize urban planning through strengthened multi-level governance



Priority Area 1: Inclusive Development, Security and Prosperity for all

UN-Habitat Nepal, guided by the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan, contributes to UNSDCF Outcome 1 on sustainable, resilient and economic transformation, to support inclusive development addressing the needs of vulnerable population including women, persons with disability, landless, slum-dwellers and homeless, informal settlers for their improved, sustainable and decent livelihoods. Through the priority area, the HCPD sets the objective to:

- Strengthen institutions and mechanisms for access to land and land tenure security of landless *Dalit*, landless *sukumbasi*¹⁷ and informal settlers, including women and youths.
- Support in ensuring the right to housing through access to adequate and affordable housing for the most vulnerable population.
- Promote green economy through climate-resilient livelihoods and local job creation for the most vulnerable population.

To achieve this objective, UN-Habitat will continue its engagement through ongoing projects, and partnerships to reinforce nexus between land tenure, climate-smart and sustainable land management

practices for resilient livelihoods, through strengthening safety net of innovative land tenure solutions for near-landless sharecroppers and a greener rural Nepal.

UN-Habitat will continue to pursue innovative new projects and interventions to contribute to achieving the UNSDCF Outcome 1 target through:

1. Continued efforts to coordinate with other United Nations Organizations (UNOs) and development partners on upscaling efforts for inclusive land administration, building nexus with sustainable livelihood and climate and tenure-responsive land use planning.
2. Support in implementation of National Land Policy through land reform initiatives and good land governance focusing on tenure security of the most marginalized communities for sustainable livelihoods and inclusive, safe and resilient human settlements.
3. Support in establishing innovative and pro-poor approaches for ensuring access to safe, adequate and affordable housing, aligned with the National Urban Policy.

¹⁷ According to the existing Land legislation "Landless Sukumbasi" means a person with no registered land throughout the country in the name of self or a family member and with no capacity to procure a piece of land from own/family income. Similarly, "Informal Settler" means a person having a piece of land registered anywhere in the country in the name of self or family member and operating for at least ten years any vacant government land or land designated as forest



Priority Area 2: Green and Livable Settlements with Improved Overall Quality of Life

Priority Area 2 of UN-Habitat Nepal Strategic Programme contributes to UNSDCF Outcome 2 on equitably improved quality social services at three tiers of government that benefits the women, youth, children and the most marginalized and poor communities. The basic services denoted the quality services of Health, Education and Water & Sanitation as priority. Through the priority area, the HCPD sets the objective to:

- Integrate City Wide Inclusive Services (CWIS) at the national & local levels, ensuring access to safely managed sanitation services for all.
- Enhance the quality of life through promoting green, livable settlements for all through climate-resilient basic amenities and services to improve urban environment.

To attain this, UN-Habitat will continue its engagement through ongoing projects and partnerships that:

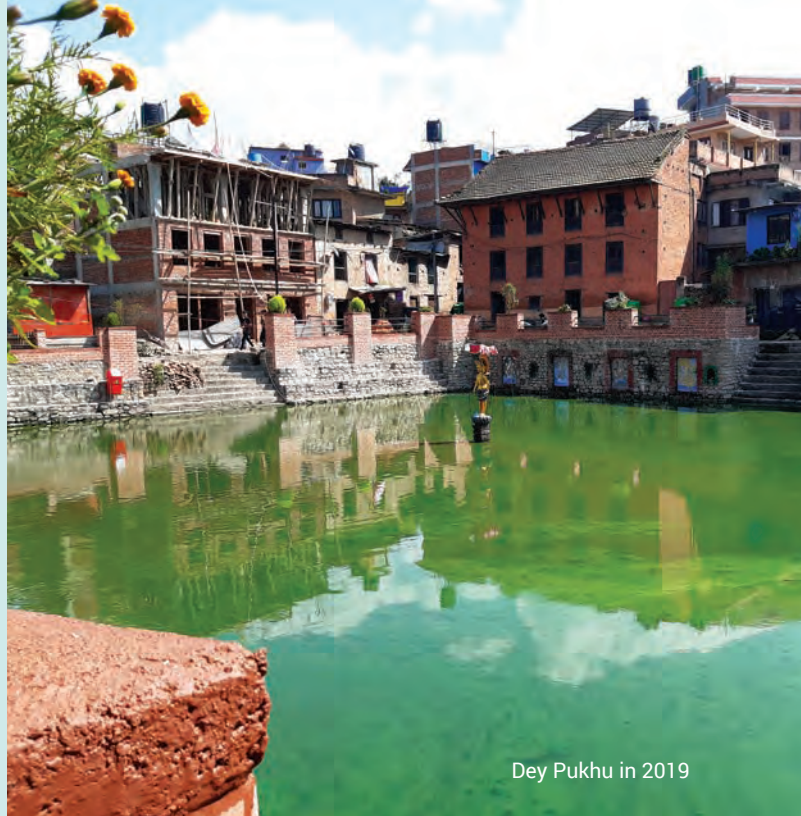
1. Strengthen governance and capacities for inclusive sanitation policies, strategies and guidelines with regulatory reforms and a robust information system to support implementation.
2. Support inclusive and climate resilient urbanization in Nepal through promotion of public open spaces and greening cities.

