

Major achievements of UNDP's Second Country Cooperation Framework (2002-2007)

Impact on policies

- Established a Poverty Monitoring and Analysis System in the National Planning Commission.
- Strengthened Government ownership of the Millennium Development Goals through national and district level MDGs Needs Assessment and progress reports.
- Enhanced public debates on poverty with the production of Nepal Human Development Report 2004 on *Empowerment and Poverty Reduction*.
- Facilitated Nepal's accession to the WTO enabling the state to reap the benefits presented by this global integration.
- Micro-Enterprise Policy and District Micro-enterprise Development Guidelines developed, and a Micro-enterprise Unit established at the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies.

Pro-poor Policies and Programmes

Impact at the grassroots

- Set up 27,532 micro-entrepreneurs, of which 67% were women, 20% Dalits and 42% Janajatis; and generated additional jobs for more than 25,000 individuals through these micro-enterprises. These micro-entrepreneurs experienced an average increase in per capita income by 295% percent (from NRs. 4,275) and their family's annual income by 49% (from NRs. 25,326) during the programme cycle.
- Provided comprehensive support to 779,703 migrants and families, 50,497 men who have sex with men, 10,063 injecting drug users, and 3,771 people living with HIV/AIDS during 2005-07.

Impact on policies

- Replication of DFDP's performance-based funding system (MC/PM system) by the Government in all 75 DDCs.
- Introduced court referred mediation in the Nepalese judiciary through amendments to the District, Appellate and Supreme Court rules.

Democratic Governance

Impact at the grassroots

- Established seven model pilot courts, which have for the first time, separate judges for civil and criminal cases, thus contributing to expeditious justice, and uniformity and effectiveness in decisions.
- Trained to 800 people (judges, court staff and staff of MOLJPA) on court management, land survey, intellectual property rights, cyber laws and information technology, mediation, forensic medicine and judicial administration, and to 135 officials of MOLJPA on legislative drafting and treaty negotiation.
- Established Mediation Centre (NGO) to facilitate access to alternative justice.
- Trained 1,160 persons (judges, lawyers, attorneys, officials of the law commission and the quasi judicial bodies) on court referred mediation, and to 1,372 community leaders on community mediation, as a result of which 17,550 pending cases were resolved.
- Co-ordinated support for capacity development of the National Human Rights Commission, in partnership with OHCHR and other bilateral donors, as a result of which the commission was able to investigate 2,265 cases, undertake 704 monitoring missions, and recommend 152 cases to the Government for action during 2004-2007.
- Mobilised nearly US\$ 11 million in internal savings through micro-credit and social mobilisation schemes promoted by various projects.
- Constructed 5,861 community infrastructures (drinking water, irrigation, canals, trails, roads, bridges, community halls, river protection structures, culverts, and school buildings) on a cost-sharing basis, benefiting more than half a million people.
- Improved basic service delivery to more than 880 VDCs and 40 municipalities, over 32,000 community organizations, and 2.5 million people.

Impact on policies

- Rural Energy Policy and Guidelines for Rural Energy Funds promulgated.
- Nepal Biodiversity Strategy, Sustainable Development Agenda for Nepal, Biodiversity Implementation Plan, and Management Plans for national parks and wildlife reserves developed.
- Long term National Disaster Risk Management Policy based on the Hyogo Framework of Action and District Disaster Reduction Action Plans prepared.
- A high level national steering committee formed to oversee the formulation of National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management and mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction into development planning.

Energy, Environment and Disaster Reduction

Impact at the grassroots

- 133 micro hydro systems installed which have electrified more than 26,000 rural households and led to the creation of more than 180 micro-enterprises.
- 592 solar Photo Voltaic systems, 1914 biogas plants and 3,938 improved cooking stoves installed in 6,444 rural households, decreasing the dependency on firewood and enhancing people's health through decreased indoor pollution.
- Established Sustainable Tourism Development Unit in Nepal Tourism Board, Tourism Unit in the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Sustainable Tourism Development Sections in six DDCs and Sustainable Tourism Development Committees in 42 VDCs in these districts, Biodiversity Conservation Facility in seven parks, and Community Trust Fund in Upper Mustang.
- Buffer Zones declared for Khaptad, Rara, Koshi Tappu and Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserves and a national buffer zone networking forum established.
- 54 community-based disaster mitigation structures constructed in disaster-prone areas of the country.
- Disaster Preparedness Network (DP-Net) established to support disaster preparedness activities.

