

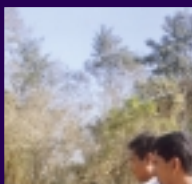
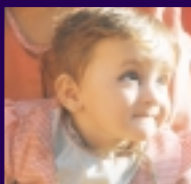


UNDAF

United Nations Development Assistance Framework



*2002-2006
Nepal*





United Nations
Country Team

UNDAF

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2002-2006
Nepal



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Foreword

“We the Peoples of the United Nations determined ... to reaffirm our faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom ... and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples ... have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims.”

PREAMBLE TO THE UN CHARTER; SIGNED BY NEPAL IN 1955

The United Nations System has been working with the government and people of Nepal since the early 1950s to promote and preserve the basic rights outlined in the UN Charter for peace, security and development. This document is a product of this on-going work and of the recent reform undertaken by the Secretary General to bring about “a greater unity of purpose” within the UN System’s operational activities for development.

Following the preparation of the Common Country Assessment (CCA) in 1999, which provided a concise overview of Nepal’s key development challenges and identified priority areas for continued efforts and future UN collaboration and co-ordination efforts, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Nepal was developed in 2000. This document is the result of a wide range of consultations among all UN agencies operating in Nepal and their partners. It defines common objectives of assistance and co-operation strategies that will be implemented from January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2006. The UNDAF is the umbrella document under which all UN agencies have developed or will develop their individual country programmes. In addition, it is a powerful tool for joint advocacy and resource mobilisation in support of HMG/N priorities.

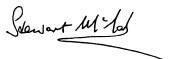
The UN System is grateful to His Majesty's Government and Nepal's key development partners for providing valuable inputs to this document. We are confident that our joint efforts to reduce poverty will produce tangible results in the next five years.



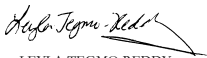
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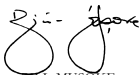
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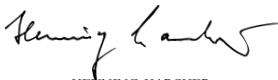
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Mr. Andre Frankovits introduced us early on to the concept of Rights-Based Programming and guided us in our efforts to fully reflect the concept in both the UNDAF process and the UNDAF document.

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The UNDAF Task-Force members: Mr. Arjun Upadhyay, Mr. Roland-Francoise Weil, Ms. Caroline Bakker, Ms. Sandra Tedeschi, Ms. Sara Loughton, Mr. Richard Bridle, Ms. Saraswathi Menon, Mr. L. K. Gautam, Mr. Gagan Lal Rajbhandari, Dr. Michael Hahn, Mr. Bart Hoekx, Mr. G. P. Bourdignon, Mr. D.B. Lama, Mr. Charu Poudel, Dr. Harry Feirman, Dr. P. Sudharto and Mr. George Varughese were extensively involved in formulating the initial drafts.

The six UN Inter-Agency UNDAF Working Groups (see Annex C for the full list) that included members from all UN agencies with offices in Nepal, representatives of His Majesty's Government of Nepal, civil society organisations and trade unions worked very hard throughout the entire UNDAF formulation process. Likewise, the UNDAF Implementation Task-Force created last year also deserves due recognition for their efforts to identify mechanisms for UNDAF implementation in the future.

Consultative meetings, focus group discussions and workshops brought together Nepal's development partners, representatives from HMGN, eminent experts and a wide range of stakeholders to discuss various themes and a final draft of the UNDAF.

Colleagues in all UN agencies in Nepal and at Headquarters provided comments, suggestions and inputs at various stages of the UNDAF preparation.

Lastly, the UN Country Team would like to express its gratitude to Ms. Sonia Lokku, UN Aid Co-ordination Officer, who tirelessly worked from the beginning to the final version of the UNDAF during her two years of service in Nepal.

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Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank	FWLD	Forum for Women, Law and Development
ADDN	Association of District Development Committee of Nepal	GEFONT	General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions
AEPD	Alternative Energy Promotion Centre	HIV	Human Immuno-deficiency Virus
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome	HMG/N	His Majesty's Government of Nepal
ANC	Ante-Natal Care	IATG	Inter-Agency Thematic Groups
APP	Agriculture Perspective Plan	ICCPR	International Covenant of Civil & Political Rights
BCG	Bacillus Calmette Guérin (Tuberculosis Vaccine)	ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
BCHIMES	Between Census Household Information, Monitoring and Evaluation Systems	ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
BPEP	Basic and Primary Education Programme	ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
BPFA	Beijing Platform For Action	IEC	Information, Education and Communication
CCA	Common Country Assessment	IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture Development
CBO	Community-Based Organisation	ILO	International Labour Organisation
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics	ILS	International Labour Standards
CEDA	Centre for Economic Development and Administration (Tribhuvan University)	IMR	Infant Mortality Rate
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	INGO	International Non-Government Organisation
CERID	Centre for Educational Research, Innovation and Development (Tribhuvan University)	IDPP	Industrial Development Perspective Plan
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child	ITU	International Trade Union
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	JICA	Japan International Co-operation Agency
DDC	District Development Committee	LACC	Legal Aid & Consultancy Centre
DECONT	Democratic Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions	LGP	Local Governance Programme
DEO	District Education Officer	MAN	Management Association of Nepal
DPCP	Decentralised Planning for the Child Programme	MCHC	Maternal Child Health Care
DPT	Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus (Vaccine)	MMR	Maternal Mortality Ratio
EFA	Education For All	MoA	Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives
EMIS	Education Management Information System	MoCTCA	Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	MoES	Ministry of Education and Sports
FACD	Foreign Aid Co-ordination Division (Ministry of Finance)	MoF	Ministry of Finance
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation	MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
FIVIMS	Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information Mapping System	MoFSC	Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation
FNCCI	Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry	MoH	Ministry of Health
FWCW	Fourth World Conference on Women	MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
		MoIC	Ministry of Information and Communications
		MolCS	Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies
		MoLD	Ministry of Local Development

MoJPA	Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs
MoLRM	Ministry of Land Reform and Management
MoJTM	Ministry of Labour and Transport Management
MoPE	Ministry of Population and Environment
MoPPC	Ministry of Physical Planning and Construction
MoST	Ministry of Science and Technology
MoWCSW	Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare
MoWR	Ministry of Water Resources
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPC	National Planning Commission
NTUC	Nepal Trade Union Congress
NTV	Nepal Television
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OVP	Oral Polio Vaccine
PCRW	Production Credit for Rural Women Programme
PDDP	Participatory District Development Programme
PEM	Protein Energy Malnutrition
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RBA	Rights- Based Approach to development
RC	Resident Co-ordinator
RH	Rhesus
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation
SHD	Sustainable Human Development
SLC	School Leaving Certificate
SLTHP	Second Long-Term Health Plan
STDs	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
SWC	Social Welfare Council
TB	Tuberculosis
TT	Tetanus Toxoid (Vaccine)
USMR	Under-Five Mortality Rate
UMN	United Mission to Nepal
UN	United Nations

UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNITeS	United Nations Information Technology Service
UNS	United Nations System
UNV	United Nations Volunteers programme
UPU	Universal Postal Union
USD	United States Dollar
VAM	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping
VDC	Village Development Committee
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal
VSO	Volunteer Service Organisation
WB	World Bank
WCHR	World Conference on Human Rights
WFP	World Food Programme
WFS	World Food Summit
WHO	World Health Organisation
WSC	World Summit for Children
WSSD	World Summit for Social Development
WTO	World Trade Organisation

Executive Summary



he United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the period 2002-2006 is designed to support His Majesty's Government of Nepal's (HMG/N) objective of reducing poverty in Nepal by:

- Focusing on accountability and ownership through an emphasis on decentralisation;
- Improving the quality of assistance through capacity strengthening and co-ordination;
- Reducing the pattern of discrimination and inequality particularly in the most deprived regions of the country.

In order to tackle the root causes of poverty and in line with His Majesty's Government's commitment to human rights, the UN system has resolved to be guided by a human rights-based development assistance framework. The UNDAF builds upon Nepal's tradition of human rights and is based on the provisions of the Constitution and on international human rights instruments.

The Nepal UNDAF is based on the Common Country Assessment (CCA) prepared by the UN Country Team in 1999. This was arrived at through the co-operative efforts of UN development agencies by way of such institutional mechanisms as the regular Heads of Agencies meetings and Inter-Agency Thematic Groups. The CCA process enabled the UN system to gain a common understanding of the development challenges of Nepal and to focus as a team on key priority areas. Based on the findings of the CCA, the Nepal UNDAF aims at achieving a greater impact of UN System assistance through the preparation of a complementary set of programmes and projects under an umbrella framework. The UNDAF is organised around the individual rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The UNDAF by adopting a human rights-based approach will enable better support to His Majesty's Government's Reform Agenda for Poverty Reduction by:

- Systematically addressing the issues of inequality, participation and accountability will enable the UN system to address the basic underlying causes of poverty, thereby enhancing the impact of UN system assistance;

■ Using the international covenants on human rights as the reference framework will provide a comprehensive development framework and a basis for a co-ordinated follow-up to UN conferences, and enables to identify areas, where the UN system can help HMG/N in meeting its obligations;

■ Focussing on the most deprived as a matter of priority will bring UN system assistance in line with the national poverty reduction strategy.

The UN contribution to HMG/N's Reform Agenda for Poverty Reduction as stated in the UNDAF includes continued support to the restructuring of the budget (the 20/20 initiative) and in the delivery of basic goods and services in an effective, efficient and accountable way through capacity-building at all levels. The UN will also assist the Government in the design of interventions that are sustainable and targeted at the most deprived (based on dis-aggregated monitoring and evaluation systems). The UN will support the implementation of pilot projects to enable people to gain better control over resources, and the generation of awareness of all human rights among the most deprived.

This builds on the thrust of UN assistance to date in such strategic areas as:

- Support for decentralisation and participation;
- Joint advocacy and policy advice;
- Support for macroeconomic policy reform;
- Capacity building and institutional strengthening, and
- Strengthening of data collection.

The UNDAF is based on three major strategic goals that provide a new focus for UN development co-operation in Nepal in pursuance of the human rights principles of universality, accountability and participation. These goals are that:

Goal 1. The economic, social, cultural and civil rights of the people of Nepal are progressively realised, starting with those who suffer most from deprivation and discrimination.

Goal 2. The State is able to respect, protect, and fulfil rights and is held accountable for those responsibilities.

Goal 3. The meaningful participation of all citizens is enhanced in the development process.

The UNDAF is organised in six chapters that relate to a cluster of rights extrapolated from the Covenants:

1. Adequate standard of living
2. Protection and assistance to the family, women and children
3. Health
4. Education, culture and science
5. Employment and working conditions
6. Democratic governance

Under each cluster of rights the UNDAF identifies objectives of assistance and corresponding co-operation strategies in order to achieve these goals. The 'objectives of assistance' refer to the specific contribution the UN system can make to the development aims and the 'co-operation strategies' refer to the means of achieving these. The Nepal UNDAF lists twelve objectives for development co-operation and twenty-one strategies to achieve these objectives.

Based on these, all UN agencies, funds and programmes are expected to develop complementary sets of individual and parallel projects and programmes. Individual country programmes and project documents will specify how they contribute to the achievement of UNDAF objectives and co-operation strategies. A special emphasis will be put on areas where the most vulnerable groups have been identified. To this end, the UN co-operation in the Mid and Far-Western Regions of Nepal will be reinforced.

The co-operation strategies have been designed to ensure that the goals of assistance are addressed. The strategies fall in the following broad categories:

"Human development is essential for realising human rights, and human rights are essential for full human development."

Human Development Report 2000

- Strengthening policy analysis and formulation, including collection, analysis and dissemination of relevant, reliable and valid data;
- Supporting the decentralisation process;
- Improving advocacy for and outreach to the most deprived;
- Geographical focus of UN system assistance;
- Supporting development of policies in line with international commitments;
- Strengthening the body of law and the legal framework;
- Building up capacities of national institutions; and
- Undertaking pilot and demonstration activities.

Finally, the UNDAF summarises the links between the objectives of assistance, indicators, co-operation strategies, partnerships and financial resources in an indicative framework which attempts to provide an estimated financial allocation for each objective of assistance by each organisation. The framework defines

areas of greatest need by identifying the most deprived under each chapter of the UNDAF.

The UNDAF is seen as a continuing work in progress and any changes that may be required in light of the priorities in the Tenth Five-Year Plan and Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) or any unforeseen circumstances will be the responsibility of the UNDAF Task-Force composed of representatives of the National Planning Commission, the Ministry of Finance and the UN agencies.

The UNDAF defines outcome and process indicators as tools to monitor the process and the impact of the UNDAF. Mid-term reviews of individual Country Programmes will analyse progress towards the objectives of the UNDAF. Joint and parallel UN programmes will be monitored jointly. A mid-term review of the UNDAF will take place at the end of 2004.





CHAPTER I *Rationale*



A. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES



ver the last decade, Nepal's annual economic growth rate has averaged 5 percent, while the population continued to grow at an annual rate of 2.27 percent, resulting in an average per-capita income growth rate of only 2.7 percent per annum. Although economic growth was significant in the urban-based non-agricultural sector such as banking, real estate, trade and services, the growth rate of agriculture barely kept pace with population growth and per capita gains were insignificant. The Mid-Term Review of the 9th plan (last 3 years) reported a growth rate of agricultural GDP of 3.2 percent per annum as against the targeted 4.0 percent. As highlighted in the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, an efficient economic management is hampered by the low re-distributive capacity and resource constraints of the government.

The emergence of a multi-party democracy with a constitutional monarchy in 1990 has opened the doors to wider participation. People have been able to stand up for their rights in an organised and constructive way. On the other hand, it has also created a more fluid and unstable political environment with eight changes of government in ten years. Since 1996, a so-called "People's War" launched by the Communist Party of Nepal - Maoist in some of the remotest, least developed parts of the country has put further strain on state-society relations. This situation is characterised by increased violence and human rights violations, and is adversely affecting development work.

As a result of sluggish economic growth, Nepal faces the overarching challenge of widespread income poverty.¹ In 1996, the Nepal Living Standards Survey estimated the incidence of income poverty at 42 percent of the population. 17.1 percent were estimated as "very poor", while the remaining 24.9 percent were considered as "moderately poor". Absolute poverty slightly decreased from 42 percent to 38 percent in 2000, according to the latest estimates of the Mid-Term Review of the Ninth Plan.

Income poverty can also be attributed to low employment rates and to a deteriorating environment and natural resource base. Over the past three decades, employment has risen by less than two percent per year, much less than the yearly additions to the total labour force. This has resulted in widespread unemployment and underemployment, even among the educated, and has tended to depress real wages. Labour migration from neighbouring countries into Nepal has contributed to worsening the situation.

¹ The poverty line for Nepal is set at NRs. 4,404 per person per year, based on a food consumption basket of 2124 calories and allowances made for non-food items, which works out to be two-thirds of the food consumption basket (CBS, 1998).

Approximately 80 percent of the population work in agriculture, generally on small and dispersed plots of low-quality land. Increased deforestation and soil erosion have contributed to the decline in agricultural productivity. As a consequence, while many rural poor do own some land, it is seldom sufficient for survival, and many have to supplement their income with low-wage labour. The demand for such agricultural labour, however, is highly seasonal and there are few opportunities for non-farm employment. As a result, there is insufficient work, and underemployment lingers at around 43.44 percent. Beyond their low incomes, many of the poor also experience a crushing burden of debt – whether inherited or accumulated – and, in some cases, they struggle all their lives to pay it off as bonded labourers. The government abolished the practice of bonded labour in July 2000 and has adopted several mitigating measures for emancipated labourers since then.

Income poverty has generally been less acute in the urban areas, although migration from the countryside will add to the pressures in future. Driven from desperate conditions in the rural areas, many of the poorest now head for towns and cities, particularly Kathmandu, where most are employed on a casual basis in the unorganised, informal sector.

Poverty, however, is much more than income poverty. It is also human poverty, reflected in poor health and education, deprivation in knowledge and communication, inability to exercise civil and political rights, the absence of dignity, confidence and self-respect, and deterioration of the environmental and natural resources base.

Nepal has made significant progress in promoting human development. In ten years the number of primary and secondary schools has increased by 57 percent and the adult literacy rate has significantly risen. Infant mortality has

dropped from 102 per thousand in 1990 to 64 in the year 2000, and more people have access to health services today than a decade ago, with the number of health workers almost tripling in ten years. During the past decade, the road network more than doubled and approximately 48 percent of all households have access to piped drinking water. Average life expectancy also increased by 5.4 years during this period.

However, challenges remain. Nepal is one of the two countries in the world where the life expectancy for women is lower than for men (respectively 59.3 and 59.8). Many health indicators are still below standard. Although nearly 80% percent of the population has access to drinking water, only 29.4 percent have access to safe excreta disposal. Almost 49 percent of all children under five are underweight and 54 percent are stunted. The 1996 Nepal Family Health Survey estimates 539 out of every 100,000 women die from pregnancy-related causes. The HIV/AIDS epidemic in Nepal is still primarily confined to vulnerable groups such as labour migrants and their families, sex workers and their clients and intravenous drug users, but the prevalence has rapidly increased among these groups.

Regional inequalities are a dominant feature. There are tremendous differences in the incidence of poverty among the country's 75 districts. Poverty is greater and more pervasive in rural areas (44 percent of rural households as compared to 23 percent for urban areas), and is also varied across regions. Mid and Far-Western Development Regions are much poorer than the Central and Eastern Regions. The high concentrations of poverty in these areas can be attributed to isolation with consequent lack of access to markets, high food prices, sporadic government services and lack of economic opportunities.

Gender disparities persist in many areas, such as in education. Nepal has one of the world's highest differences between the proportion of girls and boys enrolled in primary school. Out of a total net enrolment rate of 65.8 percent, female enrolment stands at 60 percent and male enrolment at 71.1 percent. Furthermore, the literacy rate for women is slightly more than half the rate for men.

Legal and customary patterns of discrimination are still prevalent in Nepal. The *Muluki Ain* (Public Law) of 1962, for instance, does not give women the same rights as men regarding marriage and family. The ongoing practices of child marriage and dowry systems in certain parts of Nepal violate the right to free and full consent of the spouses to enter into marriage. Another gender-based discriminatory practice is *deuki*, where a young girl serves as a temple offering. As a result of her social isolation and stigma, she most frequently has little choice for her livelihood. Discrimination against certain groups such as *Dalits* does exist, preventing them at times from attending rural schools and public events or participating in community gatherings.