UN-Habitat will continue to pursue innovative projects to contribute to achieving the UNSDCF Outcome 2 target through:

1. Support to promote healthy and inclusive settlements and cities through a comprehensive approach of spatial and service planning.
2. Strengthening climate change and basic services nexus for green & resilient public amenities, through engagement at national and sub-national levels.



Dey Pukhu in 2016



Dey Pukhu in 2019

Priority Area 3: Climate and Disaster Resilient Sustainable Development

UN-Habitat Nepal, guided by the UN-Habitat Strategic Programme, contributes to implementing UNSDCF Outcome 3 on building an inclusive, sustainable, climate-resilient, and green society and reduced impacts of disasters at federal, provincial, and local levels. Through the priority area, the HCPD sets the objective to:

- Strengthen local actions to enhance urban resilience to disasters and climate risks, through an integrated approach of risk mitigation and adaptation, reducing vulnerability of most marginalized, vulnerable and poor communities.
- Enhance multi-level governance for building nexus between climate change, land use and urban development for low-carbon and resilient development pathways for cities and settlements.

To attain this, UN-Habitat will continue its engagement through ongoing projects and partnerships that promote:

1. Inclusive and climate-resilient urbanization in Nepal, through accelerating climate action with the national and local governments to mainstream climate-responsive development, establishing its intersectionality with gender through strengthening existing participatory

urban planning processes.

2. Demonstration of innovative technologies and collaborations that promote urban agriculture, greening and green technologies to tackle the issues of heatwaves, urban floods, groundwater depletion, waste management, and emissions, etc.
3. Urban ecosystem-based adaptation for climate-resilient development thus reinforcing a stronger a nexus between climate change and urban development demonstrated through risk informed infrastructure development.

UN-Habitat will continue to pursue innovative projects to contribute to achieving the UNSDCF Outcome 3 target through:

1. Enhanced seismic risk reduction of rural houses for reducing risks from earthquakes.
2. Assisting Nepal to transition towards a low-carbon, efficient and resilient buildings and construction and mobility sectors in support of the 2030 Agenda.
3. Upscaling climate adaptative development investments for greener and resilient communities through reinforcing a stronger a nexus between climate change and urban development.



Priority Area 4 - Localize Urban Planning through strengthened Multi-Level Governance

UN-Habitat Nepal, guided by the UN-Habitat Strategic Programme, contributes to the implementation of UNSDCF Outcome 4 on coordinated, inclusive, accessible, participatory, transparent, and gender-responsive governance, access to justice and human rights at federal, provincial, and local levels. Through the priority area, the HCPD sets the objective to:

- Strengthen municipal governance, ensuring inclusive and evidence-based urban planning, at all levels with a specific focus on vulnerable populations, particularly women, youth, and persons with disability.
- Accelerate SDG implementation through localization and evidence-based policymaking, implementation and monitoring for targeted investments.

To attain this, UN-Habitat will continue its engagement through ongoing projects and partnerships that promote:

1. SDG localization, critical for effective planning and monitoring of the actions and investments

to achieve 2030 targets at the local level. This will be done through the instrument of Voluntary Local Review (VLR).

2. Building urban datasets with the use of global tools like the Degree of Urbanization (DEGURBA) to generate comparable data and analysis required for evidence-based planning, investments and monitoring of SDGs.

UN-Habitat will continue to pursue innovative projects to contribute to achieving the UNSDCF Outcome 4 target through:

1. Strengthening urban database for policy impact, to localize evidence based urban planning and investments through reinforced multi-level urban governance and that ensures inclusive urban development through ensuring participation of vulnerable groups in the planning process.
2. Upscaling SDG localization at the municipal level for directing a collective movement for local actions towards achieving SDG 2030.