Impact on policies

- Institutionalised Central Women's Legal Aid Committee in the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare in February 2006 to provide free legal aid to victims of domestic violence.
- Establishment of the Office of the National Rapporteur at the National Human Rights Commission as a part of the project *Beyond Trafficking: A Joint UN Initiative in the Millennium Against Trafficking in Women and Children*, in July 2006.
- Preparation of the Gender Equality Bill (passed in September 2006), the Citizenship Act (amended in November 2006) and the Civil Service Act (passed in August 2007), which paved way for gender equality in the country.
- Gender assessments and gender budget audits of the health, education, and agriculture sectors, and institutional analyses of the Ministries of Women, Children and Social Welfare, of Environment, Science and Technology, and of Local Development carried out.
- Gender Budget Audit Guidelines for Local Bodies institutionalised by the Ministry of Local Development in 2006.

Overcoming Gender Gaps

Impact at the grassroots

- Formed 18 Community Mediation Committees in 16 districts to increase women's access to justice. 229 community mediators trained in mediation skills between 2004-2006, of which 123 were women, and 155 cases of domestic violence resolved.
- 46 women successfully passed the public service commission examination in 2006, up from 5 in 2005, as a result of training courses provided by the *Mainstreaming Gender Equity Programme*.
- The National Judicial Academy mainstreamed gender equality through the development of a training curriculum and reference materials on gender equality and justice supported by the *Mainstreaming Gender Equity Programme*.
- 15 DDCs carried out gender assessments and gender budget audits of their periodic and annual plans to increase gender sensitivity in district plans.

Challenges

The period 2002-07 brought many changes to Nepal. In 2002, when the Second Country Cooperation Framework (CCF II) was initiated, the elected national and local governments were in place, and the insurgency that began in 1996 was just beginning to escalate. However, following the collapse of the ceasefire in November 2001, the conflict spread and thousands more lost their lives.

As the conflict worsened, crisis prevention became a central theme in UNDP's work during the CCF II. In 2004, UNDP undertook a repositioning exercise and shifted its programme focus from policy work at the central level to community level initiatives specifically targeting the poor and disadvantaged groups. A programme review conducted jointly by the Government and UNDP in 2005 identified a number of implementation challenges, such as closer monitoring of programmes and effective delivery of resources in the absence of elected bodies. As a result, the first field office of UNDP was established in Nepalgunj in 2005 to closely monitor the programmes in 23 districts in the Mid and Far Western regions. The review also noted considerable achievements in all the areas. The average annual increase in resources delivery over the programme period 2002-06 was 14 percent despite the conflict.

Lessons learnt

Through various evaluations, a wealth of information has been generated regarding the effectiveness of UNDP-supported programmes. Overall, these evaluations have indicated that our support has been effective and relevant to the development of Nepal, especially in light of the conflict and political instability. However, they have also provided us with important insights regarding how we need to realign ourselves in the future, such as the need for:

- Greater emphasis on the integration of social mobilisation activities with economic empowerment through expansion of micro-enterprises, access to credit, and linkages to markets, in order to build the financial capital of poor communities.
- Increased programmatic focus in areas affected by the conflict.
- Greater emphasis on mainstreaming gender and social inclusion in order to improve the access of women and other excluded groups to assets and services, and to empower them socially and politically for more active participation in community development activities and livelihood opportunities.
- More effective monitoring and evaluation of capacity development programmes for better results.
- Development of clearer exit strategies during project design for programme sustainability.