Slow progress in reducing poverty can also be traced to weaknesses in governance. The right to an impartial judiciary and administration is an essential democratic pillar guaranteed in the Constitution. However, citizens are frequently unable to access bureaucratic and judicial services to which they are entitled due to their concentration in Kathmandu, and due to inefficiency.

Despite HMG/N's achievements in human development, the challenges lie in ensuring a

broad-based, pro-poor and sustainable growth that will enable people to escape from poverty.

B. NATIONAL PRIORITIES

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal, promulgated in 1990, guarantees "basic human rights to every citizen of Nepal". It also directs the State "to promote conditions of welfare on the basis of the principles of an open society, by establishing a just system in all aspects of national life, including social, economic and political life, while at the same time protecting the lives, property and liberty of the people". It sets economic objectives that emphasise growth with equity and calls for "wider participation" and "the protection and promotion of human rights"². Directive principles and policies of the Constitution also require the state to "give priority to the protection of environment and also to the prevention of its further damage due to physical development activities...." Nepal is therefore committed to a development that is non-discriminatory, participatory and broadly shared, a development that secures the rights of all Nepalese men, women and children, to improved health, education, environment, standard of living and to better governance.

In May 2000, His Late Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev formally appointed the Chairperson and four members of the National Human Rights Commission as an independent body. HMG/N has also committed itself to draw up a time-bound National Human Rights Action Plan for Nepal, which will identify steps whereby the State would further promote the respect, protection, and fulfilment of human rights.

² Consistent with its Constitution, Nepal has adopted international human rights standards and ratified to date sixteen of the major international covenants and conventions, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD). Further, Section 9(A)1 of the Treaties Act 1991 establishes that in Nepal "if domestic law is in contradiction with the provision of any international convention, then the provision of the Convention shall prevail".

The Government is well aware of the critical nature of development challenges facing the country and has over the past decade, embarked on ambitious initiatives to overcome poverty. The Ninth Plan (1997-2002) adopted poverty alleviation as its long-term objective and had targeted a reduction in the percentage of the population living below the poverty line to 32 percent by the end of the Plan period and to 21 percent by 2015 AD. The Plan proposed a growth-led strategy aiming at integrating the moderately poor into the mainstream of the economy, relying on agriculture as the lead sector. At the same time, a set of targeted programmes combined with social mobilisation was designed to provide special assistance to the extremely poor.

HMG/N presented an even more comprehensive Reform Agenda for Poverty Reduction at the Nepal Development Forum held in Paris in April 2000. It proposed a three-pronged strategy to reduce poverty:

- Creation of more opportunities and access to productive assets for the poor by fostering an enabling environment that promotes growth, employment and income;
- Ensuring effective delivery of the basic goods and services like education, health and drinking water to meet the basic needs of the poor;
- Design and implementation of targeted programs for the development of special areas, regions, communities and social groups that desperately need support and services to meet their basic human needs.

An impressive short- and medium-term action plan highlights the role of the State as a facilitator. It details the government's strategy towards improving the macroeconomic and fiscal structure, supporting private sector development, reforming the financial sector, institutionalising decentralisation, ensuring good governance, reforming the Civil Service, improving aid effectiveness, and strengthening the role of Civil Society.

In order to formulate joint sectoral as well as targeted poverty alleviation in a co-ordinated and integrated manner, the government also proposes to establish an autonomous Poverty Alleviation Fund to channel government and donor resources to the District Development Committees (DDCs), Municipalities and Village Development Committees (VDCs) and Community-Based Organisations (CBOs).

This strategy builds on significant progress achieved over the last ten years in policy reforms, especially in the areas of economic liberalisation, local governance and better allocation of resources.

Nepal's economic reforms began in the 1980s and intensified in the 1990s. With support from the IMF's Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility, the Government began deregulating prices and exchange rates, liberalising trade, encouraging foreign investment and supporting privatisation. Foreign investment has increased somewhat, but still remains low. Privatisation, too, has been slow – largely due to political instability. Tariff reduction has now given Nepal one of the most liberal trade regimes in South Asia. Exports remain concentrated in garments and carpets, exception made for neighbouring India which show a higher degree of diversification. Nepal has applied for membership to the World Trade Organisation. The full implication of this decision needs to be thoroughly assessed, particularly in terms of tariff and non-tariff issues, support measures and intellectual property rights. Careful preparation of negotiations will help to ensure that Nepal's poor people benefit from the globalisation process.

The Local Self-Governance Act, enacted in 1999, has created the legal basis for decentralisation of planning to locally elected authorities and has substantially decentralised power and responsibility to district, town and village level authorities. Specifically, resource

allocation, programme planning and programme implementation will be undertaken by the DDCs and VDCs. The spirit of this Act promotes participatory community processes in development programming, which is indeed a significant step towards fulfilling civil and political rights. The Preamble to the Act also cites among its main objectives the effective participation of women, minorities and the poorest, and reservation of 20 percent of seats on ward committees for women, who have traditionally been marginalised from participation. This represents a novel attempt at their inclusion in local-level political processes.

Government spending continues to grow, although Nepal has remained fairly stable in macroeconomic terms, thanks to an attempt to bring budgets closer to balance by reducing subsidies on many items and increasing tax revenue via the introduction of a value-added tax. The budgeted expenditure for 2000/2001, for example, was Rs. 82.4 billion, a nearly 40 percent increase from the previous year. The share of foreign aid in the total expenditure of the government has continuously increased and remained significant over the years. The resource gap that has to be closed with foreign assistance each year is increasing steadily.

The tendency of the government has been in the past to accept assistance more on the basis of quantity rather than quality and suitability. The government is finalising a Foreign Aid Policy, which is expected to considerably improve the co-ordination, effectiveness and efficiency in utilisation of aid resources. The Policy is guided by three broad principles:

(i) "First, foreign aid will need to be directed towards achieving the over-arching national goal of poverty reduction. This will involve fostering economic growth by enhancing the productive capacity of the economy, as well

as supporting critical social infrastructure needs. It should also include appropriate support for making the best use of the infrastructure base, which has already been created to further promote, expand and sustain the development process;

(ii) Second, the role of foreign aid should not be viewed only in the context of supporting individual projects. It will need to be related to the needs and priorities at economy-wide and at sectoral levels, recognising that sectoral policies constitute integral elements of the economy-wide policy; and individual donor assisted projects/operations will need to be consistent with the sectoral objectives;

(iii) Third, the foreign aid policy forms an integral part of the overall policy of mobilising resources for development."

The foreign aid policy has both a long-term and a short-term vision. The broad objectives of aid policy, which are to be achieved through the adoption of policies and strategies, include among others, the following:

(i) "To ensure the compatibility and convergence of foreign aided development activities with nationally determined development priorities. Through greater convergence between foreign aided projects and national priorities, aid supported activities can become an integral part of the overall development process

(ii) To improve the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of foreign aid operations. A broad range of appropriate policies and practices on the part of Nepal and donors – in project selection, design, management, review, monitoring and evaluation – are imperative.

(iii) To enhance the contribution to poverty reduction through enabling higher rates of economic growth while ensuring distributional

equity. This would require improved linkages with civil society organisations and the private sector, and also establishing complementarities between aid and other economic policies, and utilising foreign aid more effectively to address issues such as governance, gender and the environment.

(iv) To facilitate the transition to a more equal partnership between Nepal and donor institutions. This objective is aimed at transferring the spirit of development partnership emerging at the global level to the country level dialogue and operations.”

The government also adopted, as early as 1996/1997, a policy of investing in basic social sectors as per the 20/20 initiative endorsed at the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD), in order to promote more effective and efficient utilisation of scarce government and aid resources. Although the resource allocation for basic social services sector increased significantly in the 1990s, it remained far below the internationally prescribed norm of 20 percent.

Moreover, the government has initiated the much-awaited civil service reform, which places measures for improving government's accountability at the forefront, such as strengthening the system of resource planning, accounting and auditing, promoting participation and transparency in decision making, responsiveness to consumers and strengthening service users groups. As a first step, the salary scales of civil servants have been revised, in some cases up to 100 percent. With this increase, the efficiency and effectiveness of civil service is expected to improve.

Several sectoral policies have been designed to support the long-term goal of the Ninth Plan. HMG/N is implementing a 20-year strategy for accelerated development of agriculture in Nepal, known as the Agriculture Perspective Plan (APP). The APP aims at increasing per-capita food production from 277

to 426 kilograms by 2017 and seeks to promote agricultural growth in a regionally balanced manner with the twin objectives of ensuring efficiency based on comparative advantages and that the poor benefit from the growth process. In addition to complementing APP efforts with a Special Area Development Programme (SADP) in 25 hilly and remote districts, HMG/N has decided to implement APP policies through a 'Pocket Package Strategy.' This strategy identifies production pockets on the basis of their potential as well as in terms of the availability of transport, irrigation and market infrastructure. Based on these criteria, specific crop/commodity and location packages (inclusive of technology and physical inputs) will be developed and implemented as a co-ordinated programme.

In the health sector, the Second Long-Term Health Plan (1997-2017) has been developed to guide the vision of a health system. It stresses the need to ensure (a) equitable access to co-ordinated quality health care services in rural and urban areas; (b) self reliance, full community participation, decentralisation and gender sensitivity; (c) an appropriate mix of public and private financing; and (d) effective and efficient management, resulting in improved health status of the population.

In the industrial sector, HMG/N is in the process of finalising the *Industrial Development Perspective Plan Vision 20/20*, setting the medium and long-term strategies and measures for industrial development and growth, designed to enhance efficiency and competitiveness of the industrial sector, so as to generate more employment opportunities and alleviate poverty, particularly in rural areas, with the participation of the private sector and local communities.

About 13-14 percent of the national budget is currently devoted to education and nearly 55% of the education budget goes to basic

and primary education. In order to achieve goals of the Education For All Conference, HMG/N launched a five-year Basic and Primary Education Project (BPEP) in 1992. With joint funding from the Government, the World Bank, DANIDA, JICA, UNICEF and UNDP, this programme drew on experiences from previous projects and focused on increasing access to primary schooling in 40 districts through an ambitious school mapping and construction programme. By 1997, the project had constructed over 12,000 classrooms and repaired some 4,000 others, meaning that over 88% percent of all rural primary school children are now within a 30-minute walking distance. The second phase of the Basic and Primary Education Programme (1999-2004), which aims at raising the net enrolment rate to 90 percent by 2004, is currently under implementation. This programme, an extension of the first BPEP, is presently the largest social sector programme in the country and utilises a 'basket approach' to fund activities focusing on increasing girls' access, improving quality, and improving technical and institutional capacities.

Nepal is prone to natural disasters such as landslides, floods and earthquakes. HMG/N recognised at an early stage that a continuously deteriorating natural environment was a severe obstacle to development. The Environment Protection Council was established and tasked with the preparation of a national environment policy. HMG/N implemented several programmes linking the protection of the natural resources base with poverty reduction, such as community forestry, watershed management programmes and rural energy system.

C. COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE OF THE UN SYSTEM

The United Nations system was among the first to respond to Nepal's development needs

beginning as early as 1951. Fifteen UN agencies (FAO, ILO, IMF, UNAIDS, UNCDF, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNV, WB, WFP and WHO) currently have offices in Nepal and work within the Resident Co-ordinator System. Other UN agencies also operate in Nepal, such as ESCAP, ICAQ, IFAD, ITU, OHCHR, UNCTAD, UNEP, UNIDO and UPU. In 2000, the assistance of UN agencies, excluding the World Bank, amounted to USD 50.5 million and represented 11 percent of the total foreign aid. The thrust of UN system assistance has so far been in the following strategic areas:

- Joint advocacy and policy advice on the implementation of conventions, declarations and programmes of action of global conferences;
- Support for macroeconomic policy reform, WTO accession preparations, and assessment of globalisation's impact on Nepal;

Did the UN system assistance help you?

"Definitely. First of all I am standing on my own. I do not have any outstanding loan. In the past two years, the little shop I invested in has been growing bigger. Before we had to think twice before consuming a piece of bread, for we couldn't be sure of when the next meal would come. Now there's no worry. ...As a lower caste person, I had to bear a lot of derogatory remarks from other villagers. Now that I have become a CO manager, people call me by my last name and consult me on any important issue concerning the village."

Farmer in Baitadi District.

"The UN assistance has definitely helped the development process in two advocating what development is and for whom, and by demonstrating that community participation is a must. Secondly, it has provided an opportunity to develop institutions at community level and to increase community leadership."

DDC Chairperson.

- Capacity-building and institutional strengthening of key partners;
- Support to decentralisation and participation;
- Strengthening of data collection, dissemination and participatory monitoring;
- Implementation of pilot projects/programmes to test and demonstrate poverty alleviation policies and strategies.

Under the Resident Co-ordinator System, the United Nations Country Team in Nepal has put in place institutional mechanisms to enhance inter-agency collaboration, such as regular Heads of Agencies meetings and Inter-Agency Thematic Groups (IATGs). The UN system made a major breakthrough in this endeavour with the preparation of the Com-

mon Country Assessment (CCA) during 1999. The CCA process enabled the UN system to gain a common understanding of the development challenges of Nepal, strengthened the resolve to delineate and focus as a team on key priority areas, where the UN system has a comparative advantage, and reinforced team spirit through the work of the IATGs. Based on the findings of the CCA, the UNDAF aims at achieving a greater impact of UN System assistance through the preparation of a complementary set of programmes and projects under an umbrella framework. The first harmonised programme cycle of UN agencies, funds and programmes has begun in January 2002. The UNDAF timeframe will therefore be in phase with the five-year national development cycle and will coincide with the Tenth Five-Year Plan of His Majesty's Government.

A Human Rights-based Constitution

The Constitution of Nepal promulgated in 1990 guarantees "basic human rights to every citizen of Nepal". It provides inter alia for:

- Equality before the law;
- Non-discrimination by either State or non-State actors on grounds of religion, race, sex, caste, tribe or ideological conviction;
- Freedom of opinion and expression, of peaceable assembly, of association, of movement and residence, and of profession, occupation, industry or trade; and
- Constitutional remedy.

The Constitution also directs the State "to promote conditions of welfare on the basis of the principles of an open society, by establishing a just system in all aspects of national life, including social, economic and political life, while at the same time protecting the lives, property and liberty of the people".

It sets economic objectives that emphasize growth with equity and calls for "wider participation" and "the protection and promotion of human rights".

Further, Section 9(A)1 of the Treaties Act 1991 establishes that in Nepal "if domestic Law is in contradiction with the provision of any international convention, then the provision of the Convention shall prevail".

Building on its past experience, its neutrality and trusted relationship with the government, the UN system has a comparative advantage in supporting HMG/N's Reform Agenda for Poverty Reduction in the following areas:

- At the macro-economic level, by supporting a sustainable pro-poor growth path, through continued support to the restructuring of the budget (20/20 initiative) and to the formulation of people-friendly policies to cope with the potential effects of globalisation on employment, food security and the environment;
- By supporting the government in the delivery of basic goods and services in an effective, efficient and accountable way through capacity-building at all levels in order to ensure a progressive realisation of the rights;
- By assisting the government in the design of interventions that are sustainable and targeted at the most deprived, through disaggregated monitoring and evaluation systems, the implementation of pilot projects to enable people to gain better control over resources and through focussed interventions of UN system assistance in areas of greatest

deprivation (both in geographical terms as well as socio-economic terms).

D. VALUE-ADDED OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT

The UNDAF builds upon Nepal's tradition of human rights as enshrined in its Constitution and in international human rights instruments. It seeks specifically to provide a common framework for United Nations System's co-operation with His Majesty's Government of Nepal, and with Nepalese society in general, in order to ensure the realisation by all people of their economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights. In addition, it also takes account of people's rights as recorded in other international instruments and in Programmes of Action of the World Conferences. The document was therefore developed by adopting a human rights-based approach to development as common methodology for all UN agencies.

Laws alone cannot guarantee human rights. Adequate institutions and enforcement mechanisms are needed to support the legal framework. An enabling economic environment is equally essential. In developing countries, scarcity of resources and institutional constraints are major constraints in guaranteeing the fulfilment of all human rights. Nevertheless, States have an obligation to take steps to fulfil them in a progressive manner, to the maximum of their available resources, either individually or through international assistance. Hence a rights-based approach implies a careful prioritisation and allocation of resources, in order to progressively ensure the realisation of all human rights. In the context of the UNDAF, this does therefore not mean that all rights are expected to be fully realised within the given timeframe (2002-2006).

The rights-based approach adds value to the needs-based approach through three of its key principles. Given the government's resources constraints, it stresses the need to re-focus develop-

Human Rights: A UN Mandate

Support for human rights has always been integral to the mission of the United Nations, enshrined in both the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan called for the "integration of human rights into all principal UN activities and programmes" in his address to the General Assembly in 1997, and made it a major feature of the "Millennium Summit" held in New York in 2000.

ment activities towards realising the rights of those who suffer the most from deprivation and discrimination as a matter of priority. Another value-added of the approach is the importance of ensuring meaningful participation and accountability at all levels. By drawing attention to the accountability to respect, protect and fulfil human rights, it brings legal and institutional tools in support of human development. Lastly, by considering people as actors of their own development with certain rights and obligations, rather than recipients of charity, it reiterates the importance of meaningful participation of all in the development process.

It adds value in terms of analysis and development programming as well, as was the case during the UNDAF process in Nepal. In order to deepen the CCA analysis from a rights-based perspective, an UNDAF Position Paper was prepared as an initial step towards the formulation of the UNDAF. This document helped analysing to which extent each right was:

- Respected (legal framework)
- Protected from violations (enforcement mechanisms), and
- Fulfilled (appropriate policies and programmes in place).

Existing UN interventions were then screened using the human rights lens: non-discrimination, meaningful participation and accountability. This paved the way for formulating objectives and designing co-operation strategies, which incorporated these three principles.

The UN system in Nepal therefore believes that adopting a human rights-based approach will enable a more efficient support to HMG/N's poverty reduction strategy for the following reasons:

- Systematically addressing the issues of inequality, participation and accountability will enable the UN system to address the basic underlying causes of poverty, thereby enhancing the impact of UN system assistance;
- Using the international covenants on human rights as the reference framework will provide a comprehensive development framework and a basis for a co-ordinated follow-up to UN conferences, and enables to identify areas, where the UN system can help HMG/N in meeting its treaty obligations;
- Focussing on the most deprived as a matter of priority will bring UN system assistance in line with the national poverty reduction strategy.