Framework of HCPD

Objectives: Green, Resilient, Inclusive and Sustained Development of the Cities and Human Settlements		
Priority	Output	Action Area
P1: Inclusive development, security & prosperity for all	Strengthen institutions & mechanisms for access to land and land tenure security of landless Dalit, landless sukumbasi & informal settlers, including women and youths.	Continued efforts to coordinate with other United Nations Organizations (UNOs) and development partners on upscaling efforts for inclusive land administration, building nexus with sustainable livelihood and climate and tenure-responsive land use planning.
	Support in ensuring the right to housing through access to adequate & affordable housing for the most vulnerable population.	Support in establishing innovative and pro-poor approaches for ensuring access to safe, adequate and affordable housing, aligned with the National Urban Policy.
	Promote green economy through climate-resilient livelihoods & local job creation for the most vulnerable population.	Support in implementation of National Land Policy through land reform initiatives and good land governance focusing on tenure security of the most marginalized communities for sustainable livelihoods and inclusive, safe and resilient human settlements.
P2: Green & livable settlements with improved overall quality of life	Enhance the quality of life through promoting green, livable settlements for all through climate-resilient basic amenities & services to improve urban environment.	- Support to promote healthy and inclusive settlements and cities through a comprehensive approach of spatial and service planning. - Strengthening climate change and basic services nexus for green & resilient public amenities, through engagement at national and sub-national levels.
	Integrate City Wide Inclusive Services (CWIS) at the national & local levels, ensuring access to safely managed sanitation services for all.	Strengthen governance and capacities for inclusive sanitation policies, strategies and guidelines with regulatory reforms and a robust information system to support implementation.
P3: Climate & disaster-resilient sustainable development	Strengthen local actions to enhance urban resilience to disasters & climate risks, through an integrated approach of risk mitigation & adaptation, reducing vulnerability of most marginalized, vulnerable & poor communities.	- Upscaling climate adaptative development investments for greener and resilient communities through reinforcing a stronger a nexus between climate change and urban development at all tiers of government. - Demonstration of innovative technologies and collaborations that promote urban agriculture, regreening and green technologies to tackle the issues of heatwaves, urban floods, groundwater depletion, waste management, and emissions, etc.
	Enhance multi-level governance for building nexus between climate change, land use & urban development for low-carbon & resilient development pathways for cities and settlements.	- Inclusive and climate-resilient urbanization in Nepal, through accelerating climate action with the national and local governments to mainstream climate-responsive development. - Enhanced seismic risk reduction of rural houses for reducing risks from earthquakes. - Assisting Nepal to transition towards a low-carbon, efficient and resilient buildings, construction and mobility sectors in support of the 2030 Agenda.
P4: Localize urban planning through strengthened multi-level governance	Strengthen municipal governance, ensuring inclusive & evidence-based urban planning, at all levels with a specific focus on vulnerable populations, particularly women, youth, & persons with disability.	Strengthening urban database for policy impact, to localize evidence based urban planning and investments through reinforced multi-level urban governance and that ensures inclusive urban development through ensuring participation of vulnerable groups in the planning process.
	Accelerate SDG implementation through localization & evidence-based policymaking, implementation & monitoring for targeted investments.	Upscaling SDG localization at the municipal level for directing a collective movement for local actions towards achieving SDG 2030.

5. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

5.1 Governance Structure and Coordination

UN-Habitat has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Finance (MOF), with the Ministry of Urban Development (MOUD) as the focal agency or primary counterpart. The MOU is renewed every 4 years, with the validity of the current MOU until 31st December 2024. A multi-ministry Steering Committee has been configured, which is led by the Urban Development Division of MOUD to facilitate effective coordination with the government agencies, including monitoring implementation, endorsement of projects, and advisory support for effective engagement of UN-Habitat with the Government. The Steering Committee is composed of representatives from the Ministry of Finance (MOF), Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MOFAGA), Ministry of Forests and Environment (MOFE), Ministry of Water Supply (MOWS), Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation (MOLMCPA), National Planning Commission (NPC), National Statistics Office (NSO), Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC), and NNUF (Nepal National Urban Forum).

UN-Habitat is a member of the UN Country Team (UNCT) and contributes directly to the implementation of the UNSDCF under the overall leadership and guidance of the Resident Coordinator. Annual Joint Work Plan for UNSDCF implementation, engagement in the Outcome groups, Focused working groups and collaboration through joint programming with other UN agencies is a priority for mobilizing resources and capacities that contribute to UNSDCF and HCPD implementation.

