



Independent
Evaluation
Office
United Nations Development Programme

INDEPENDENT COUNTRY PROGRAMME EVALUATION

NEPAL

EVALUATION PERIOD: 2018-2021

COUNTRY PROFILE

Population

29.1 million
in 2020



HDI ranking

142 of 189
countries and
territories
in 2019



GII ranking

110 of 162 countries
2019



-2.1 percent
in 2020
7.3 percent
(average) in
2017-2019

GDP Growth



17.4 percent
Of Nepalis live in
poverty (2019)

Poverty



2026
expected to enter
the category of

Middle-income country

PROGRAMME OUTCOME AREAS

Programme expenditure by outcome 2018-2021, in million USD

Sustainable and Inclusive
Economic Growth

\$26

Governance, Rule of Law,
and Human Rights

\$21

Resilience, Disaster Risk
Reduction, and Climate
Change

\$26

Note: Financial data as of 9 December 2021

CONCLUSIONS

1. UNDP reinforced its position as a trusted development partner of the Government of Nepal by aligning its programme with government priorities and supporting federalization, promoting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) localization and mainstreaming gender equality and social inclusion.
2. UNDP assisted the Government to meet needs arising from post-disaster recovery and the COVID-19 pandemic, diluting UNDP's efforts toward long-term development impact.
3. UNDP made important contributions to promoting good governance, human rights and access to justice, but weak institutional capacity and resource scarcity continue to impact effectiveness and sustainability.
4. Despite positive partnerships with United Nations agencies and other development actors, resource mobilization remains a challenge.
5. Current programming approaches for the design and sustainability planning of M&E systems are inadequate for tracking and sustaining results.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UNDP

1. UNDP should intensify its engagement at subnational level and expand its capacity development support to provincial and local governments.

3. UNDP should review its experience with constraints and socio-cultural barriers in the human rights and justice domain in consultation with relevant stakeholders and explore ways to strengthen implementation.



2. UNDP's inclusive economic growth and resilience portfolios should seek a balance between the immediate response to crisis and transition, and systematic support for mid- to long-term development impact.

4. UNDP should ensure that SDG localization and mainstreaming of gender equality and social inclusion continue to be at the heart of its interventions.

5. UNDP should establish theories of change and improve monitoring and evaluation systems. Sound sustainability planning is needed to maintain benefits.

ABOUT THE INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OFFICE

By generating evaluative evidence, the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) supports UNDP to achieve greater accountability and facilitates improved learning from experience. The IEO enhances UNDP's development effectiveness through its programmatic and thematic evaluations and contributes to organizational transparency.

ABOUT ICPEs

The IEO of UNDP conducts Independent Country Programme Evaluations (ICPEs) to assess UNDP's performance at the country level. These evaluations support the formulation of a new UNDP country programme strategy in facilitating and leveraging national efforts to advance inclusive and sustainable development.