The document is structured around the individual rights defined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) as follows:

1. Right to adequate standard of living:

The right to an adequate standard of living as described in Article 11 of the ICESCR covers the right to adequate food, clothing and housing, as well as the continuous improvement of living conditions. This includes the right to safe drinking water and sanitation, to a clean environment and a sustainable natural resources base.

2. Right to protection and assistance to the family, women and children and right to social security:

This cluster of rights deals with different categories of rights related to family relationships, special protection of women and children and social safety net: right to protection and assistance to the family; reproductive rights; right to special protection and assistance to children and young persons; right to protection of women and children

against any form of violence, abuse and exploitation, and right to social security (ICESCR Art. 9, 10, CEDAW, Art. 12.2, 16, CRC Art. 6.2, 19.1, 23.2, 26).

3. Right to highest attainable health: Rights related to health are the following: right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health; right of women to access health care services, including those related to family planning; and to access appropriate services in connection with pregnancy, confinement and the post-natal period (see ICESCR- Art. 12, CEDAW- Art. 12.1 and 12.2, CRC- Art. 24).

4. Right to education, culture and science:

This cluster of rights relates to the rights to basic, pre-primary, primary, secondary, basic and higher education and the right to take part in cultural life and to enjoy the benefits of science and technology (see ICESCR- Art. 13, 14, 15, CEDAW, Art. 10, CRC- Art. 28).

5. Right to decent work:

The right to decent work deals with four sets of issues: the right to earn a decent living; the right to equal, just, safe and healthy conditions of work; the right of women and children to be free from economic and employment related exploitation; and the right to be free from bonded and forced labour (see ICESCR- Art. 6, 7, 8, CEDAW, Art. 6, 11, CRC- Art. 18.3, 32.1).

6. Civil rights:

The realisation of civil rights is integral to the realisation of economic, social and cultural rights. This category of rights refer to the ICCPR and has been organised along the lines of the categorisation suggested by the United Nations for conference and convention indicators on governance and civil rights: democracy and participation; administration of justice; and liberty and security of person.





CHAPTER II Goals of Assistance





n support of the long-term development objective of His Majesty's Government to reduce poverty to a level of ten percent of the population by 2017, and in line with the goals set at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen of halving poverty and eliminating absolute poverty by 2015, UN system co-operation in Nepal will, over the long-term, contribute to the realisation of the goal **to halve human poverty and eliminate extreme income poverty by 2015.¹**

As indicated above, the UN System has resolved to base its actions on a human rights-based UNDAF for development and poverty reduction in Nepal. Specifically, the UN System's contribution to Nepal will concentrate on helping to achieve the following medium-term goals:

Goal 1. The economic, social, cultural and civil rights of the people of Nepal are progressively realized, starting with those who suffer most from deprivation and discrimination.

Given the paucity of resources within HMG/N, the attainment of human rights for all cannot be achieved within the UNDAF timeframe. It must be addressed in a phased manner by fulfilling as a matter of priority the rights of those who suffer most from deprivation. A human rights analysis, by exposing greatest areas of poverty, vulnerability and discrimination will provide tools for a careful prioritisation of actions and allocation of resources. The UN system commits itself to jointly support HMG/N in reaching the most deprived, addressing structural inequalities and expanding the enabling legal framework and protective mechanisms.

Clearly, the achievement of such a goal requires strategies that fully recognise the role of the State in respecting, protecting, and fulfilling rights and the instrumentality of all citizens in the development process. A second goal of this UNDAF will, therefore, be that:

Goal 2. The State is able to respect, protect, and fulfil rights and is held accountable for those responsibilities.

By virtue of their adherence to human rights instruments, States take on a number of obligations such as to respect and protect human rights, as well as to take steps to fulfil human rights to the maximum of their available resources. The issue of accountability is at the heart of the civil service reform undertaken by HMG/N, and its Reform Agenda for Poverty Reduction puts the highest priority on good governance. In

¹ According to the Nepal Living Standards Survey 1995-96, some 42 percent of Nepalese live below the nutrition-based poverty line (NRs. 4,405 per capita). Of these, some 25 percent are counted as "poor", meaning "moderately poor", and the remaining 17 percent are counted as "very poor", meaning those in "extreme income poverty".

order for the government to be able to respect, protect and fulfil the rights, the UN system will contribute to build and strengthen its capacity at all required levels. Simultaneously, the UN system will promote human rights and generate the awareness required in order to ensure that people claim the basic social services to which they are entitled.

The participation of all potential beneficiaries is not only desirable but is essential to ensure ownership and sustainability of the development process. Therefore, the UNDAF will also help the Government of Nepal work towards achieving a third goal:

Goal 3. The meaningful participation of all citizens is enhanced in the development process.

The need for individuals and communities to be given a voice has been recognised in the

Ninth Plan and in the government's Reform Agenda for Poverty Reduction, which highlights social mobilisation, decentralisation and participation of civil society and the private sector in the development process.² The UNDAF will support this goal by systematically trying to identify and overcome obstacles to meaningful participation.

Based on analyses of the main challenges in achieving these goals and on national priorities, twelve objectives of UN System assistance have been identified and are classified in six areas:

- A. Adequate standard of living;
- B. Protection and assistance to the family, women and children;
- C. Health;
- D. Education, culture and science;
- E. Employment and working conditions;
- F. Democratic governance



² The government shall continue to strengthen mechanisms to assure popular participation, respect for human rights, ensure the independence of judiciary and promote genuine empowerment of disadvantaged and marginalised citizens" (Nepal's Reform Agenda for Poverty Reduction, Country Memorandum, HMG/MoF; Nepal Development Forum, April, 2000).





CHAPTER III Objectives of assistance and co-operation strategies





nder each chapter, the UNDAF identifies objectives of assistance and corresponding co-operation strategies in order to achieve the above-mentioned goals.

The “objectives of assistance” refer to the specific contribution the UN system can make to the development aims stated above as long-term and medium-term goals, and the “co-operation strategies” refer to the means for achieving those.

For each objective of assistance, a set of outcome indicators is defined (see Section V, Programme Resources Framework, “Indicators” column) in order to reflect the multi-dimensionality of each right. The process indicators mentioned in the same column refer to the co-operation strategies and will be particularly important to monitor the impact of the UNDAF and the added value of inter-agency collaboration.

The co-operation strategies have been designed to ensure that the medium-term goals of assistance (focus on those who suffer the most from deprivation and discrimination, participation and accountability) are addressed.

They fall broadly into the following seven categories:

- Strengthening policy analysis and formulation, including collection, analysis and dissemination of relevant, reliable and valid data;
- Supporting the decentralisation process;
- Improving advocacy for and outreach to the most deprived;
- Supporting development of policies in line with international commitments;
- Strengthening the body of law and the legal framework;
- Building up capacities of national institutions, and
- Undertaking pilot and demonstration activities.

A. ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING

Food insecurity in Nepal has three critical dimensions: (1) insufficient per capita food availability due to low food production and unequal distribution of food within the country, (2) insufficient access to food due to lack of employment and inadequate purchasing power, and (3) poor nutrient utilisation due to diseases and lack of health care in some areas. Unequal distribution of food within the country, largely due to a lack of transportation networks in remote and mountainous districts is recognised as an underlying cause of rural poverty and food insecurity. Improving physical access in remote areas is recognised as a key prerequisite to improving the food security of the poor.

The inability of households to secure adequate food, clothing, shelter and water together with the healthy environment are the most direct manifestations of poverty in Nepal. The UN system will continue to support and build on the approaches and programmes advocated by the APP, the SADP as well as the housing, clothing, environment and natural resource management- related elements of the Ninth Plan and the upcoming Tenth Plan. These form the basis of what His Majesty's Government of Nepal agreed to at various international Summits, including the World Food Summit and the Earth Summit.

Building on its history of dealing with food security and environmental issues in Nepal in a multidisciplinary and co-operative way, the UN is well positioned to contribute to the progressive fulfilment of the need for an adequate standard of living and quality of life. In line with the goals established at the World Food Summit - of halving the number of chronically under-nourished by 2015 at the Second UN Conference on Human Settlements, which endorsed the progressive realisation of the right to adequate housing, and at the UN Conference on Environment and Development, the development assistance of the UN system will focus on achieving the following objective:

OBJECTIVE A: To increase access to adequate, safe and healthy food and housing, to drinking water and sanitation, and to an unpolluted environment and a sustainable natural resources base.

The UN System will achieve this objective with the following three co-operation strategies:

■ **Strategy 1: Targeting the most deprived.** This will be achieved through focused interventions in critical areas such as nutrition, food security, natural resources management, housing and rural infrastructure works. The UN system will also build the

How could the UN improve its work?

"One problem I see is that all these programmes have not really been able to reach the rural hinterland and seem more concentrated along the roadheads."

"UN development agencies are focussing their assistance mainly on software but the hardware part cannot be totally neglected. Another point is that UN- supported programme activities are implemented through different partners such as the Line ministries, municipalities, NGOs etc. It would be desirable to have proper sharing of all the information with the DDC in order to ensure clarity and avoid duplication of efforts".

"The UN should consider social mobilisation programmes as a process, not a project. All UN agencies' programmes should be run through a single type of multi-purpose broad-based community organisation."

DDC Chairpersons.

capacity of decentralised authorities to better target the most deprived through Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping and will expand and intensify initiatives aimed at improving their technical and managerial capacity in order to enhance accountability and transparency.

Gradual opening up of remote areas is of critical importance in regard to improving food availability and accessibility to poor farmers and to address the resource constraints that inhibit people from realising this need. UN system initiatives will aim at improving physical access through more effective food markets and basic services and to diversify non-farm income earning opportunities. The UN system will support "Food for Work" schemes in these areas to mitigate the effects

"We manage to feed our family but food is not sufficient for the whole year because our landholding size is very small and the land is not much productive. To improve the situation, we need to have access to the market and to better technology to improve the productivity of the land".

Marginal farmers, Kavre District.

"We fetch water from the landowner's tap. We are lucky that our village is much nearer to the forest, even though it takes us more than one hour to get there and about two hours to come back with a load of fuelwood. It is more or less the same for fodder, except that our children can take out the cattle for herding each day."

Landless labourers, Banke District.

"Drinking water is not enough in dry season. The land is also not productive because of the slope: all the manure we put is washed away by the rain."

*Female farmer,
Udayapur District.*

of food insecurity as well as to provide a means of transporting food to these areas.

The UN system will continue to support programmes aimed at reducing Protein Energy Malnutrition (PEM) as well as those geared to improve sanitation and hygiene. The UN system will also promote improved feeding practices – breast-feeding for babies and the feeding of young children – as well as provide continued and expanded support to programmes which bring these activities closer to the targeted communities.

The issue of micronutrient deficiencies, particularly in the remote hill and mountain area demands attention. In this respect, social marketing of fortified foods will be jointly launched and promoted. As an immediate response to pressing nutritional needs, initiatives to provide fortified food commodities through selected programmes – combining service, education and training delivery – will be developed and implemented.

The UN system will continue to promote community-based natural resource management systems as ways to ensure access of the most deprived to appropriate and sustainable standards of living. The UN system will in particular promote access to suitable eco-friendly technologies for sustainability and stability, such as environmental pollution control, water harvesting, on-farm water management, conservation of soil and other natural resources, integrated pest management, post harvest operations and production of environmentally-sound construction materials.

The needs of many landless and near landless households for food and housing are frequently not met. They require targeted programs that contribute to satisfy their requirements. The World Food Summit recommended the development and periodical update of a national Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping System

(FIVIMS). Building on WFP and FAO's expertise in this area, and on UNDP and UNICEF's experience in decentralised planning, the UN system will assist decentralised authorities in targeting the most food insecure/malnourished in order to formulate appropriate intervention strategies and identify ways for managing these. Such analysis and mapping activities will be people-centred and participatory in order to enhance the understanding of livelihoods and the major risks and constraints faced by different socio-economic groups. Assessments carried out will also enable the government and other development partners to identify opportunities to use their resources more efficiently as well as to address underlying causes of vulnerability in the country.

The UN system will also expand and intensify initiatives aimed at improving the technical and managerial capacity of decentralised structures so as to enhance accountability and transparency in the provision of goods and services that are required for overcoming the barriers to food security, proper sanitation and hygiene, safe drinking water and housing. Planned targeted interventions will be developed in collaboration with the affected communities.

■ **Strategy 2: Strengthening the capacity of HMG/N for disaster mitigation and prevention and to deal with emergencies.** The UN system will make use of its comparative advantage in dealing with natural and human made disasters and will provide support to prevention policies and activities as well as build the capacity of HMG/N to deal with emergencies at central, district and village levels.

Nepal is a natural disaster-prone country. Furthermore, the poorest strata of the population are pushed by increasing socio-economic pressure to live mainly in marginal and degraded lands, which are disaster-prone. Therefore, disaster prevention and mitigation measures should be devised and set up as a means

of protecting productive assets before relief emergency interventions are needed, with a view to at least limit the magnitude of the impact of disasters on the standard of living.

Building on the experience of all the UN agencies in prevention of disasters such as floods, epidemics, landslides, internal and external displacements of population, the UN system will provide support to prevention policies and activities as well as to build the capacity of HMG/N to deal with emergencies at central, district and village level. The UN system has already jointly prepared a Disaster Response Preparedness Plan, which could be expanded and serve as a basis to provide support to HMG/N to mitigate disasters. The data and information generated through VAM (Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping) could also be used to set up means of protecting productive assets as well as carry out emergency needs assessments in a rapid and timely manner.

In addition, upon request from the HMG/N, the UN system will jointly support the government in increasing the delivery of basic social services in those areas that are affected by social unrest.

■ **Strategy 3: Addressing the gaps in the wider policy, legislative and institutional environment, that inhibit communities and individuals from realising an adequate standard of living.** The UN system will collaborate in providing policy advisory services on globalisation and sustainable human development and will assist the government to close the gap between provisions in national legislation and requirements of international commitments.

The UN system will continue to support the implementation of the SADP and APP, to promote sustainable land use and access to safe water and sanitation and to support HMG/N in adopting the concept of sustain-

able development as a cross-cutting principle in all strategies and plans, in line with Agenda 21. In order to ensure equal access to land and housing, the UN system will also jointly support the review and amendment of existing discriminatory laws/regulations regarding land and property rights.

Nepal has applied for full membership of the WTO. Careful attention needs therefore to be paid to the implications for trade, food security and agricultural development. It is critical too to understand how Nepal can access the special treatment available to developing countries, including compensatory measures to preserve the profitability of agricultural production, e.g. easier access to credit, improved delivery of extension services and infra-



*"My husband often
beats me, especially
when he is drunk. I
have to go to other
villages as part of
my work as VDC
Member but my
husband does not
support me. In such
conditions, how can
we ask for women's
rights?"*

*Housewife,
Makwanpur
District.*

structure for marketing. The impact of globalisation on income distribution, poverty, and purchasing power must also be analysed. The UN system will provide advisory services and support for policy-making in order to analyse and develop strategies to counter any likely negative effects of such developments.

Nepal is a party to several international conventions relating to environmental wellbeing (Montreal Protocol, Convention on Biodiversity, Ramsar Convention, Convention on Climate Change, Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage, etc.) and protection of human rights (ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW, CRC, ICERD, etc.). In order to close the gap between provisions in national legislation/policy and requirements of international commitments, the UN system will support the amendment, enactment and, where necessary, drafting of new laws and standards regarding human rights, food security, housing and environmental wellbeing and will work jointly to ensure that the implementation of these conventions is carried out to the fullest extent, for instance, the implementation of the National Biodiversity Action Plan, National Human Rights Action Plan and CEDAW Action Plan.

Rural energy system development has a tremendous potentiality of impact in Nepal in minimising environmental deterioration, including climate change, while at the same time enhancing socio-economic activities in rural areas. However, there is a lack of suitable policy and legislative environment for such development. The roles of institutions in energy sector are not well defined and some are still in their rudimentary stage.

To address the declining productivity of natural resources due to population and economic growth, the UN system will help government to incorporate a "green accounting system" into the national accounts in order to integrate environmental issues into mainstream

economic policy. The positioning of environment in policy making is a key issue and a challenge. The System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting, pioneered by the United Nations in 1993, is a response to it. It augments traditional national accounts with natural resources and pollution flow accounts. This additional information will enable government to formulate and monitor economic policies more effectively, enact more effective environmental regulations and resource management strategies, and use the taxes and subsidies more efficiently.

B. PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO THE FAMILY, WOMEN AND CHILDREN

In Nepal, women and children's lives continue to be dominated and mediated by the unequal structures of gender hierarchies and the patriarchal system. This makes it difficult for women and children to negotiate their position and condition within the family, particularly in situations of extreme poverty. Moreover, the artificial separation of the public and private spheres has limited the State's jurisdiction to the public sphere only, as matters taking place within the family are considered private. Therefore, problems arising out of gender relations, e.g. domestic violence, child abuse, rape, incest, polygamy, bigamy and wife abandonment that take place within the family continue with impunity. In order to protect the rights of women and children, there is an urgent need to erase the distinctions between the public and private spheres through a committed partnership of all stakeholders and actors to promote a gender equitable society.

The UN system has jointly advocated implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Platform of Action (BPFA), the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights

of the Child (CRC) priorities and will continue to do so on behalf of vulnerable groups.

Working within the human rights framework of the CEDAW, CRC, and the International Labour Standards (ILS) to which Nepal is a State Party, the UN system will adopt the following objectives of assistance:

OBJECTIVE B1: To increase gender equality and equity by emphasising special protection, and assistance measures for women and children, including social protection for female workers, through follow-up to relevant global Conferences, Conventions and Declarations.

OBJECTIVE B2: To reduce the incidence of all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation of women and children starting with the worst forms, such as trafficking, domestic violence, sexual exploitation, child labour and traditional forms of violence.