Additionally, UN-Habitat engages with academic institutions and training centers like Institute of Engineering (IOE), Kathmandu University (KU), Land Management Training Center (LMTC), Nepal Water Supply and Sanitation Training Center (NWSSTC), association of local government, namely MUAN and NARMIN, as well as professional organizations, including the Regional and Urban Planners' Society of Nepal (RUPSON) and Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA) and development partners, non-government organizations and private sectors, on the issues related to urban and human settlements, spatial planning, climate change, data management, land, housing, and basic services. UN-Habitat also works closely with community-based organizations, civil

society organizations, and various user rights-based groups to ensure effective participation during project implementation that benefits the most vulnerable.

5.2 Budget and Gap - Partnership and Resource Mobilization

The available budget under various ongoing projects (status 2024) is USD 6.7 million, while an estimated USD 1 million is projected for prospective projects contributing to all four priority areas of HCPD. The budget allocation for gender equality in each ongoing project ranges from 40%, depending on the project's nature and objective. The HCPD shows the additional estimated resource requirements of USD 17 million for the next 4 years to implement targeted interventions, for which strategic partnership and resource mobilization are crucial. UN-Habitat Nepal, guided by corporate resource mobilization policy, will continue engaging with UN agencies, international donors, non-governmental organizations, and private sector entities to contribute to meeting the gap. Furthermore, establishing new partnerships and leveraging innovative financing mechanisms will be sought to tap climate finance and new funding windows.

Guided by the HCPD, specific projects will be developed in coordination with the relevant government entities at the federal, provincial and local levels based on multi-level priorities. The projects will be designed to leverage co-funding from the relevant government partners, including the private sector. UNCT platform and UN Joint workplan will be leveraged to develop joint multi-agency projects for effective and collective resource mobilization with other UN organizations. Continued efforts are being made to garner support from the ongoing donors, and new avenues will be explored further. Various modalities of partnerships will be expanded including technical assistance, direct project implementation, technical collaboration, etc. These partnerships will support the implementation of HCPD as the document itself will be instrumental in building partnerships and supporting resource mobilization efforts.



5.3 Advocacy and Communication Outreach

UN-Habitat will maximize the use of various communication means, mediums and platforms to disseminate learnings and amplify impacts of HCPD implementation, along with advocacy outreach to support initiatives that address critical issues such as land and housing rights, basic services, urban resilience, climate change, inclusive planning, among others. UN-Habitat Nepal will tap the national, regional and global forum to convene urban actors and stakeholders and organize dialogues that provide policy inputs and advocate for sustainable urban development and improved quality of life of people in Nepal. World Habitat Day, World Cities Day, Town Planning Day, and Nepal National Urban Forum are the existing national platforms, while Regional and World Urban Forums and global platforms will be explored. UN-Habitat will also develop and disseminate through print and audio-visual materials to disseminate information through mainstream and social media platforms that exist at the national, regional and global levels.

5.4 Monitoring and Evaluation

UN-Habitat will implement structured monitoring frameworks for each project, guided by the global framework and based on the requirements of the donors. It will also proceed with the systematic integration of the Global Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF) for implementation as part of the Harmonized

Global UN Systemwide Strategy for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and New Urban Agenda (NUA) and other regional, national, and subnational urban programs. UN-Habitat will anchor its projects in a robust theory of change and the results framework will guide programming effectively towards planned results to contribute to UNSDCF and HCPD. It will also closely adopt UN INFO, a digital platform used by UN Country teams to boost transparency and accountability for development coordination, managed by the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) for monitoring. It will apply The Gender Equality Marker (GEM) tool to track financial allocations and expenditures according to their contribution to gender equality and/or women's rights (GEWE). UN-Habitat will continue to be a member of the UN M&E group of the UN Nepal, where jointly developed indicators are used to define and track the progress in the implementation of the major components of the programme, and also seek opportunities to collect, analyze and monitor urban data. Annual reports through UNSDCF result framework, UNCT report, and quarterly programmatic reporting will be tools to assess the implementation of HCPD. UN-Habitat will coordinate with the Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Water Supply, Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation and other relevant Ministries to undertake joint monitoring of its project sites.