OBJECTIVE B3: To create social protection for workers and their families, poor widows, battered women and their children, elderly, disabled and chronically sick and persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Employing a multi-sectoral approach the UN system will formulate strategies by building on the comparative advantages of various UN agencies and will co-operate at different levels:

■ **Strategy 1:** Facilitating the amendment of discriminatory laws that are in contravention with UN Conventions and Trea-

ties and the formulation of gender re-distributive legislation and policies that address the specific rights of the most vulnerable within the family. The UN system will jointly advocate the ratification of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW and the implementation of National Action Plans pertaining to the BPFA, CEDAW and Trafficking of women and children as well as the formulation of a social security policy and laws targeting the poorest and most discriminated, such as children, senior citizens, widows, dalits, disabled and chronically sick (TB, HIV/AIDS, cancer). The UN system will assist in building the capacity of law drafters, enforcers and implementers in applying human rights and gender equality principles. Building on its joint initiative to genderise the Census on Population and Housing, the UN System will continue to work together with HMG/N and its partners to develop a standardised and gender-dis-aggregated population database, supported by appropriate and adequate research, that will help the formulation of policies.



"I am not eligible to receive any assistance from the government since I am below 60. My two children and I manage to survive, I wash dishes in the houses of government officials and other rich families. Sometimes I get leftovers for my children. Widows should get assistance but not on the basis of age."

*Widow,
Sunsari District*

More specifically, in relation to Objective B1:

In order to translate equality *de jure* as provided by the Constitution of Nepal into equality *de facto*, the UN system will continue to support the implementation and monitoring of the National Plans of Action pertaining to the BPFA, CEDAW, and Trafficking. It will also advocate the need to ensure increased budget allocations, to the maximum extent of available resources, to implement economic, social and cultural rights in the light of the principles of non-discrimination and the best interest of families and especially women and children, and to ratify ILO core labour standards.

Although some progress has been recorded in the areas of health, education and political representation of women, the overall feminisation of poverty and the widening gender gap remain unchecked as the country continues to grapple with various dimensions of poverty that adversely impact children and women. Capacity building of constituencies that are responsible for enactment, implementation and monitoring of laws that protect children's and women's rights is an area where the UN system has a comparative advantage given its international, regional and national knowledge, experience and technical expertise. Capacity-building would lead to greater sensitivity and heightened awareness on the part of those vested with the authority of legislating laws, interpreting and enforcing laws on the principles of the universality, indivisibility and inalienability of human rights. In this context, it should be borne in mind that achieving equality *de jure* alone has not translated into equality *de facto* equality. Article 4 of CEDAW calls upon State Parties to do more for women, such as the adoption of corrective measures or temporary affirmative actions to accelerate *de facto* equality. In this context, the UN system will continue to advocate the ratification of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW, which will allow women to seek remedies for infringement of their human rights either by the state, community or individuals.

More specifically, in relation to Objective B2:

In order to protect children's and women's rights within the family and society, it is imperative to deal with issues of violence and sexual abuse that occur within the four confine of the home as well as in the larger community and the state. Given the stigma and the fear of ostracism attached to such issues, many of these acts remain hidden and unreported and the perpetrators of violence go unpunished. In other cases governed by customary and religious laws that are discriminatory to women, women's inequality within the family in matters pertaining to marriage, divorce, custody of children, inheritance and reproductive rights has not been adequately addressed.

In order to redress this situation, the UN system will provide assistance in the following areas:

- Drafting new laws as well amending existing discriminatory laws as contained in the *Muluki Ain* and Acts;
- Formulation of Acts dealing with domestic/family violence, rape and sexual harassment and abuse;
- Strengthening penal provisions to increase penalties for effectiveness in deterrence;
- Creation of in-camera courts to deal with issues related to family and violence against women;
- Strengthening and capacity building of women's police cells to deal with victims of violence and trafficking;
- Strengthening of victims support systems (counselling and rehabilitation); and
- Implementation of the Legal Aid Act to provide free legal service to victims of domestic violence, rape, sexual abuse and trafficking.

More specifically, in relation to Objective B3:

The UN system will provide technical assistance and expertise for undertaking gender assessment and impact studies of policies and key institutions to assist HMG/N in the formulation of social security policy and laws targeting the poorest and most discriminated, such as children, senior citizens, widows, *dalits*,

and the disabled and chronically sick (TB, HIV/AIDS, cancer).

The UN system will also assist HMG/N in establishing guidelines on how the 25 percent of block grants allocated to VDCs for social development should be spent on matters that address the protection of these vulnerable groups. The UN system will generally provide support for better access to justice at decentralised levels.

Another priority area for assistance lies in reconciling the diverse number and quality of population data currently being used in the country. Much of this data is not standardised or well documented. Building on its joint initiative to genderise the Census on Population and Housing, the UN System will continue to work together with HMG/N and its partners to develop a standardised and gender-disaggregated population database, supported by appropriate and adequate research on multi-dimensional needs of adolescents, HIV/AIDS epidemic and reproductive health of girls and

women as women's risk of death and disability is especially high during their reproductive years (15-49). This will provide planners and policy-makers to formulate plans and allocate budgets more realistically to address the felt needs of the poor women, adolescents, the marginalised groups and for those in need of health care.

■ **Strategy 2: Using social mobilisation to promote rights-awareness and meaningful participation of women and vulnerable groups in governance.** Building on its experience in promoting participation and decentralised approaches as well as inter-agency collaboration on the ground, the UN system will use community-based channels to ensure the realisation of reproductive rights, adequate nutrition and self-reliant health services delivery system at the community levels.

Building on HMG/N's Production Credit for Rural Women (PCRW), Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHV) and UNICEF's Decentralised Planning for the Child



*“Stop trafficking
and sex trade. Tell
everybody that this
is not good. Give
opportunities for
those who are likely
to get into this
business. It is
possible if
everybody wants it.”*

*Commercial Sex
Worker, Sunsari*

Programme and the *Meena* Project, which has become a catalyst for reflection and sensitisation on gender discrimination in childhood, on WFP's School Feeding Programme and Girls Incentive Programme, and on UNDP's Participatory District Development Programme (PDDP), the UN system will support federating women groups at national and district levels in order to enhance their participation in decision-making and promote equal access and control over resources.

In order to ensure greater accountability, the UN system will also support the development of stronger mechanisms for participation of women and vulnerable groups, including children, in decision-making, planning, priority setting and monitoring at the local level. This is particularly important as girls face considerable health risks owing to preference for boys. Owing to religious, social and cultural practices, which are exacerbated by poverty and dowry system, female infanticide is on the rise. This means that there is greater probability of the girl child having less access to food, education and health care. If the girl child survives, early marriage and pregnancy are inevitable, impacting negatively on the poor health of the girl child, leading to disability, and more than often, leading to untimely deaths. Nepal is, indeed, one of only two countries in the world where life expectancy for women is lower than that of men.

The UN agencies will also use appropriate formal and informal channels to encourage women to delay marriage and their first pregnancies. Focusing only on young women is not enough in this respect because of their limited decision-making capabilities and the high degree of social pressure they face to produce a child soon after marriage. The UN system will, therefore, promote and advocate men's involvement in the realisation of reproductive rights for women and will target elderly women, who have a strong influence on women and adolescent girls. Access of families to public information

on available basic social services and their reproductive rights will be improved using the same channels. At the same time, communities will be encouraged to establish their own health services delivery systems by building their capacities to become specialists in basic primary health care. Sex education and healthy lifestyle education for both sexes and the promotion of male responsibility is urgent. At the same time, initiatives will stress joint responsibility in family planning, address the unmet need for contraceptives and protection against STDs/HIV/AIDS, and work to improve information access and quality.

The UN system will work jointly to improve the nutritional status of children, nursing and pregnant women through increased energy and micronutrients intake. In particular, the UN system will continue to support jointly the National Vitamin A Programme by training key staff, procuring Vitamin A capsules, supporting the fortification of commonly consumed foods and assist in the production of IEC activities (Information, Education, Communication). The UN system will use the same community-based distribution channels to make iron supplements available to pregnant women and promote the utilisation of iodised salt.

With regard to violence against women and children, the UN system will advocate the need to ensure that DDCs take on the responsibility of prevention and enforcement and will provide support to train decentralised bodies on dealing with this issue.

■ **Strategy 3: Implementing programmes to eliminate the worst forms of violence, abuse and exploitation of women and children.** The UN system will implement a joint programme on trafficking of women and children through a special UN Task-Force. The UN system will also advocate the ratification of the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees, the SAARC Convention on preventing and combating

trafficking in women and children for prostitution, the ILO Convention 182 on the Immediate Abolition and Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, and will jointly promote vital registration and the amendment of Children's Act to ensure that every child is recognised as a person and enjoys his/her full rights.

In view of the gravity of trafficking and in acknowledgement of the complexity of an issue that requires a truly collaborative and innovative approach, the UN system will continue to support and implement its joint programme, "Beyond Trafficking – A Joint Initiative of the UN System in the Millennium Against Trafficking in Girls and Women (JIT)", with technical back-stopping from the UN Task-Force on Trafficking, which includes representatives from UNIFEM, UNICEF, OHCHR, ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, and WHO. This initiative will also complement the intervention to be implemented by OHCHR on the prosecution of traffickers and the creation of Special Courts on Trafficking. This special joint program will deploy a three-level strategic intervention—district, national and cross-border—with the broad objective of redressing the gender inequities and discrimination that make girls and women vulnerable to being trafficked.

The UN system will also provide support to the establishment of an independent mechanism, such as an Ombudsperson or a National Rapporteur on Trafficking and Human Rights Abuse to monitor the realisation of the rights of women and children and to deal with individual complaints relating thereto. At the same time, this initiative which is based on the rights based approach will continue to bring together all the various actors to create a combined and integrated approach to combat the crime of trafficking. Besides building the capacities of the police on both sides of the border for the effective implementation of the Minimum Standards of Treatment of Trafficked Persons, and in recognition of the fact that women who have been trafficked for prosti-

tution beyond the borders of Nepal are forced to suffer a double burden, as they are likely to be punished as criminals in the absence of clear-cut policies and legislation on trafficking particularly repatriation among countries, the UNS Task-Force on Trafficking will provide technical assistance to the draft SAARC Convention on preventing and combating trafficking in women and children.

The UN system will promote birth registration and the amendment of the Children's Act to ensure that every child is recognised as a person and enjoys his/her full rights, and will advocate children's participation in every sphere of life.

C. HEALTH

HMG/N gives priority to health promotion and prevention activities and development and implementation of the Essential Health Care Services (Second Long-Term Health Plan, 1997-2017). In the context of Nepal, the concept of access assumes a central role in achieving equity in health. The purpose of increased access is to ensure that all people, particularly the most vulnerable groups, women and children, the rural population, the poor, the under-privileged and the marginalised, are able to make use of the health system as appropriate to their need.

The UN system will make use of the comparative advantages of its specialised agencies, funds and programmes in setting international norms and standards to better support HMG/N's strategy to operationalise the Second Long-Term Health Plan (SLTHP). The approaches outlined in the Mid-Term Strategic Plan, endorsed by the external development partners including the UN agencies, will focus on supporting decentralisation, encouraging an appropriate mix of public and private provisions, and improving sectoral management to deliver the Essential Health Care Services to the people of Nepal. The UN system, as a neutral partner, is indeed well positioned to facilitate understanding and

"We have a small sub-health post in our VDC but when we go there for help, we don't find the staff. And even if we find one, we don't get medicines as we are told there aren't any. It is better not to have this kind of health posts."

*Villagers,
Banke District.*

*"When my children
are sick, I go to the
Sub-Health Post. I
went five times
already. Only twice
I was able to meet
someone there.
There was no
equipment and no
medicines. The
VDC and the
community should
be responsible for
managing it."
Mother, Saptari
District.*

analysis, and address broad and crosscutting issues that are critical for the development of the health system in general and health services for the vulnerable population in particular.

In order to achieve the health-related goals set at various global conferences such as ICPD, Beijing, World Summit for Children (WSC) and the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD), the UN system will strive to achieve the following objective of assistance:

OBJECTIVE C: To improve the responsiveness of the health system at all levels.

The UN System will help HMG/N attain its objectives of reducing the "burden of disease" and of addressing health sector constraints with a three-pronged co-operation strategy to improve the responsiveness of the health system:

■ **Strategy 1:** Strengthening health systems, dis-aggregated baseline information and policy advice to enhance decentralisation,

participation and accountability in health management. The UN system will draw on the expertise of several of its organisations in human resources management, community participation, decentralisation and public/private partnerships to support health systems research in these areas. The UN system will jointly ensure that dis-aggregated baseline information on the most vulnerable is available, especially for categories of rights-holders where this information is scarce such as women, elderly, disabled people and slum-dwellers. The UN system will also collaborate in the redefinition of central level roles and responsibilities with regard to decentralisation of health systems and in strengthening of the financial management capacity at all levels.

The UN system will further support the three inter-related main priority areas outlined by HMG/N in the SLTHP:

- Development of a health system based on community participation, decentralisation and public/private/NGO mixed financing/ownership.
- Delivery of essential health care services to all.
- Improvement of the sectoral management including human resources for health.

For example, it is common knowledge that vulnerable groups have very little or no access to any health service. One of the major constraints is the shortage of trained health personnel. Other contributing factors, which need to be tackled, include poor remuneration of civil servants, poor management practices including excessive politicisation of civil service and, possibly, corruption in various forms.

Likewise, the UN system will provide support to study the actual and potential contribution of private and NGO partners to the health system, of which very little is known but which is a prerequisite to developing joint strategies. As noted in the Strategy to Operationalise the



Second Long-Term Health Plan: "The challenge... is to ensure that the private and NGO sectors complement efforts to improve the access, quality and coverage of health care. While there are informal and some formal linkages, the total system is not well integrated and co-ordinated, and there is no overall strategy for ensuring the most effective and efficient use of these varied resources".

The UN system also has an important role to play to ensure that dis-aggregated baseline information on the most vulnerable is available, especially for categories of rights-holders where this information is scarce, such as for elderly, disabled people and slum-dwellers. Central to mainstreaming gender concerns in the health sector for example is the need for gender-dis-aggregated data. The UN system will advocate the collection and analysis of gender-dis-aggregated data that will enable planners and policy makers to get a better idea of viable health interventions.

With the inevitable movement towards decentralisation, strengthening of district health systems becomes a significant focus for health management capacity building. The UN System will initiate activities in the government's Participatory District Development Programme districts using the HMG/N's National Implementation Guidelines for District Health Systems Development. It will also support the redefinition of central level roles and responsibilities with regard to decentralisation of health systems and the strengthening of the financial management capacity at all levels of health services.

One of the biggest tasks lies in encouraging communities to participate fully in planning and management of health systems. Both men and women need to be mobilised not only to contribute to better health care in their communities, but also to demand it from local authorities. In this respect, the UN system will

advocate adequate female representation on health management boards at all levels.

The UN System will continue and enhance its advocacy and support for suitable employment policies; emphasis will be placed on decentralised recruitment and staffing based on local needs. The UN system will also provide support to enhance accountability mechanisms in health management systems.

■ **Strategy 2: Strengthening inter- and intra-sectoral co-ordination.¹** Building on the UN existing inter-agency collaboration, the UN system will continue to play a catalytic role to enhance intra-sectoral and inter-sectoral collaboration for the concerted development of the health sector in general and health services for the deprived people, in particular. This will be particularly helpful to develop a multi-sectoral response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The UN system will jointly support the formulation of adequate policy guidelines, strategies and mechanisms for functional co-ordination among public, private and NGO sectors as well as the integrated management of school health, water and sanitation programs so that health is not viewed or dealt with in isolation.

Nepal's burden of disease assessment suggests that emphasis must be laid on:

- Child survival;
- An improved domestic environment and better access to safe drinking water and sanitary disposal of excreta;
- Effective reproductive health programmes, especially in the remote areas;
- Interventions aimed at improving the status of women in society to address the neglect of female children; preventable communicable disease programs; and
- Interventions aimed at modifying life styles with reference to both men and women.

¹ Inter-sectoral co-ordination refers to co-ordination between the health sector and other sectors, such as education and environment. Intra-sectoral co-ordination refers to co-ordination among all the partners within the health sector.

Some teachers come to the classroom late and leave early. The parents and VDC members should visit our school and the Headmaster should monitor teacher's activities."

Class VIII

Student,

Sindbupalchowk

Distr.

Although improving health care services and capacity are also important issues in Nepal, without targeted programmes to reduce infant and maternal mortality, population growth, STD/HIV/AIDS, and environmental pollution, health gains for the population will be few. The government, along with its development partners, has already made significant strides in developing strategies, guidelines and standards in these areas. These now need to be translated into plans and action.

The development of intra-sectoral strategies, such as those for reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and the Female Community Health Volunteer (FCHV) programme by a consortium of partners, constitute important progress in this direction and will certainly facilitate future discussions on the issue. Support to government efforts in these areas is, therefore, important if Nepal is to see reductions in the burden of disease.

The UN system is in a good position to enhance co-ordination, collaboration and support required by all related sectors to address the main health concerns in a concerted way for the development of the health sector. The process has already started. Adding a de-

worming component to the WFP Primary School Feeding Project has enhanced collaboration between Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health. UNICEF and WFP have set up a collaborative pilot project in the field of the Maternal Child Health Care (MCHC). WHO and UNICEF have been collaborating in several projects such as safe motherhood, polio eradication, immunisation, and integrated management of common childhood illnesses.

The UN system will continue to enhance intra-sectoral and inter-sectoral collaboration. Support will be provided for the formulation of adequate policy guidelines, strategies and mechanisms for functional co-ordination among public, private and NGO sectors as well as the integrated management of school health, water and sanitation programs. Effective co-ordination between organisations involved in the planning, production and use of human resources for health will also be addressed as will the issue of quality in training. Multi-sectoral co-ordination and co-operation will be reinforced at regional, national and at district level.



The UN system will, for instance, promote regional co-operation among South Asian countries for the control of diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, *kala-azar* and polio.

The national response to prevent the HIV/AIDS epidemic, for instance, is still poor. The UN will support policies and guidelines to improve intra-sectoral and inter-sectoral co-ordination for increasing the coverage and effectiveness of ongoing interventions. The UN system will assist the Government in developing a strategy to raise awareness about STDs/HIV/AIDS among mobile populations and provide effective means for protection. Particular attention will be given to preventing and protecting women and girls from being trafficked and forced into prostitution since they have a much higher risk of getting infected.

■ **Strategy 3: Focusing on gender concerns, population issues and HIV/AIDS.** The UN system will provide support to gender sensitisation of health personnel, and will jointly support an expanded, integrated response to STD/HIV/AIDS and population-related issues through social mobilisation, participation, and integration into UN supported programmes.

Efforts to re-orient the system towards gender-sensitive quality services that reach out to women with restricted mobility are important. Funds will be targeted to improve service delivery points and ensure that health facilities have sufficient essential drugs and equipment, trained (female) personnel and basic amenities such as adequate water and sanitation. Referral systems linking different levels and types of health services also have considerable room for improvement and could benefit greatly from structured linkages with private and NGO providers.

Health packages will also be widened to address women's reproductive and non-reproductive health and nutrition. The UN system will also provide assistance to support gender sensitisation

of health personnel. For example, although HMG/N's Family Planning Program includes the management of infertility as one of its objectives, there is no programme designed to address this issue in the family planning packages.

Vulnerable groups, especially, will need focused interventions to address specific needs. Safe motherhood, domestic violence, STD/HIV/AIDS, and reproductive health are areas in which the UN system will support the development and implementation of focused interventions. The UN system will support the integration of STD/HIV related components into all UN-supported programmes through social mobilisation and participation and will facilitate an expanded multi-sectoral district response. The UN system will also mainstream reproductive health into all its programmes and, building on the lessons learnt from this process, will provide advisory services to HMG/N.

D. EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SCIENCE

The proportion of children enrolling in school has risen significantly over the years in Nepal. However, access to quality education, culture and science remains unbalanced. The UN's comparative advantage lies in helping HMG/N to translate central capacities and policies at decentralised levels. In line with the World Declaration on Education for All (1990) and the recent Dakar Framework for Action (2000), the UN system will contribute to the following objectives:

OBJECTIVE D1: To provide equal access to quality pre-primary, primary, basic, secondary and higher education as well as vocational training.

OBJECTIVE D2: To remove obstacles to full participation in cultural life and to equitable distribution of the benefits of science and technology, regardless of gender, caste, ethnicity or remoteness.

*"Chepang language
may disappear
because new
generations prefer to
speak in Nepali.
We would like to
save our language
but it is also good to
learn Nepali
language."*

*Tribals,
Makwanpur
District*

"I never go to school because I don't get the time. I have to collect fodder and do other household work. Can you motivate my parents to send me to school?"

*13-year-old girl,
Sunsari District.*

The UN system will complement and supplement existing government programmes through the following co-operative strategies:

In relation to Objective D1:

■ **Strategy 1: Implementing innovative approaches and programmes for the most deprived populations with regard to education.** Building on the synergies developed under various educational programmes supported by the UN, a joint programme on the education of the girl child will be designed and implemented. The UN will expand and replicate innovative approaches, such as vocational training and Non-Formal Education, to develop responsive community-based institutions and incentives for the most deprived to have access to education.

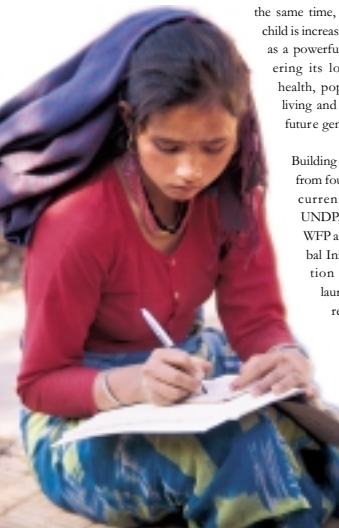
In Nepal, the net primary enrolment rate of girls is only 59.9 percent and lags 17 points behind the enrolment rate of boys. At the same time, education of the girl child is increasingly being recognised as a powerful entry point, considering its long-term impact on health, population, standard of living and educational status of future generations.

Building on the lessons learnt from four educational projects currently undertaken by UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, WFP and in line with the Global Initiative on the Education of the Girl Child launched by the UN Secretary General at the Dakar Conference in 2000, the UN system will formulate a joint programme aimed at promoting the education of the girl child. Emphasis will be

placed on improved learning environments and child-friendly schools, health education, food incentives for families having a girl at school, community-owned schools and capacity-building of female teachers.

In addition, the UN system will support the targeting of the most vulnerable groups, such as disabled and extremely poor populations and populations whose mother tongue is not Nepalese. This may require the rationalisation of school distribution and the establishment of community schools, special outreach efforts and incentives, as well as systematic and sustainable grassroots recruitment of part-time teachers who speak the local language. Innovative approaches to develop responsive community-based institutions, such as Community Learning Centres, that evolve from local needs and contexts will be replicated. In order to strengthen inclusive education, special teacher training as well as community advocacy on the rights of the disabled child will also be required. On-going support from the Primary School Nutritious Food Project may be streamlined for these groups using the flexible management systems being piloted in the school outreach programme of MOE and in community-based child development centres.

In remote poor districts, secondary education is an option only for boys of wealthier rural families. The UN system will support special efforts to fulfil the secondary education rights of girls, specific ethnic minorities, children with disabilities, *dalits*, especially in poor remote communities. These could include scholarships and special incentives (including food), the provision of girls hostels in remote high schools, and increased number of toilet facilities. There are also social and cultural factors at home and in the community that need to be addressed through advocacy and awareness raising, as well as through local role models. Special initiatives will also be supported by the UN system for girls, disadvantaged communities and candidates whose mother tongue is not Nepalese to pass the SLC ex-



amination, as they are linked to potential economic opportunities. This may include coaching or other extra-curricular support or may involve persuading other partners (VSO, Peace Corps, etc) to place volunteers in these districts. In association with the newly established National Development Volunteers Services, National UN Volunteers could also be deployed to support such initiatives.

■ **Strategy 2: Capacity strengthening and partnerships in order to improve the quality of education.** The UN system will make use of the specialisation of some of its agencies to complement the efforts of the MoES in enhancing the quality of teacher training, the use of supplementary materials in classrooms, the use of continuous assessment, and the development of child-friendly learning environments in schools (including infrastructure and provision of food). Building on its vast network of partners, the UN system will also jointly facilitate public/private partnerships.

Access without quality will never have the intended results. The learners must acquire knowledge and skills that are relevant to their needs through formal and non-formal education. Enrolment in schools or other organised educational settings is also linked to quality learning environments, which requires trained teachers, a child-friendly learning environment, appropriate learning materials and community/parental support. Quality of learning in primary schools can be raised through support to both accredited and recurrent in-service teacher training. The UN system will complement the efforts of the MoES and of the other donor agencies working in the area, with special focus on the quality of teacher training, the use of supplementary materials in classrooms, the use of continuous assessment, and the development of child-friendly learning environments in schools.

The UN system will continue to provide food and de-worming interventions to pre-primary and primary school children in food-deficit

areas by building on the synergy established between the Basic and Primary Education Programme (BPEP) and the Primary School Nutritious Food Project, thereby maximising children's learning capacity. The UN System will significantly support existing community-based child development centres to ensure that the quality of instruction and the physical environment are not detrimental to young children.

UN system support will target capacity building at district level and below to ensure that MoES's pre-primary efforts simultaneously address the survival, growth and development of children under six years, not just their educational development. Community-based child development centres, especially for disadvantaged groups, may need additional provision of 'matching funds' and support to link such funds with credit/savings schemes. The potential integration of nutritious food support for very poor communities will also be considered, with special policies and provisions for managing such support.

With regard to secondary and higher education and to the likelihood of HIV/AIDS striking the adolescent population, the UN system will support the integration of HIV/AIDS and reproductive health education with relevant subjects in school curricula and will support peer education and co and extra-curricular activities in this area.

With regard to basic education, UN system support at the districts will strengthen the targeting, quality and monitoring of the different literacy and non-formal basic education classes being implemented through MoES, NGOs and private sector. With improved quality, these non-formal basic education courses will be linked to follow-up functional skills, income generation, credit/savings and continuous learning opportunities. The development of practical supplementary materials and skill-based curricula specifically for remote districts and disadvantaged groups will be required, as may pre-primers and other materi-

als for non-Nepalese speaking populations. The UN system will in particular support the capacity building of NGOs and private sector partners to ensure that follow-up post-literacy, vocational skills and life-long learning opportunities are offered to women who have completed the basic literacy course.

■ **Strategy 3: Improving decentralisation, accountability and management of the school system. The UN system has a comparative advantage in decentralised management and will jointly support the government in strengthening the decentralisation capacity and accountability mechanisms at local level.**

The UN system will provide assistance to improve the collection and analysis of disaggregated information in order to strengthen the Education and Monitoring Information System. At national level, the UN system will support the Education Monitoring and Information System in generating information on the 18 EFA indicators. At the district level, the Education Management Information System (EMIS) under the District Education Office (DEO) and DDC will be strengthened through the systematic collection and use of disaggregated data from all schools. The UN System will help establish an improved system of assessing and monitoring of the status of enrolment and completion at the district level. The UN System will also jointly support the digitisation of VDC boundaries and school sites as well as field verification of GIS maps in a co-ordinated and reliable manner. The use of this data for planning and monitoring purposes by the government and other development partners will also require an investment in human resource development.

As a consequence, a first call for girls, based on accurate disaggregated data at the VDC and settlement level, will allow joint UN efforts to have a real and tangible impact on the fulfilment of the educational rights for girls and women. More

generally, efforts towards Compulsory Primary Education at the VDC, Municipality and District levels will be based upon realistic numbers and knowledge of the excluded.

The capacity of teachers, headmasters, and school management committees to manage schools transparently and to involve parents in transforming school and classroom environment is essential. The UN system will jointly promote local school governance and parents' education in order to foster greater accountability of the school management system at the decentralised level. The UN system will support in particular the BPEP School Improvement Plan (SIP) in order to identify at school and community level their own priorities, such as toilets, water facilities, libraries, or bilingual classes. Based on these plans, the UN system will be in a position to provide integrated support through the DDC and DEO and to complement the Ministry of Education's centrally planned activities. The UN System will also strengthen DEOs and Resource Centres to effectively deliver professional support to schools and teachers and will also build the capacity of communities, NGOs and parents' groups to support the learning of children and to monitor the performance of teachers.

Higher education is available to a very limited number of Nepalese and, in remote districts, this group is very small and must leave the district in order to study. The establishment of higher education facilities by the private sector, or by Tribhuvan University, may require commitment from the UN system to support some developmental costs, or to ensure scholarship for enrolment of certain numbers of students. The brain drain from districts when youth leave for higher education is quite high. The long-term development of such districts will be enhanced through the local provision of higher education, especially if this is linked to marketable skills, income-generating activities and local employment.

In relation to Objective D2:

■ **Strategy 4: Increasing awareness of human rights, protection of cultural heritage and use of appropriate technological innovations.** The UN system will jointly undertake mass campaigns, involving media, local leaders, schools and civil society to promote human rights, tolerance and recognition of diversity. The UN system will support the dissemination of appropriate technologies identified within its programmes and projects and will strengthen the capacity of the government to apply information and communications technologies to sustainable human development through UNITeS.

Education, culture and science are intrinsically linked. The UN system will support the integration of human rights, peace and respect for others, and legal information into relevant subjects of the formal school system through supplementary materials, teacher training and peer education. This will be complemented by joint mass campaigns, involving media, local leaders, schools and civil society that will aim at promoting human rights, tolerance and recognition of diversity as well as generating awareness on fundamental rights and legal recourse mechanisms in case of violation.

A preliminary study on the status of discrimination and disparity between groups will be undertaken. Such information will provide a basis for awareness raising and a benchmark against which progress in reducing inequality and discrimination can be assessed.

Pride and respect for local cultural life will be promoted. In this respect, UN system partnerships with NGOs, with private sector, with community-based organisations and with locally elected leaders will be a key element of co-operation. The UN system will, for instance, support the publication of local history and folklore, interviews with elderly people as well as the recording of traditional music and

the production of cultural radio programmes, with a special focus on cultural practices that are in danger of being lost due to acculturation.

Both intangible and tangible cultural heritage, such as heritage site protection and rehabilitation of temples, historical places and religious sites, will continue to be supported by the UN system. As part of its mandate of peace-building through development, and in keeping with the Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the UN system will support the development of Lumbini as the Fountain of World Peace. Collaboration with communities and local government will help revive cultural heritage and identity. Demarcation of community forests and establishment of park areas for the preservation of nature are also areas of interest for the UN system.

Appropriate technologies, especially home-based labour-saving devices, increased food production and home-based income generation, will be supported on a large scale. Support to establish local industries capable of producing devices, parts and equipment required for wide-scale introduction of appropriate technologies (e.g. smokeless stoves, water taps) will also be considered. Links between appropriate technology and income will be strengthened through non-formal education systems and community learning centres. Labour and time-saving technologies for women, which help to reduce the burden of household chores on girls and women, will also be supported, as they are key elements of a strategy to increase school enrolment and attendance.

Access to reliable sources of energy in remote and disadvantaged communities will be supported through the UN system. The introduction of micro-hydro, methane gas, and solar energy provides sources of home lighting as well as access to labour-saving devices, media and information technology. Such interventions must be linked to local support as

"The main obstacle is that we are not getting proper information. We never know about development programmes."

*Elderly woman,
Sunsari District.*

well as to long-term visions of maintenance and repair. Opportunities for skill development and training among local populations in areas related to the energy sources introduced can provide linkages to income generation and the right to work.

The UN system will support the government, in partnership with the private sector, to ensure equitable access to modern information and communication technologies, such as a VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) in each VDC. The provision of appropriate technology and other scientific innovations will be complemented by skills and vocational training in the same areas, to ensure sustainable use of these technologies. Support for strengthening private and public institutions will provide for maintenance and repair as well as basic training on new technologies. In his Millennium Report, the UN Secretary General proposed the creation of a global volunteer programme aimed at bridging the digital gap between the industrialised and the developing world. The intention of this initiative, the United Nations Information Technology Service or UNiTeS, is to create a world-wide programme for information technology volunteers. In Nepal, where extreme variations in topography pose serious barriers to accessibility and provision of basic social services, the UN system will make use of this programme to strengthen the capacity of the government to apply information and communications technologies to human development, in particular in areas such as health, education, environment and small and micro-enterprises.

E. EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS

Capitalising on the UN system's multidisciplinary character and building on specific characteristics of its member organisations, such as the tripartite structure of ILO (workers and employers' organisations and government), the UN has a comparative advantage to extend sup-

port in a co-ordinated manner to create an environment for policy implementation or building the capacity to do so.

In line with international labour standards, the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Right at Work and in order to achieve the WSSD goal of universal access to paid employment, the UN system in Nepal will strive to realise the following objectives of assistance:

OBJECTIVE E1: To increase opportunities to earn a decent living under decent conditions for the most deprived.

OBJECTIVE E2: To eliminate the worst forms of economic and employment related exploitation, such as hazardous, bonded, forced and child labour.

The UN system will work together at different levels with the following strategies:

In relation to Objective E1:

■ **Strategy 1: Replicating innovative programmes and approaches that generate sustainable employment opportunities for the most deprived.** The UN system has a vast network of programmes and projects that promote community-based asset creation and income-generation activities and will share, expand and replicate success stories and approaches that have better potential for employment.

In line with the APP, the UN system will continue to support irrigation development and the construction of rural roads, building of support services for agriculture, and implementation of targeted programmes to enable women and the most deprived populations to have access to productive resources and to better working conditions.

The sustainable livelihood concept, originating from the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development, provides a pow-

"I have a family of six. I am the only bread earner. Once my wife got sick and had to be taken to the Bheri Zonal Hospital. She got well after three months but by then I was indebted by seven thousand rupees. I now work for the moneylender to pay off the debt".

Labourer, Banke District.

erful tool to fight poverty by enhancing resource productivity, securing ownership of and access to assets, resources and income-earning activities and by ensuring adequate stock flows of food and cash to meet the basic needs of the most deprived. The UN system will continue to promote this approach and to support, upscale and replicate other similar innovative programmes such as leasehold and community forestry programmes, that have better potential for sustainable employment.

Since more rural people in the future will work on activities other than farming (at present, off-farm income-generating production contributes to 20 percent of rural household income), the UN System will help the Government to promote better standards of education, skills and entrepreneurial capabilities to improve the mobility and flexibility of rural communities, especially women. This will include the mobilisation of women farmers to more effectively access credit, extension, technology and training programmes; advocacy within line agencies to reduce/remove gen-

der biases from operations and programmes, and the promotion of farm enterprises and activities which traditionally favour women's involvement. The UN system will continue to promote eco-tourism as a lower-cost, eco-friendly alternative to generate employment opportunities in rural areas.

■ **Strategy 2: Promoting and facilitating social dialogue to improve the macro-economic and employment policy framework in order to ensure broad-based growth.**

Nepal urgently needs to improve the regulatory framework and the design of its policy instruments in order to enable its economy to innovate, compete and prosper in regional and global environments. The UN system will support this endeavour by facilitating a social policy dialogue on industrial development and employment policy, bringing together both the formal and informal sectors, government, workers' and employers' organisations and civil society. The UN system will support an initiative to thoroughly assess the current status of

"If I can acquire skills, I could switch to another profession like cycle repair or trading. It would be nice also if I can have some land of my own. Can the UN ask the government to give us land?"

Labourer, Banke District.



industrial development and capacity, including the impact of recent policy reforms on industrial development. The necessary next steps are to help reorient frameworks and instruments to promote exports and foreign investment and to help improve the technological and managerial capabilities of firms. These could provide the basis for improving the current database and information network.

There are a number of institutions in both public and private sectors, such as the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), the Federation of Small and Cottage Industries, the Industrial Enterprise Development Institute, and the Association of Nepal Craft Producers that are able to facilitate small and medium enterprise development. Efforts are needed to augment and better co-ordinate their services, as well as to open up avenues of institutional credit, training, technology and market information to their clients. In order to bridge the gap between the public and private sectors, the UN system will encourage collaborative and participatory approaches in policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of industrial, agro-industrial and service sector development strategies.

The UN system will support HMG/N in preparing and implementing an Industrial Development Perspective Plan in the medium and longer terms, with a view to improve and strengthen the structure, viability and competitiveness of the industrial sector so as to create more employment opportunities and contribute to poverty alleviation, particularly in rural areas.

HMG/N has identified tourism as a priority sector. However, the current structure of this sector, with a preponderance of business and commercial interest centred in Kathmandu, has limited trickle-down effects and backward linkages into rural communities, with the exception of some local lodge owners in villages on the main trekking routes. The UN system will support the development of a policy framework to promote tourism that generates income and employment among the poverty stricken communities of Nepal, and to ensure that tourism becomes an effective vehicle for poverty alleviation, as mentioned in the Ninth Plan.