5.5 Workplan

HCPD Priority Areas	Ongoing Projects and New Project Ideas	Budget (USD mil)	Status	2024	2025	2026	2027
Priority 1: Inclusive development, security and prosperity for all <i>(UNSDCF Outcome 1: By 2027, more people, especially women, youth, the most marginalized and poor, increasingly benefit from and contribute to inclusive, resilient, and sustainable socio-economic transformation at federal, provincial, and local levels)</i>	1.1 A Safety Net of Innovative Land Tenure Solutions for Near-Landless Sharecroppers and for a Greener Rural Nepal (MAFRA)	3.15	Ongoing	x	x	x	
	1.2 Joint UN efforts in supporting sustainable and inclusive land administration, for resilient and sustainable livelihood and climate and tenure responsive land use planning	1	Prospect		x	x	x
	1.3 Implementation of National Land Policy supporting land reform initiatives and good land governance focusing on most marginalized communities for inclusive, safe and resilient human settlements	1	Prospect	x	x	x	x
Priority 2: Green and livable settlements with improved overall quality of life <i>(UNSDCF Outcome 2: By 2027, more people, especially women, youth, children, and the most marginalized and poor, increasingly participate in and benefit from equitably improved quality social services at federal, provincial, and local levels)</i>	2.1 Strengthened governance and capacities for inclusive sanitation policies, strategies and guidelines with regulatory reforms and robust information system (BMGF)	1.6	Ongoing	x	x	x	
	2.2 Cities for Women: Inclusive and Climate Resilient Urbanization in Nepal (EU)	0.25	Ongoing	x	x		
	2.3 Promote healthy and inclusive settlements through comprehensive approach to spatial and services planning	0.5	Prospect		x	x	x
	2.4 Promote climate change and basic services nexus through dialogues and guidelines at national and local level	0.1	Prospect		x	x	



HCPD Priority Areas	Ongoing Projects and New Project Ideas	Budget (USD mil)	Status	2024	2025	2026	2027
Priority 3: Climate and disaster resilient sustainable development <i>(UNSDCF Outcome 3: By 2027, more people, especially women, youth, and the most marginalized and poor, increasingly benefit from and contribute to building an inclusive, sustainable, climate-resilient, and green society and reduce impacts of disasters at federal, provincial, and local levels)</i>	3.1 Urban Regreening & Green Technologies (W4L)	0.03	Prospect	x			
	3.2 Cities for Women: Inclusive and Climate Resilient Urbanization in Nepal (USAID)	1 + 3 (prospect)	Ongoing	x	x	x	x
	3.3 Urban Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Climate-resilient Development in Kathmandu Valley (UNEP/GEF)	0.4	Ongoing	x	x		
	3.4 Accelerating Climate Action through SDG Localization (SDG Joint Fund)	0.07	Ongoing		x		
	3.4 Enhanced seismic Risk Reduction of Rural Houses for reducing risks from earthquakes	3	Prospect		x	x	x
	3.5 Assisting Nepal to transitioning towards a low-carbon, efficient and resilient buildings and construction sector in support of the 2030 Agenda	1	Prospect		x	x	x
	3.6 Green Mobility for Sustainable Urban Growth in Nepal	1.5	Prospect		x	x	x
	3.7 Climate Adaptative Development for Greener and Resilient Communities through enhancing multi-level urban planning and governance in Nepal	2	Prospect			x	x
Priority 4: Localize urban planning through strengthened multi-level governance <i>(UNSDCF Outcome 4: By 2027, more people, especially women, youth, and the most marginalized and poor, increasingly participate in and benefit from coordinated, inclusive, accessible, participatory, transparent, and gender-responsive governance, access to justice and human rights at federal, provincial, and local levels)</i>	4.1 Support in SDG localization for effective planning and monitoring to achieve targets at the local level through VLRs (SDG Sub Fund)	0.06	Ongoing	x			
	4.2 State of Urbanization - Strengthen urban database for policy, planning and investments to strengthen multi-level action for integrated urban planning	0.2	Prospect		x		
	4.3 Upscale SDG localization at the municipal level for directing a collective movement for local actions towards achieving SDG 2030	0.3	Prospect		x	x	x

RECENT AND ONGOING INTERVENTIONS

1

2023 - 2027

A Safety Net of Innovative Land Tenure Solutions for Near-Landless Sharecroppers and for a Greener Rural Nepal (L4ACT)

The project contributes to Nepal’s climate commitments for green and just development, by introducing innovative approaches to reducing landlessness of the marginalized communities and improving resilient land use and livelihoods in the 4 municipalities in Dang district.