More generally, the UN System will support HMG/N initiatives for employment promotion by ensuring that the selection of technologies, thrust areas and strategies is based on promoting employment for the most vulnerable groups. The definition of basic thrust areas is especially important and requires studies on where Nepal's comparative advantage lies.

ILO and UNDP supported the first-ever full-fledged National Labour Force Survey, which contributed significantly to fill in the data gap in the area of employment and labour market development in Nepal. Building on this initiative, a comprehensive labour market information system will be established to enable HMG/N, the private sector and the country's development partners to design appropriate policies and monitor the employment situation. The UN system will assist local government bodies to develop employment strategies at district level focussing on the most



discriminated, such as rural women and occupational castes.

In order for Nepalese workers to be more competitive, both within the country and abroad, the UN system will assist HMG/N in policy formulation to develop a package skills development programme (entrepreneurship, marketing, management and finance) based on national and international labour market needs so as to generate self-employment opportunities as well as marketable skills. Such an investment will help Nepal face the challenges of globalisation and benefit from new opportunities.

■ **Strategy 3: Supporting the amendment of existing laws that are obstacles to the right to earn a living in decent conditions, and the enforcement of international labour standards.** The UN system will jointly promote the implementation and expansion to other sectors of the minimum wage and will join hands in supporting the government in developing a comprehensive policy on occupational safety and health.

The UN system will provide support to the amendment of discriminatory property laws and tenancy acts and to extend labour laws and the right to organise into the informal sector. The UN system will also help HMG/N to develop a legislative framework and enforcement mechanisms to ensure healthy, safe and equal conditions of work.

The UN system will facilitate the ratification, enactment and implementation by Nepal of relevant ILO conventions, and will jointly support the implementation of the minimum wage and its expansion to sectors other than agriculture as well as generate awareness of its existence. With regard to safe and healthy conditions of work, the UN system will assist the Ministry of Labour to develop and implement a policy on occupational safety and health. The UN system will

also support positive discrimination laws/policies and enforcement mechanisms to ensure removal of any gender-based discrimination.

The UN system will assist HMG/N in law and policy formulation to ensure environmentally safe working methods, to introduce strong compensatory and social security measures in the workplace and to adopt safe technologies and protection measures. Sustainable farming practices and technologies will be promoted in order to avoid safety hazards in rural areas.

In relation to Objective E2:

■ **Strategy 4: Capacity building in law/policy formulation.** The UN system will jointly facilitate the ratification by Nepal of relevant ILO conventions will provide support to formulate adequate laws and policies.

Any form of exploitation, whether in the form of child, exploitative, hazardous, forced or bonded labour must be eliminated. The UN system will provide assistance to develop comprehensive legislation on these issues, which will be reviewed and enforced in a participatory manner. The UN system will also facilitate the ratification by Nepal of the ILO conventions on the worst forms of child labour, forced labour, freedom of association, collective bargaining, and the rights of migrant workers; will provide support to build the capacity of Labour Courts; and will jointly advocate for effective implementation of rehabilitation programmes for freed bonded labour as well as promoting social dialogue as a means for social peace and the promotion of workers' rights.

■ **Strategy 5: Joint programmes targeted on the worst forms of economic and employment related exploitation.** Joint programmes to rehabilitate freed bonded labourers and child labourers will be launched that link to existing poverty alleviation programmes.

"For the same work, for example carrying and mixing cement for house construction, men get Rs. 70 whereas women get only Rs. 60."

*Female worker,
Udayapur District.*

"I want to work in an office and drive a motorcycle. "

*Female child labourer,
Kathmandu.*

"The main obstacles to development in our community are discrimination and lack of awareness."

Dalits, Makwanpur District.

The UN system will launch rehabilitation programmes and provide alternative skill packages to freed labourers. This effort will be tied to poverty alleviation programmes that mobilise communities to prevent and end such practices and generate awareness among workers of their rights. The UN system will also launch rehabilitation programmes for child labourers and will provide them with alternative skills' packages.

F. DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Good governance is the key to ensuring a non-discriminatory, participatory and accountable development process.

The Ninth Five-Year Plan, covering the period between 1997-2002, contains several objectives and strategies to effectively fulfil civil and political rights. Recognising that the most disadvantaged and the poorest segments of population suffer abuses of their rights most frequently, reduction of the percentage of population living below the poverty line from 42 to 32 percent is one of the primary objectives of this plan.

The UN system can contribute to this goal and the goals set at the World Conference on Human Rights (1993) by contributing to the realisation of the following objectives:

OBJECTIVE F1: To enable public and civil society institutions, such as Parliament, Executive, Local Governance Institutions, Judiciary, Human Rights Commission, civil society organisations, employers' organisations, trade-unions and the media to function in a democratic, accountable and transparent manner.

OBJECTIVE F2: To sensitise the judicial system, arbitration systems and enforcement authorities to the rights of poor people, workers, women, children and minorities.

OBJECTIVE F3: To have in place laws and administrative procedures that are consistent with the civil and political rights guaranteed in the Constitution and the ICCPR and the development of affirmative action policies and programmes for women, children, dalits and ethnic groups.

In order to achieve each of these objectives, the UN system will adopt the following co-operation strategies:

■ **Strategy 1:** Strengthening the capacity of civil and public institutions in order to ensure a vibrant and democratic civil society. Upon request from HMG/N, the UN system will continue to support the monitoring of elections both national and local. Building on its neutrality and trusted relationship with the government, the UN system will facilitate exposure to various parliamentary systems, will work jointly in building the capacity of networking of local governance institutions and CSOs and will promote democracy, participation, transparency and accountability.

Depending on prevailing conditions, the UN system may co-ordinate assistance for monitoring the general elections to be held in 2004. In addition, the UN will consider assisting the deployment of national civil society monitors for elections to local governance institutions. Beyond the conduct of elections, the UN system will provide support to gain a greater understanding of the workings of parliamentary democracy, in areas such as the functioning of the parliament itself and of its committee structure. The UN will provide technical assistance for the full development of the committee system of the national parliament in order to ensure the professional conduct, transparency and accountability of parliamentary business. This will involve organisational development, capacity building and exchange with parliaments in other countries.

In pursuance of the aims of the Local Self-Governance Act and building on the gains made under the Participatory District Development and Local Governance Programmes (PDDP and LGP), the UN system will provide technical assistance for the full development of autonomous local governance institutions in the country: district development committees, municipalities and village development committees. These institutions will be helped to fulfil both their present functions and progressively to co-ordinate and take over the functions at local level presently fulfilled by line agencies of the sectoral ministries.

The UN system's support will mainly consist in building the capacity of the local authorities for better planning, programming and resource management at the local level to reflect the priorities and needs of the community people in development plan and to ensure allocation of resources accordingly. Support will be provided to reform the planning and budgeting processes at the district level in accordance with the new Local Self-Governance Act. The preparation of periodic plan, sectoral plans, use of GIS (Geographical Information System) in

better planning and programming, computerised financial management system will be areas of support to enhance the capacity of local authorities. The proven strategy of linking decentralisation with social mobilisation to alleviate poverty will continue to be supported. An institutional mechanism and appropriate policy framework will guide the process of decentralised local governance.

The local institutions will also be helped to work in productive partnerships with civil society organisations. This assistance will take the form of capacity building and planning and implementation of district periodic plans. In order to ensure the democratic functioning of such institutions, the UN system will facilitate the development of standing committees to direct the business of local government through wide participation of people's representatives and to ensure transparency and accountability of both official and non-officials. It will also advocate and assist activities for greater participation and representation of women and *dalits*. To provide for nation-wide coverage, the UN system will facilitate organised learning among donor agencies,

"Women elected VDC members are participating but they are less literate and are thus not effective."

VDC Chairperson, Sunsari District.



so that co-ordinated systems of assistance are available to districts.

The UN system will provide technical assistance to HMG/N, local governance institutions, civil society organisations, employers' organisations and trade-unions for the development of a vibrant, functioning civil society at all levels, in order to strengthen the transparency and accountability of the State. This will begin with assessment and analysis of the current status of employers' organisations, trade unions, non-governmental and other civil society organisations to determine the precise nature of follow-up co-operation. Other elements of the programme might include: review and revision of legislation concerning the registration and supervision of such organisations; capacity building for government institutions responsible for the above; capacity building of employers' organisations, trade unions, civil society organisations themselves with particular emphasis on their own democratic functioning; and confidence building measures between governmental and non-governmental entities so that they can work in productive partnerships.

Support will especially be provided to those organisations promoting human rights in general and the rights of vulnerable and marginalised groups in particular. Particular attention will also be paid to ensuring the participation in such organisations of women, children, *dalit*s and ethnic groups, and to the development of civil society in the remotest parts of Nepal.

If appropriate and called upon, the UN System may facilitate a process of conflict and post-conflict management aimed at repairing the breaches in social fabric resulting from the ongoing insurgency. This is consistent with the human rights-based approach and is grounded in the UN system's credibility as a neutral partner for Nepal's development.

Building on the successes of a number of projects, through which community organisations have been fostered, the UN system will provide further financial and technical assistance to ensure the growth of these organisations in all parts of the country. In doing so, it will ensure that families hitherto excluded from these organisations on grounds of poverty, caste or other reasons will be included. To build the influence of these people's organisations, the UN will facilitate the development of horizontal linkages between such organisations set up with different modalities depending on the norms and standards of each particular programme. It will also promote the development of common standards in order to achieve compatibility between them. Further, the UN will facilitate their upward aggregation into federations at VDC, municipality and district levels to allow them to interact more effectively with the decision-making processes of decentralised governance.

The UN system will provide financial and technical support to increase the reach of media into less accessible areas and those with non-Nepalese speaking populations, and to improve the quality of investigation and reporting. This will include replication of community-based media, such as wall newspapers and audio-towers, as well as work with mass media particularly on programming for and by women, children and other vulnerable groups.

■ **Strategy 2: Strengthening the judiciary, arbitration systems and enforcement authorities to ensure the rule of law and the protection of human rights.** The UN system will continue to co-operate in strengthening the capacity of the judicial system and enforcement authorities to be more sensitive of the rights of poor people, women, children and minorities.

"The control of women and girls trafficking gets low priority from us as we have to be involved in other important tasks."

*Police Inspector,
Sindhuapalchowke
District.*

In follow-up of current support provided by UNDP and OHCHR, the UN system will support a comprehensive assessment of judicial systems, including the formal court system, the judicial functions of Chief District and customary means of settlement of disputes in rural areas.

This will lead to the development of a programme of reform both to improve the efficiency of the judiciary and quasi-judicial bodies, and to make it more sensitive of the rights of poor people, women, children and minorities. Where appropriate, this will involve the setting up and strengthening of special courts or benches to deal sensitively with issues involving family, women and children.

The UN system endorses the ongoing work by the Nepal Police to improve its basic investigative techniques and to ensure that these are more grounded on international standards. In addition, it will continue the support currently provided by UNICEF to establish women and children units whereby the prevention and investigation of crime involving women and children are dealt with in a more sensitive and concerted manner. This assistance will include capacity building and the establishment of linkages with similar units in other countries.

The UN system will support a comprehensive assessment of the penal system to cover the detention of both those convicted of criminal offences and those held in custody pending trial. This will lead to a programme of reform ensuring the humane and equitable treatment of all those who are held in detention, with special attention paid to children who presently accompany mothers or other guardians into incarceration.

In the area of trafficking, the UN system will continue its combined action to build the capacities of local women's organisations and of

the Nepal Police to identify and prosecute known traffickers. Strategies will also be developed to improve monitoring and provide essential services for returning trafficked women and girls through HMG/N, NGOs and local governance institutions. Cross-border co-operation between the concerned district officials of Nepal and the Indian States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal will be facilitated.

■ **Strategy 3: Supporting the development of affirmative action policies and close the gap between national legislation and international standards.** Joint UN efforts will be geared towards advocating the reduction of the gap between current national legislation and the standards set in the Constitution and the international human rights instruments to which Nepal is a State-Party. It will build the capacity of HMG/N to monitor, report on and implement the provisions of human rights instruments. In addition, the UN will also jointly promote the development of comprehensive policies and programmes of action in respect of dalits, kamaiyas and ethnic groups that focus on alleviating customary factors at community level and eliminating barriers to full and wider participation in community and public life.

The UN will provide financial and technical assistance to HMG/N to carry out an assessment of all relevant laws and administrative procedures and to draft and pass amendments to these. This could start with an inventory of law and administrative practice to identify areas that are at variance with the provisions of the Constitution and the International Covenants and with a consideration of the *Muluki Ain*, which represents one of the main conventional instances of discrimination against women. Legislation to ban trafficking will be finalised and enacted. The judiciary will be provided orientation on the new legislation and its role in combating trafficking.

"Human beings are free by nature, so we pray to get equal rights, equal opportunities and treatment and proper human rights, so that as lower caste people, we are treated like everybody else."

*Dalit woman,
Kapilvastu District*

The UN will provide financial and technical assistance to HMG/N and appropriate civil society organisations for the implementation and strengthening of the National Programmes of Action on CEDAW (including the Optional Protocol once ratified) and CRC. These will be integrated into the Tenth National Development Plan, sectoral programmes and district periodic plans. The UN will join with other donors to provide financial and technical assistance for the further development of the newly formed National Human Rights Commission. This could involve capacity building of the members and officials, technical assistance in the investigation of cases, joint funding of national rapporteurs, and undertaking of advocacy and support for publicity of the Commission's work. The UN system will also

build on the on-going collaboration between UNDP and OHCHR to support the preparation of a National Human Rights Action Plan.

Action will be taken at all levels to ensure the effective participation of women in family, community, private and public life. This will address both formal and customary barriers to such participation. The UN will also assist the development of comprehensive policies and programmes of action in respect of *dalits* and ethnic groups. In addition to dealing with legal and administrative factors leading to discrimination and marginalisation, these programmes will particularly concentrate on alleviating customary factors at community level, eliminating barriers to full and wider participation in community and public life.





CHAPTER IV

Implementation, follow-up and review mechanisms





he UNDAF is a framework that will guide the contributions of the UN System to the development of Nepal over a period of five years (2002-2006). Provisions for follow-up and review are necessarily based on the principle that the socio-economic and political context in which the UNDAF is required to operate will continue to evolve. The UNDAF will be frequently reviewed and, if necessary reoriented, to better respond to the needs of the country.

A. IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP MECHANISMS

■ Modalities for collaborative programming

The programming cycles of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP are fully harmonised with the UNDAF timeframe. The specialised agencies are guided by annual (UNHCR) or bi-annual (FAO, UNESCO, WHO) country programmes, and a new programming cycle will start by January 1, 2002.

The provisions of the UNDAF will be implemented through the country co-operation frameworks and programmes agreed to by partner organisations and HMG/N. The selection and definition of goals, objectives and strategies would be fully consistent with the UNDAF. Individual country programmes and project documents will specify how they contribute to the achievement of UNDAF objectives and co-operation strategies.

Based on the objectives and co-operation strategies laid down in the UNDAF, all UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes will develop a complementary set of individual and parallel projects and programmes. Furthermore, comprehensive inter-agency programmes will be designed and implemented in geographically defined areas.

In addition, the following areas for joint programmes are identified in the UNDAF and will be further developed (listed by order of priority):

1. Promotion of human rights;
2. Education of the girl child;
3. Combating HIV/AIDS;
4. Mainstreaming population;
5. Enhanced capacity of DDCs, VDCs, and local communities to assume responsibility for the delivery of basic services;
6. Establishment of dis-aggregated socio-economic information system;
7. Prevention of trafficking of women and children;
8. Rehabilitation of bonded labourers;
9. Enhanced sustainable agricultural, forestry and fisheries development utilising appropriate and environmentally-sound technologies;

10. Disaster prevention and mitigation;
11. Support of non-farm income-generating activities and micro-enterprise development;
12. Improved access of isolated areas and communities to markets and services;
13. Improved feeding practices and marketing of fortified foods;
14. Improved nutritional status of children, nursing and pregnant women;
15. Information and Communication Technology for SHD

■ Common approach to development

In order to ensure the progressive realisation of rights, the UN system will focus on the most vulnerable groups as a matter of priority. In order to contribute to the reduction of regional disparities, the UN system will also reinforce its co-operation in the Mid and Far-Western Regions. Building on VAM and on a joint comprehensive rights-based analysis and poverty monitoring assessment currently underway in Achham and Baitadi, the UN system will plan its joint activities at field level, thereby achieving greater impact.

The UN system will continue to promote social mobilisation and decentralisation and will make efficient use of existing community-based channels to mainstream population, nutrition, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS awareness into its programmes and projects.

■ Joint advocacy and policy dialogue

The UNDAF provides an ideal platform for joint advocacy and policy dialogue, especially on the following recurring themes by order of priority:

1. Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS and population issues;
2. Development of affirmative action policies for women, scheduled castes and ethnic minorities;
3. Amendment of existing discriminatory laws contained in the *Muluki Ain*, land and property laws and Children's Act and mechanisms for enforcement;

Modalities for collaborative programming

Agency programmes/projects: Programme/ project resulting from a formulation process specific to one agency, addressing a need identified through a collaborative assessment and strategic programme development process. Rationale, objectives, activities and outputs are described in one document, which includes a budget necessary to achieve the objectives. Such programmes should nevertheless be responsive to the strategic objectives of the UNDAF and the document should provide clear statement to that effect.

Parallel programmes/projects: Programme/ project of two or more organisations deriving from a common problem identification, as well as shared overall strategy for concerted action. Activities are reflected by each agency in self-reliant/comprehensive documents, which complement each other, with specific reference to one another. The monitoring and evaluation of parallel programmes is done jointly by the participating agencies.

Joint programmes/projects: Programmes/ projects of two or more agencies resulting from a joint programming process. Within the context of approved agency country programmes and signed agreements, the programme is outlined in a single document, which describes the linkages between and responsibilities of all participating agencies.

Source: Definitions of Processes and Products for Enhancing UNDG Programme Collaboration, UNDO, March 1999.

4. Drafting of a law to ban trafficking and deal with family and domestic violence and to deal with safe, equal and just working conditions;
5. Ratification of core ILO conventions and convention on the status of refugees;
6. Formulation of a comprehensive employment and social security policy;

Building on the work carried out during the UNDAF process, a series of UN Thematic Strategy Papers will be further developed and will serve as a common basis for joint advocacy and policy dialogue. These documents will detail the UN position and strategy regarding crosscutting themes such as governance, gender, population, environment, HIV/AIDS, and national capacity building.