3.1 M USD



Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) of Republic of Korea



Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation



2

2021 - 2026

Strengthened Governance and Capacities for Inclusive Sanitation Policies, Strategies and Guidelines with Regulatory Reforms and Robust Information System (CWIS)

The project’s main objective is to support UN-Habitat’s ongoing efforts to refine global methodologies and assessment tools for SDG 6.2 and 6.3.1 and to integrate and advance CWIS in national-level programming.



1.6 M USD



Gates Foundation



Ministry of Water Supply



3

2025 - 2026

Livelihoods Improvement and Disaster Resilience Enhancement in the areas affected by the Jajarkot Earthquake

The project aims to strengthen governance capacity for service delivery of basic services for long-term reconstruction and resilience; promote community-led reconstruction of damaged small infrastructures for livelihoods opportunities, to support economic recovery of the earthquake impacted households and communities



0.6 M USD



Government of Japan/ UNDP



National Disaster Risk Management Authority



RECENT AND ONGOING INTERVENTIONS



2024- 2026

Cities 4 Women: Inclusive and Climate Resilient Urbanization in Nepal

The project's main objective is to create gender and climate responsive public spaces in cities in Nepal and increase the demand for gender responsive climate resilient public space, generate proof of concept for participatory public space projects, enhance the urban planning and design capacity of municipalities, and review the legal framework.



0.3 M USD



European Union/UNOPS



Ministry of Urban Development



2024 - 2026

Urban Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) for Climate-resilient Development in the Kathmandu Valley

The project contributes to building the resilience of local communities in Kathmandu Valley amidst increased impacts of climate change. The project interventions aim to mainstream EbA into planning frameworks, budgeting and implementation mechanisms of KVDA and 5 target municipalities, to decrease the climate-induced impacts.



0.4 M USD



Global Environment Fund/ UNEP



Ministry of Urban Development



2019 - 2024

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

The project's main objective is to strengthen capacities of local and regional Governments to develop Voluntary Local Reviews and localize the SDGs to enhanced multilevel governance and interlinkages between local and national governments as well as regional and international processes on SDGs implementation.



2.2 M USD



UN Development Account (UNDA)



Chandragiri Municipality, Ministry of Urban Development, National Planning Commission



For more details on ongoing and past projects, Please visit: <https://unhabitat.org.np>

IMPACT STORY



*"WITHOUT SECURITY
OF LAND TENURE,
LIFE WAS FULL OF
HARDSHIP, PAIN AND
HUMILIATION. FOR
THE FIRST TIME,
WE FEEL A SENSE
OF BELONGING,
OF OWNERSHIP"*
RAMKALI
CHAUDHARY,

From landless to landowner in Nepal

For 54 years, Ramkali Chaudhary and her husband Mahabir wondered what a land ownership certificate – Lalpurja in Nepali – looked like. As members of the Tharu indigenous community in Nepal's Dang district, the couple raised three children while tilling land that belonged to landlords, constantly living under the threat of eviction.

From accessing loans to water and electricity, every necessity required the land certificate they didn't possess. "For whatever we needed, they asked us to produce the Lalpurja, which we didn't have," Ramkali recalls. "Without it, everything was a struggle."

Despite decades of political pledges to formalize land rights, Ramkali faced a cycle of unfulfilled commitments and persistent insecurity causing stress and uncertainty. One day, officials came knocking on her door to share good news: the family's right to land was finally being recognized.

Through a collaborative initiative between UN-Habitat, the Government of Nepal, and the Republic of Korea, local authorities conducted community-based verification which led to the distribution of land ownership certificates to 32 families, including Ramkali's. Further, 23,713 landless and informal settler households have received temporary land cards, establishing a pathway toward land ownership certificates.

Today, Ramkali holds a land ownership certificate issued jointly with her husband. To her, it represents dignity and security after a lifetime of marginalization.

IMPACT STORY



*"THE CANAL THAT
ONCE LAY BROKEN
BY DISASTER IS
FLOWING AGAIN-
BRINGING WATER,
LIGHT, AND HOPE
BACK INTO OUR
LIVES."*

Restoring Water and Restoring Hopes

In November 2023, a powerful 6.4-magnitude earthquake struck Karnali Province, hitting Jajarkot and West Rukum the hardest. More than 150 lives were lost, and homes and community infrastructure were badly damaged.

With support from the Government of Japan, led by UNDP in collaboration with UN-Habitat and local partner Chay-Ya Nepal, supported in rehabilitation of 45 community infrastructure. Communities were organized where they contributed labor, and engaged in the entire process with full ownership.

Ranikhet Irrigation Canal was one of the infrastructures. Its damaged sections were rebuilt using RCC lining and strengthened with gabion retaining walls to ensure long-term safety and durability against future floods. Around 160 households directly benefitted from the restored canal.

Today, water once again flows from Geda Khola to the terraced fields of Ranikhet. The land is turning green, and farmers are growing rice, wheat, maize, mustard, and seasonal vegetables. Canal water is also used for household needs, saving time and reducing the workload for women. Two traditional water mills are running again, supporting local grain processing and preserving cultural practices. Most importantly, the steady water flow has allowed the 11 kW micro-hydropower system to restart, bringing reliable electricity and supporting small economic activities.

"This canal has not only brought water back-it has brought our future back," adds Ms. Srishti B.K. from Ranikhet Canal Rehabilitation Committee.

PLANNED INTERVENTIONS

1

Land and Housing Security through green and innovative settlement-based approach in Nepal

Project's Aim: To ensure land tenure and housing security of the most vulnerable communities in Nepal through institutional capacity and policy system at the national and local level that assures community-led inclusive and tenure responsive approach to demonstrate green and resilient housing solutions with a settlement-based approach.

Relevance to Regional Implementation Plan: Resilient, risk-informed and climate-sensitive housing and community for all.

Additional Priorities: Urban management transformation through integrated planning, participatory governance and advanced technology.



TOTAL BUDGET
5 M USD



TIME FRAME
2027 - 2029



LOCATION
NEPAL

OUTPUT, OUTCOME AND IMPACT

1. Land tenure security of 7000 landless and informal households ensured in settlements in Lumbini province.
2. Strengthen settlement-based approach to upgrade slum settlement through demonstration of green and resilient housing solutions.
3. Capacity at the national and local level strengthened to undertake evidence-based approach in formulating policy and program for land and housing security of the most marginalized communities.
4. Knowledge and agency built in the multi-level governance to scale up the methodology and tested solutions.



PLANNED INTERVENTIONS

2

Climate resilient WASH Services in Health Care Facilities and Public Schools in Nepal

Project’s Aim: TTo build climate resilience of the critical public services, particularly hospital and WASH infrastructure, through enhanced structural safety and services continuity in selected merging cities representing different ecological regions in Nepal.

Relevance to Regional Implementation Plan: Universal access to resilient, risk-informed, and climate-sensitive basic services and infrastructures.

Additional Priorities: Universal access to resilient, risk-informed and climate-sensitive basic services and infrastructures.



TOTAL BUDGET
1 M USD



TIME FRAME
2027- 2029



LOCATION
NEPAL

OUTPUT, OUTCOME AND IMPACT

1. Comprehensive climate risk-based management and safety assessment of the critical WASH infrastructure and its supply chain in health and school facilities using/testing existing tools to derive data for planning necessary interventions on building resilience and service continuity.
2. Risk-informed municipal planning and investment in building resilience of existing and new critical infrastructure, through implementation of the interventions prioritized and projects developed based on the assessment.
3. Enhanced awareness and capacity of wider municipalities for replication of the methodology for building resilience of critical infrastructure through targeted approach.



PLANNED INTERVENTIONS

3

Localizing urban planning for gender and climate responsive development pathways of the municipalities in Nepal

Project's Aim: TTo embed urban planning process at the local level that ensures gender and climate responsive urban development and investments, through capacity building and integrated multi sectoral approach.

Relevance to Regional Implementation Plan: Urban management transformation through integrated planning, participatory governance and advanced technology.

Additional Priorities: Harmonized co-existence of cities and nature and preservation of cultural diversity.



TOTAL BUDGET
4 M USD



TIME FRAME
2026 - 2028



LOCATION
NEPAL

OUTPUT, OUTCOME AND IMPACT

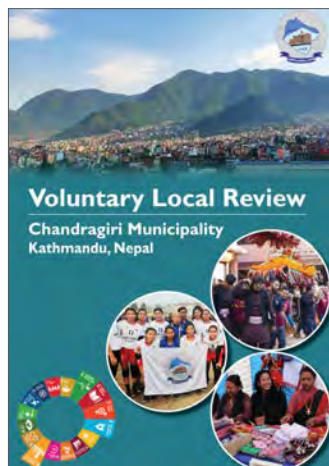
The proposal builds on existing collaboration on developing Urban Planning Guideline (based on UNH’s Our City Plan) with the Ministry of Urban Development, as an effort to localize urban planning at the municipal level. The Guideline adopts multi-sectoral approach that ensures gender and climate responsive decision making, in each step of the participatory planning process, to prioritize projects that are inclusive and resilient and serve the need of vulnerable groups/places.

Key Outcomes

1. Strengthened capacity at the national and sub-national levels to roll out step by step urban planning guideline.
2. Gender and Climate responsive urban development projects and investments prioritized at the target local level.
3. Knowledge dissemination and outreach to scale up the process at the national level.



PUBLICITY AND OUTREACH



Voluntary Local Review, Chandragiri Municipality Nepal

HIGHLIGHTS

- A. Supports SDG localization at municipal level
- B. Strengthens data-driven planning and action
- C. Enhances stakeholder engagement and accountability
- D. Provides a replicable model for other municipalities

https://unhabitat.org.np/project_detail/sdg-implementation-through-local-action

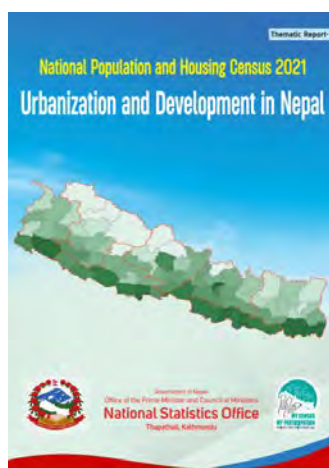


CWIS ALLIANCE Compendium of Best Practices in Nepal

HIGHLIGHTS

- A. Major progress but persistent challenges in meeting the Gap
- B. Strong role of multi-stakeholder collaboration
- C. Focus on three core areas (Policy & monitoring, advocacy capacity building & practice)
- D. Emphasize on inclusive and sustainable solutions

<https://unhabitat.org.np/publication-category/nepal-publication>



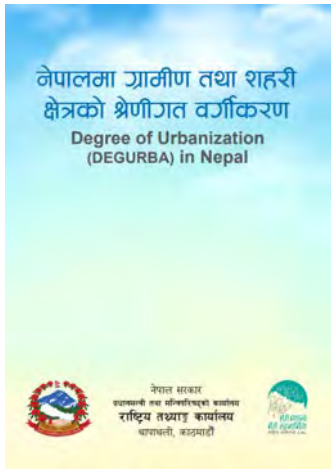
National Population and Housing Census 2021 Thematic report: Urbanization and Development in Nepal

HIGHLIGHTS

- A. Rapid urbanization requires planned and evidence-based action
- B. Gaps in urban services and infrastructure
- C. Urbanization linked to economic and human development
- D. Need for data-driven policy and local-level monitoring

<https://censusnepal.cbs.gov.np/results/files/result-folder/Urbanization%20and%20Development%20in%20Nepal.pdf>

PUBLICITY AND OUTREACH

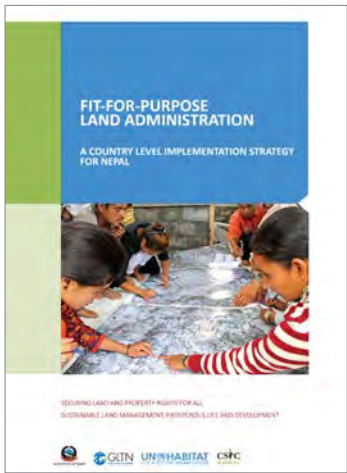


Degree of Urbanization in Nepal

HIGHLIGHTS

- A. Standardized urban classification system
- B. Rapid urbanization trend in Nepal
- C. Dominance of peri-urban areas
- D. Support evidence based policy and planning decisions

<https://censusnepal.cbs.gov.np/results/downloads/degree-urbanization-report>



Fit-For-Purpose Land Administration – A Country Level Implementation Strategy for Nepal

HIGHLIGHTS

- A. Land rights for all is non-negotiable
- B. Context specific and fit-for-purpose approach
- C. Addresses landlessness and informal land issues
- D. Reform of land administration system

https://unhabitat.org.np/recent_publish_detail/fit-for-purpose-land-administration-a-country-level-implementation-strategy-for-nepal



Formulation of Water and Sanitation Regulation in Nepal

HIGHLIGHTS

- A. Citywide inclusive sanitation (CWIS) approach
- B. Shift from infrastructure to service delivery
- C. Clear roles across government levels
- D. Regulatory and institutional strengthening

https://unhabitat.org.np/recent_publish_detail/formulation-of-water-and-sanitation-regulation-in-nepal

**A better quality of life for all
in an urbanizing world**



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