■ Collaboration at operational level

The UN Country Team will set up a joint HMG-UN Task-Force to look at ways of simplifying and harmonising the programming and operational procedures of the UN System

organisations at country level, including the format of project documents and monitoring, reporting and evaluation mechanisms.

The UN system will continue its collaborative efforts in the area of common premises and services. The completion of a virtual UN House and a state-of-the-art UN Information Centre and Reference Unit will enable all the UN agencies, Funds and Programmes to share data, information and knowledge.

B. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The UNDAF is an evolving document, which was prepared well in advance in order to enable all participating UN entities to develop their country programmes accordingly, but may be subject to further revisions before it takes effect on 1 January 2002. It may be reviewed in light of the forthcoming Foreign Aid Policy and the Tenth Five-Year Plan (2002-2007), or in light of any other dramatic change in the development situation. The UN Country Team will decide whether changes are required and re-drafting will be the responsibility of the UNDAF Task-Force and IATGs.

■ Monitoring

Joint and parallel UN programmes will be monitored jointly, using common monitoring and reporting mechanisms as well as a common format for project documents. This will also contribute to reduce the burden on the government.

Progress towards the goals and objectives of assistance of the UNDAF will be assessed every year through a UNDAF Task-Force, which will be co-chaired by the Ministry of Finance/HMG and the UN and composed of representatives from the National Planning Commission, the Ministry of Finance and UN agencies. The UNDAF Task-Force will prepare a yearly Work Plan for the implementation of the UNDAF, which will be used to prioritise joint activities and will serve as a

basis for yearly monitoring of progress. The UNDAF document defines outcome and process indicators in the Programme Resources Framework as tools to monitor the process and the impact of the UNDAF.

The existing Inter-Agency Thematic Groups will be responsible for monitoring the results and updating the indicators database. This yearly assessment will be reviewed during the Annual Heads of Agency Retreat and will be reported in the Annual Report of the UN Resident Co-ordinator.

■ Evaluation

Mid-Term Reviews of Country Programmes of individual agencies will analyse progress towards the objectives of the UNDAF and this information will also be fed into the Annual Report of the RC. A Mid-Term Review of the UNDAF will take place at the end of 2004, which will aim at:

- examining to what extent the UNDAF has met its basic purpose as an instrument,
- assessing the achievement of all or selected specific objectives; and
- taking stock of the lessons learnt for the next UNDAF.

The Ministry of Finance, the National Planning Commission and the UN Country Team will jointly lead this Mid-Term Review. The UNDAF Task-Force will be responsible for carrying out the evaluation in co-operation with the IATGs.

C. PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

The preparatory process of the CCA/UNDAF was extremely valuable in terms of development of stronger partnerships, increased networking among development organisations, greater exchange of information and expertise and more focussed and collaborative UN system participation in development co-operation. The UN Country Team will build on this process to consolidate its position as a trusted de-

velopment partner and will continue its support to inter and intra-sectoral co-ordination.

Partnership building for consensus, co-ordination, and synergy around national priorities will be pursued by the UNCT with the Government and with the development community. The UN Country Team will also follow up on these partnerships to secure additional resources in support of national needs and priorities.

■ Partnership with the Government

The UNCT believes that building a durable partnership with the government and enhancing national ownership of development programs are essential prerequisites for effective and sustainable development assistance. Thus, partnership arrangements with the Government shall ensure full ownership and leadership of UN System programmes and projects. Individual UN agencies are responding to Government priorities framed in the Ninth Plan; the respective country co-operation frameworks and programmes of individual UN agencies are endorsed by the Ministry of Finance/HMG. In addition, agencies of the UN system in Nepal are collaborating with the Ministry of Finance, the National Planning Commission, and relevant line ministries according to their mandates. This relationship will be strengthened and moved forward.

The UNDAF provides a joint framework of reference for the UNCT activities in the country and will help bring a more co-ordinated perspective to the relationship between the Government and the UN System as a whole. As mentioned earlier, the UN System will work towards reducing the burden on the Government by simplifying and harmonising monitoring and reporting mechanisms as well as project documents formats. Furthermore, regular review meetings with Government counterparts will address issues of mutual concern and help to maintain the orientation of the UN System in line with national priorities.

■ Partnership with multilateral institutions and bilateral donors

The UN system will continue to maintain mutually beneficial partnerships with multilateral institutions and bilateral donors based on convergence of interests and objectives. It will engage in policy dialogue with bilateral donors to find ways of ensuring that the objectives identified through the UNDAF receive necessary attention. Partnership arrangements will be developed in consultation with HMG that allow multiple donors and agencies to contribute to jointly identified objectives.

The UN system will continue to facilitate dialogue between the Government and the donor community on issues of common interest. UN system organisations will also encourage improved co-ordination among the development community through greater exchange of information and enhanced collaboration, and as chair of specific donor working groups. This support will be enhanced through the prominent roles of the UN system and the World Bank in co-convening the Nepal Donors Group.

As with the UNDAF, the programmes of multilateral agencies such as the World Bank and IFAD are giving high priority to poverty reduction and governance issues, therefore creating scope for close collaboration with the UN system. The UN system will collaborate with them to ensure cohesion of goals and complementarity among programmes and approaches.

In collaboration with the World Bank, the UN system will support the development by the Government of a national poverty reduction strategy. Using the UNDAF as a frame of reference to define its interventions, it will collaborate closely with the Government and all stakeholders in supporting the implementation of such a strategy. Specifically, the UN System will collaborate with the World Bank in the following areas:

- Decentralisation and local capacity building;
- Public health and population;
- Basic and primary education;
- Gender equality and equity;
- Outreach for social awareness.

In collaboration with IFAD, the UN system will work to strengthen its advocacy capacity vis-à-vis the Government in order to sustain integrated programmes in the Mid- and Far Western Hill and mountain regions of Nepal focussed on sustainable livelihoods, empowerment, and social justice.

■ Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)

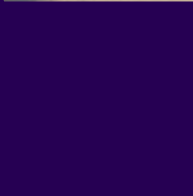
With HMG/N's concurrence, the UN system will continue to work with Civil Society Organisations as implementing partners in the areas where they have a specific comparative advantage. Through their programmes, UN system organisations will seek to engage with and strengthen the civil society involved in the development process. The UN system will also provide advice and support to the government in creating a high quality civic environment and will facilitate dialogue among the civil society, Government and donors. The UN system will also develop transparent criteria for selecting any NGO as implementing partner and will earmark such resources in consultation with the government.





CHAPTER V

Programme Resources Framework





he following table summarises the links between the objectives of assistance, indicators, co-operation strategies, partnerships and financial resources in an indicative framework.

Outcome indicators are meant to measure progress towards the achievement of the objectives of assistance and are composed of relevant CCA indicators, as well as qualitative indicators. Each indicator should be as far as possible calculated for each category of persons under the column “most deprived”. Process indicators are meant to monitor UN co-operation strategies.

It provides an estimated financial allocation by each participating UN organisation for each objective of assistance, based on prior resource allocation and projections provided by each organisation. These should not be considered as resource commitments, since such commitments can only be made in country programmes and project documents.

The programme resources framework also contains an estimate of the amount of resources each organisation expects to mobilise in support of each objective. This includes for instance, funds required to extend any collaborative initiatives identified within the UNDAF.

OBJECTIVES OF ASSISTANCE	INDICATORS	CO-OPERATION STRATEGIES	MOST DEPRIVED	RESOURCE ALLOCATION (INDICATIVE, FOR 5 YEARS) UN Amount US\$ (000)	RESOURCE MOBILISATION Amount US\$ (000) Partners
A: To increase access to adequate, safe and healthy food and housing, drinking water and sanitation, and to a clean environment and a sustainable natural resource base.	<p>Outcome indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased percentage of people having access to safe drinking water and sanitation by 2006. Decreased percentage of households consuming less than the required number of calories by 2006. Decreased percentage of underweight and stunted children by 2006. Decreased incidence of ID and Vitamin A deficiency by 2006. Increased accessibility of remote areas by 2006. National Food Security Policy designed. Food and housing quality management system in place and functioning. Percentage of persons/families without accepted standard of housing reduced by 2006. Policy on natural disaster prevention formulated and implemented. Discriminatory laws regarding land and property rights amended. Accreditation system compatible with WTO obligations established. Principles of sustainable development mainstreamed to all HMG policies and strategies. National Biodiversity Action Plan implemented. 	<p>Targeting the most deprived. This will be achieved through focused interventions in critical areas such as nutrition, food security, natural resources management, housing and rural infrastructure works. The UN system will also build the capacity of decentralised authorities to better target the most deprived through Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping and will expand and intensify initiatives aimed at improving their technical and managerial capacity in order to enhance accountability and transparency.</p> <p>Strengthening the capacity of HMGN to deal with disaster prevention and emergencies situations. The UN system will make use of its comparative advantage in dealing with natural and human made disasters and will provide support to prevention policies and activities as well as build the capacity of HMGN to deal with emergencies at central, district and village level.</p> <p>Addressing the obstacles in the wider policy, legislative and institutional environment, that inhibit communities and individuals from realising an adequate standard of living. The UN system will collaborate in providing policy advisory services on globalisation and sustainable human development and will assist the government to close the gap between provisions in national legislation and requirements of international commitments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas lacking transport network and irrigation facilities; Hill/Mount, Mid- and Far- West districts; Ultra poor households in the Terai; Bonded labourers (Kamalya, Hail, Harauw); Landless households; Small and marginal farms; Female-headed farm households; Victims of natural calamities like floods, drought, earthquakes and epidemics; Internally displaced population from social/ political strife; Children, elderly, Pregnant/ lactating women, disabled, low income households, especially among 'dalits'; Urban slum dwellers; Schools and cultural monuments vulnerable to earthquakes. 	<p>2,000</p> <p>FAO IFAD ILO UNCDF UNCHS UNEP UNESCO UNFPA UNHCR UNICEF UNIDO UNV WFP WHO</p>	<p>MoAC MoCWSW MoF MoFA MoFSC MoH MoHS MoIS MoLTM MoLRM MoLMD MoPPW MoPE MoWR DDCs VDCs Other donors NGOs INGOs CBOs Research institutions AEPF</p>

2 UNHCR financial assistance is *not* included as it is guided by country programmes drawn on an annual basis and varying according to the refugee situation in the country.

B. PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO THE FAMILY, WOMEN AND CHILDREN

OBJECTIVES OF ASSISTANCE	INDICATORS	CO-OPERATION STRATEGIES	MOST DEPRIVED	RESOURCE ALLOCATION (INDICATIVE FOR 5 YEARS)		RESOURCE MOBILISATION	
				UN	Amount US\$000	Amount US\$000	Partners
B1. To increase gender equality and equity by emphasising special protection, and assistance measures for women and children, including social protection for female workers, through follow-up to relevant global Conferences, Conventions and Declarations.	<p>Outcome indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased Gender-related Development Index and Gender Empowerment Measure by 2006.Increased percentage of women parliamentarians and women elected in local bodies.Ratification of Optional Protocol to CEDAW.National Plan of Action on CEDAW adopted and operational.Increase in budget allocations in the social sectors.Increase in number of women in decision-making and leadership positions.Community health service delivery mechanisms established.Improved access to judicial system by women. <p>Process indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sensitisation and capacity building of all branches of the State and civil society on global conferences and Conventions undertaken.Joint advocacy and lobbying for implementation and monitoring of BPPA, CEDAW, ICPCD, CRC and respective national plans.Programmes jointly addressing health and reproductive rights especially of vulnerable groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Facilitating the amendment of discriminatory laws that are in contravention with UN Conventions and Treaties and the formulation of gender re-distributive legislation and policies that address the specific rights and needs of the most vulnerable within the family: The UN system will jointly advocate the ratification of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW and the implementation of National Action Plans pertaining to the BPPA, CEDAW and Trafficking of women and children. Gender budget audits and gender impact assessments will be taken for formulating gender re-distributive policies and increased budget allocations for promoting equity concerns and affirmative actions.Using social mobilisation to promote rights-awareness and meaningful participation of women and children in local governance. Building on its experience in promoting participation and decentralised approaches as well as inter-agency collaboration on the ground, the UN system will use community-based channels and social mobilisation principles to ensure the realisation of reproductive rights and community owned health services delivery systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mid-and Far-Western Regions;Rural areas;Women;Adolescent girls;Girl child;Infants;Disabled children;Bhutanese refugees in camps.	OHCHR UNDP UNFPA UNHCR UNICEF UNIFEM UNV WFP WHO	2,000 1,000 1,800 105 35,000 ^{1,2}	MdH MCS McWSW MoHA MoF MoL MoL MoFA MoJPA NFC DDCs VDCs Parliament Judiciary CSOs Trade-Un ions Co-opera tives Private sector (FNCCI) Media Academic institutions	

¹ Level of assistance projected over a 5-year period based on year 2000 operation costs. As well as a durable solution to the refugee problem is expected to be found during 2001-2002, with subsequent phasing out of refugee assistance operations.

² WFP assistance for women and children is included under "Right to Health".

OBJECTIVES OF ASSISTANCE	INDICATORS	CO-OPERATION STRATEGIES	MOST DEPRIVED	RESOURCE ALLOCATION (INDICATIVE FOR 5 YEARS)		RESOURCE MOBILISATION	
				UN	Amount US\$ (000)	Amount US\$ (000)	Partners
B2. To reduce the incidence of all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation of women and children	<p>Outcome indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment of discriminatory laws and Acts against women. Reduction in incidence of trafficking in women and children. Increased number of trafficking apprehension in collaboration with Indian police. Networking and dialogue for addressing trafficking issues between Nepal and India. Database on Trafficking available. Adoption of SAARC Convention on Trafficking. Children's Act amended. Convention on refugees ratified. Special courts on trafficking established. National Rapporteur on Trafficking and Human Rights Abuse established. Establishment of Legal Defence Council. <p>Process indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint programme on trafficking operational. Consensus achieved on amending discriminatory laws and Acts against women following joint UN advocacy support. Life skills training and new economic opportunities provided to girl child and women especially in insurgency affected areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing programmes to eliminate the worst forms of violence, abuse and exploitation of women and children. The UN system will implement a joint programme on trafficking of women and children through a special UN Task-Force. The UN system will also advocate the ratification of the SAARC Convention on preventing and combating trafficking in women and children, including removing restrictions on women's mobility and their right to employment opportunities, and will jointly promote vital registration and the amendment of Children's Act to ensure that every child is recognised as a person and enjoys his/her full rights. The UN System will also work towards reducing the vulnerabilities of girls and women and mitigating their sufferings in insurgency affected areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children offered to Gods/Goddesses (devuti); Women and children being trafficked; Women and children victims of domestic violence. 	All UN agencies: UNHCR UNDP UNICEF	500 2,000 1,000	1,000 4,200	MoCWSW MoHA MoF MoLD MoHA MoLJA DDCs VDCs Parliament Judiciary SAARC Secretariat CSOs Media Academic institutions

OBJECTIVES OF ASSISTANCE	INDICATORS	CO-OPERATION STRATEGIES	MOST DEPRIVED	RESOURCE ALLOCATION (INDICATIVE FOR 3 YEARS)		RESOURCE MOBILISATION	
				UN	Amount US\$ (000)	Amount US\$ (000)	Partners
B3. To create social protection for workers and their families, poor widows, battered women and their children, elderly, disabled and chronically sick and persons living with HIV/AIDS	<p>Outcome indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Increased percentage of people having access to social safety net. ■ 25 percent of block grants allocated to most vulnerable. ■ Social security policy formulated. ■ Comprehensive and gender sensitive legislation on HIV/AIDS formulated. ■ Government committed to increase health spending on drugs/treatment related to STD/HIV/AIDS. <p>Process indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dis-aggregated population database on gender, class, and caste in place. ■ Gender assessment studies on social security and health policies undertaken. ■ Technical assistance provided for formulating policies and drafting laws on social security and HIV/AIDS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Supporting the formulation of a social security policy and laws targeting the poorest and most disadvantaged, such as children, senior citizens, widows, dalits, disabled and chronically sick (TB, HIV/AIDS, cancer). Building on its joint initiative to genderise the Census on Population and Housing, the UN System will continue to work together with HMGN and its partners to develop a standardised and gender dis-aggregated population database, supported by appropriate and adequate research, that will help the formulation of policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Poor women, children and widows; ■ Elderly people; ■ Chronically sick persons; ■ Disabled persons. 	ILO UNADS UNDP UNICEF WHO	1,000 1,000	2,000	McCWSW McF M&L McLD Public cor porations CBS NFC DDCs VDCs Trade-Un ions Co-opera tives Private sec tor (FNCCI)

C. HEALTH

OBJECTIVES OF ASSISTANCE	INDICATORS	CO-OPERATION STRATEGIES	MOST DEPRIVED	RESOURCE ALLOCATION (INDICATIVE FOR 5 YEARS)		RESOURCE MOBILISATION	
				UN	Amount US\$ (000)	Amount US\$ (000)	Partners
C To improve the responsiveness of the health system at all levels	<p>Outcome indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ IMR of 35 per 1000 live births by 2006;■ USMR of 65 per 1000 live births by 2006;■ NMR of 350 per 100,000 live births by 2006;■ 100% immunisation coverage of BCG, DTP-3, OPV3, measles and T.T;■ Access of drinking water and sanitation of rural and slum population increased;■ 80% of the population has access to nearest health institution within a travel time of half an hour by 2006;■ 80% of service delivery points providing quality health care, including reproductive health and family planning services in accordance with established protocols;■ 80% of labour migrants and family members have knowledge about STD/HIV/AIDS;■ Policy of decentralisation of health services formulated and mechanisms for greater accountability in place;■ Improved quality of health care, including reproductive health and family planning services by government, NGOs, and private sector;■ 80% of rural women and adolescent girls with knowledge of RH.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ <i>Strengthening health systems, disaggregated baseline information and policy advice to enhance decentralisation, participation and accountability in health management</i> <p>The UN system will draw on the expertise of several of its organisations in human resources management, community participation, decentralisation and public/private partnerships to support health systems research in these areas. The UN system will jointly ensure that disaggregated baseline information on the most vulnerable is available, especially for categories of right-holders where this information is scarce such as women, elderly, disabled people and slum-dwellers. The UN system will also collaborate in the redefinition of central level roles and responsibilities with regard to decentralisation of health systems and in strengthening of the financial management capacity at all levels. Strengthening inter- and intra-sectoral co-ordination. Building on the UN existing inter-agency collaboration, the UN system will continue to play a catalytic role to enhance intra-sectoral and inter-sectoral collaboration for the concerted development of the health sector in general and health services for the deprived people, in particular. This will be particularly helpful to develop a multi-sectoral response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The UN system will jointly support the formulation of adequate policy guidelines, strategies and mechanisms for functional co-ordination among public, private and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ HillMount, Mid-and Far-West districts;■ Ultra poor households in the Terai;■ Children under five, particularly female children of poor families;■ Adolescent girls (10-19) of poor families;■ Women of reproductive age from poor families;■ Pregnant mothers;■ Children from 6 to 36 months of age;■ Disabled people particularly from poor families;■ Poor elderly;■ Poor people suffering from common communicable and non-communicable diseases;■ People living in urban slum areas;■ Migrant workers;■ Sex workers;■ Intravenous drug users.	UNCDF UNHCR UNICEF UNFEM UNV WFP WHO	— ¹ 3,000 20,000 4,500 10,500 6,970	Moh MPE MES McOWSW McLD McF Other donors Private sector INGOs NGOs CBOs	

UNCDF assistance is included under "Civil and Political Rights". Priorities to be decided by local governments.

D. EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SCIENCE

OBJECTIVES OF ASSISTANCE	INDICATORS	CO-OPERATION STRATEGIES	MOST DEPRIVED	RESOURCE ALLOCATION (INDICATIVE FOR 3 YEARS)		RESOURCE MOBILISATION	
				UN	Amount US\$ (000)	Amount US\$ (000)	Partners
D1. To provide equal access to quality pre-primary, basic, secondary and higher education as well as vocational training.	<p>Process indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dis-aggregated baseline health information on the most vulnerable is available.Strategy to raise awareness about STDs/HIV/AIDS among mobile populations formulated and implemented.District STD/HIV/AIDS strategies are developedPopulation and HIV/AIDS mainstreamed into all UN-supported programmes.	NGO sectors as well as the integrated management of school health, water and sanitation programs so that health is not viewed or dealt with in isolation. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Focusing on gender concerns, population issues and HIV/AIDS. The UN system will provide support to gender sensitisation of health personnel, and will jointly support an expanded, integrated response to STD/HIV/AIDS and population-related issues through social mobilisation, participation, and integration into UN supported programmes.					
	<p>Outcome indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased net primary enrolment of both boys and girls by 2006;Reduced gap between girls' and boys' primary enrolment rates.Increased female literacy rate by 2006.The number of girls and adult children in primary schools increased in terms of primary enrolment and completion rates.Increase achievement levels on BPEP Class Three and Five Achievement exams.Percentage of female primary school teachers increased with at least one local female teacher in each primary school by 2006.Increased participation of girls and disadvantaged ethnic minorities in local institutions for vocational training, as well as institutions for	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Implementing innovative approaches and programmes for the most deprived populations with regard to education. Building on the synergies developed under various educational programmes supported by the UN, a joint programme on the education of the girl child will be designed and implemented. The UN will expand and replicate innovative approaches to develop responsive community-based institutions and incentives for the most deprived to have access to education.Capacity strengthening and partnerships in order to improve the quality of education. The UN system will make use of the specialisation of some of its agencies to complement the efforts of the MOE in enhancing the quality of teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mid-Far Western Development Regions;Rural populations in remote districts;Non-Nepalese speaking population;Dalits;Working children from poor families;Children with disabilities;Girls;Drop-out and out-of-school children;Primary school children in rural and food-insecure areas;Poor children of rural areas;Poor rural women.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ILOUNAIDSUNCFUNDPUNESCOUNEPUNFPAUNICEFUNVWFPWFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">—¹3,0001,0001,5004,50019,300—²	<ul style="list-style-type: none">MESMoLDMoHCERDCEDAGuthiSasthanDDCsVDCsREDSDonors, INGOs, CSOs, TUResearch institutionsPrivate educational institutionsFNCCI	

¹ UNCDF assistance is included under "Civil and Political Rights". Priorities to be decided by local governments.

² Proposed expansion of current School Feeding programme under US-funded Global School Feeding Initiative, pending WFP Headquarters approval.

OBJECTIVES OF ASSISTANCE	INDICATORS	CO-OPERATION STRATEGIES	MOST DEPRIVED	RESOURCE ALLOCATION (INDICATIVE FOR 5 YEARS)		RESOURCE MOBILISATION	
				UN	Amount US\$ (000)	Amount US\$ (000)	Partners
	<p>higher education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Learning environment in schools improved (libraries, toilet and materials).■ Increased completion rates for the primary school cycle. <p>Process indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Dis-aggregated information available and used as part of the EMS.■ Joint UN programme to promote the education of the girl child implemented.■ Those VDCs and ethnic groups with the lowest adult literacy rates are targeted for non-formal education efforts.■ Incentives for the most vulnerable groups, such as girls, dalits and non-Nepalese speaking groups for secondary and higher education in place.■ Increased co-operation between HMG, NGOs and private sector, including capacity building.■ Increased decentralisation of school management system.	<p>training, the use of supplementary materials in classrooms, the use of continuous assessment, and the development of child- friendly learning environments in schools (including infrastructure and provision of food). Building on its vast network of partners, the UN system will also jointly facilitate public/private partnerships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ <i>To improve decentralisation, accountability and management of the school system.</i> The UN system has a comparative advantage in decentralised management and will jointly support the government in strengthening the decentralisation capacity and accountability mechanisms at local level.					

OBJECTIVES OF ASSISTANCE	INDICATORS	CO-OPERATION STRATEGIES	MOST DEPRIVED	RESOURCE ALLOCATION (INDICATIVE FOR 5 YEARS)		RESOURCE MOBILISATION Partners
				UN	Amount US\$ (000)	
D2. To remove obstacles for full participation in cultural life and for equitable distribution of the benefits of science and technology, regardless of gender, caste, ethnicity or remoteness	<p>Outcome indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased percentage of population aware the Universal Human Rights Declaration. No cases of Dalits, and other lower caste groups, being prohibited from actively participating in religious and cultural life by 2006. Government communication systems available in every VDC. Increased dissemination of innovative technologies benefiting the poorest, women and girls. Increased number of objective media reports on the realisation of rights. Increased number of publications and journals in local languages. <p>Process indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint mass campaigns jointly launched to promote human rights, tolerance and recognition of diversity. School curricula and teacher training revised to integrate human rights, peace education and legal information. UNITeS operates in Nepal. Technology and labour saving devices related to household chores and food preparation available to women and girls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase awareness of human rights, protection of cultural heritage and use of appropriate technological innovations. The UN system will jointly undertake mass campaigns, involving media, local leaders, schools and civil society to promote human rights, tolerance and recognition of diversity. The UN system will support the dissemination of appropriate technologies identified within its programmes and projects and will strengthen the capacity of the government to apply information and communications technologies to sustainable human development through UNITeS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid-Far Western Development Regions; Rural populations in remote districts; Non-Nepalese speaking population; Dalits; Working children from poor families; Children with disabilities; Girls; Drop-out and out-of-school children; Poor children of rural areas; Poor rural women. 	ILO OHCHR UNAIDS UNDP UNESCO UNDO UNFEM UNV	2,000 1,000 215	M&ES MoST MoCTCA Donors, INGOs, CSOs Research Institutions Private educational institutions FNCCI Media

E. EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS

OBJECTIVES OF ASSISTANCE	INDICATORS	CO-OPERATION STRATEGIES	MOST DEPRIVED	RESOURCE ALLOCATION (INDICATIVE FOR 5 YEARS)		RESOURCE MOBILISATION	
				UN	Amount US\$(000)	Amount US\$(000)	Partners
E1. To increase opportunities to earn a living for the most deprived	<p>Outcome indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reduction of unemployment and underemployment rates by 2006.Comprehensive employment policies and programmes developed and implemented.Minimum wage is implemented in both formal and informal sectors and enforcement mechanism in place.Competitiveness of the most deprived improved through skill development as guided by national policies and joint UN programmes.Income increased for deprived communities through expansion of income generation programmes.Increase in ratio of women to men in employment through specific programmes targeted at deprived groups of women.Nepal has ratified and made the necessary provisions for implementing ILO Conventions, including the four remaining core conventions (C29, C87, C105 and C182).Relevant labour laws are amended, enacted and enforcement mechanism is in place. <p>Process indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Social dialogue in formal and informal sectors from community to national levels initiated and facilitated by the UN System.Comprehensive labour market information system developed with analysed data generated and activated.Situation of net labour migration assessed and analysed.Joint UN development and implementation of pilot training facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Replicating innovative programmes and approaches that generate sustainable employment opportunities for the most deprived. The UN system has a vast network of programmes and projects that promote income-generation activities and will share, expand and replicate success stories and approaches that carry a great potential for employment.Facilitating social dialogue to improve the macro-economic and employment policy framework in order to ensure broad-based growth. Building on its vast range of partners from the government as well as civil society and the private sector, the UN system will jointly facilitate a social dialogue on employment policy and will support collaborative and participatory approaches in policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of industrial, agro-industrial and service sector development strategies. The UN system will continue to join hands in filling the data gap in the area of employment and labour market supporting the establishment of a comprehensive labour market information system. The UN system will also assist local government bodies to develop employment strategies at district level focussing on the most	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bonded Labourers;Low and Occupational Castes;Refugees;Absolute Poor (About 20-25% of total population - who have < 3 months' food sufficiency);Landless;Agricultural Workers;Workers of Informal Sectors;Women.	FAO ILO UNCTAD UNDP UNHCR UNDO UNW WFP	500 2,500 8,000 — ¹	MoTM MoCS MoAC MoLRM MoLD MoLPA DDCs VDCs Trade Unions NGOs Donor agencies	

¹ WFP assistance included under Adequate standard of living.

OBJECTIVES OF ASSISTANCE	INDICATORS	CO-OPERATION STRATEGIES	MOST DEPRIVED	RESOURCE ALLOCATION (INDICATIVE FOR 3 YEARS)		RESOURCE MOBILISATION Partners
				UN	Amount US\$ (000)	Amount US\$ (000)
E2. Eliminate the worst forms of economic exploitation, such as hazardous, bonded and child labour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to develop policy on occupational safety and health. Joint UN programmes implemented to increase access to and control over resources for women in poor rural and urban areas. Assessment of the status of industrialisation and opportunities for private sector development carried out and disseminated publicly. Joint UN support for the HMG Nepal's ratification of four remaining core ILO conventions by 2001. Process initiated with extensive UN collaboration to amend and enact specific labour laws. 	<p>discriminated against, such as rural women and occupational castes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the amendment of existing laws that are obstacles to the right to earn a living in decent conditions and the enforcement of international labour standards. <p>The UN system will jointly promote the implementation and expansion to other sectors of the minimum wage and will join hands in supporting the government in developing a comprehensive policy on occupational safety and health.</p>				
	<p>Outcome indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased percentage of labour force in the formal sector by 2006. All bonded (<i>Kamaiya</i>) labourers rehabilitated. National are in place to address the situation of forced labour. All worst forms of child labour as identified in ILO Convention 182 eliminated by 2005. Relevant labour legislation developed/ amended with the view of securing the rights of the most vulnerable groups at work. Effective enforcement mechanisms of relevant labour laws in place. Improved working conditions and environment, including reduced number of industrial accidents, in mining, chemical industries, tanneries, and other hazardous occupations. National programmes in place for the prevention and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking for exploitative employment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building in law/policy formulation. The UN system will jointly facilitate the ratification by Nepal of relevant ILO conventions will provide support to formulate adequate laws and policies. Joint programmes targeted on the worst forms of economic exploitation. Joint programmes to rehabilitate freed bonded labourers and child labourers will be launched that will be tied in with existing poverty alleviation programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bonded labourers; Children from lower castes; Drop-out children; Workers in hazardous industries and services (e.g. mining, chemical industries, tanneries, health institutions etc.). 	ILO UNESCO UNICEF UNIDO UNDP	6,000 500 1,500 1,000	3,500 MoTM MoCS MoAC MoLRM MoLD MoLIPA Labour Courts DDCs VDCs Trade Unions NGOs Donor agencies

F. DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

OBJECTIVES OF ASSISTANCE	INDICATORS	CO-OPERATION STRATEGIES	MOST DEPRIVED	RESOURCE ALLOCATION (INDICATIVE FOR 5 YEARS)		RESOURCE MOBILISATION	
				UN	Amount US\$ (000)	Amount US\$ (000)	Partners
F1. To enable public and civil society institutions, such as Parliament, Executive, Local Government, Judiciary, Human Rights Commission, civil society organisations, employers' organisations, trade-unions and the media to function in a democratic, accountable and transparent manner.	<p>Process indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint UN rehabilitation programmes for bonded labourers implemented. Situation of forced labourers assessed. Time Bound Programmes on the elimination of the worst forms of child labour implemented. System established for reporting on industrial accidents Monitoring mechanisms of working condition in hazardous occupation places. Joint UN support to develop policy on occupational safety and health Joint UN pilot programme developed and implemented. 						
	<p>Outcome indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free and fair elections held (reduced number of cases of electoral malpractice) Increase in Local Government's (DDC, VDC and municipalities) share of National Budget. Capacity of District Development Committees strengthened. National Human Rights Commission is well resourced and effectively protecting and promoting human rights. Increased proportion of women and dalits elected and taking active roles. Increased number of districts with functioning federations of Community-Based Organisations. <p>Process indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weaknesses of electoral processes and required support identified through co-operations between Electoral Commission and UN system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening the capacity of civil and political institutions in order to ensure a vibrant and democratic civil society. Upon request from HMG/N, the UN system will continue to support the monitoring of elections both national and local. Building on its neutrality and trusted relationship with the government, the UN system will facilitate exposure to various parliamentary systems, will work jointly in building the capacity and of networking of local governance institutions and CSOs and will promote democracy, participation, transparency and accountability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women; Bonded labourers; Dalits; Remote population; Linguistic minorities. 	OHCHR UNCDF UNDP UNFPA UNICEF	5,000 20,000 500 1,306	10,000 1,694	MoJPA NFC MoF MoLD MoWCSW SWC MIC NTV Radio Nepal ADCCN NAVIN MAN Donors NGOs FM stations Election Commission

OBJECTIVES OF ASSISTANCE	INDICATORS	CO-OPERATION STRATEGIES	MOST DEPRIVED	RESOURCE ALLOCATION (INDICATIVE FOR 3 YEARS)		RESOURCE MOBILISATION	
				UN	Amount US\$(000)	Amount US\$(000)	Partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN System support for HMGN's formulation of a strategy for implementation of the Local Self-Governance Act provided. Dialogue between HMG and UN system in reservation of seats for <i>dalits</i> in local government and parliament as well as capacity building for elected <i>dalits</i> and women. MOU with HMG for UN system assistance to support the registration of CBO federations at district level. 						
F2. To sensitise the judicial system, arbitration systems and enforcement authorities to the rights of poor people, workers, women, children and minorities	<p>Outcome indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of backlogged cases reduced. Proportion of cases without legal representation reduced. Number of districts with family courts/benches increased. <p>Process indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of judicial system and dispute resolution mechanisms completed and UN programme activities implemented aimed at strengthening the judicial system. UN programme defined and initiated with MoLJPA to increase poor and disadvantaged people's access to legal representation Programme formulation initiated towards establishment of functional dispute resolution bodies and processes in selected districts that are responsive to the special needs of women and children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening the Judiciary arbitration systems and enforcement authorities to ensure the rule of law and protection of human rights. The UN system will continue to co-operate in strengthening the capacity of the judicial system and enforcement authorities to be more sensitive of the rights of poor people, women, children and minorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women Children Dalits Ethnic groups Poor people Workers 	UNV OHCHR UNDP UNICEF UNFPA UNIFEM	3,000 2,000	4,000	MoLJPA MoHA MWCSW Nepal Police MoLD MoFA NGOs

OBJECTIVES OF ASSISTANCE	INDICATORS	CO-OPERATION STRATEGIES	MOST DEPRIVED	RESOURCE ALLOCATION (INDICATIVE FOR 3 YEARS)		RESOURCE MOBILISATION	
				UN	Amount US\$000	Amount US\$000	Partners
F3. To have in place laws and administrative procedures that are consistent with the civil and political rights guaranteed in the Constitution and the ICCPR and the development of affirmative action policies and programmes for women, dalits and ethnic groups	<p>Outcome Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced number of laws at variance with the Constitution and the ICCPR. Existence of mechanisms for monitoring State compliance with laws. Increased number of affirmative action policies, laws and programmes. <p>Process Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inventory of law and administrative practice at variance with the provisions of the Constitution and international covenants carried out with UN support. Co-ordinated UN support for realisation of CEDAW and CRC in the preparation of the selected district periodic plans and the Tenth Five Year Plan. Capacity-building activities for the NHRC provided by the UN system. NHG affirmative action strategies initiated and supported by UN system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the development of affirmative action policies and close the gap between national legislation and international standards. Joint UN efforts will be geared towards advocating the reduction of the gap between current national legislation and the standards set in the Constitution and the international human rights instruments to which Nepal is a State-Party. It will build the capacity of HMG/N to monitor, report on and implement the provisions of human rights instruments. In addition, the UN will also jointly promote the development of comprehensive policies and programmes of action in respect of dalits and ethnic groups that focus on alleviating customary factors at community level and eliminating barriers to full and wider participation in community and public life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women, children Dalits Ethnic groups 	LO OHCHR UNDP UNICEF	1,000	2,000	Law Reform Commission MoLJA MoWCSW MoHA NFC MoLD NHRC NGOs Bar Assoc.





A N N E E S



A. UNDAF MILESTONES

November 1999	Annual Retreat of UN Heads of Agencies including sessions on the Rights-Based Approach and on the UNDAF
February 2, 2000	First meeting of the UNDAF Task-Force to discuss the UNDAF process
March 13, 2000	Orientation Workshop on the Rights-Based Approach for UNDAF Task-Force members, chairs of UN Inter-Agency Thematic Groups (IATGs) and representatives of NPC and MoF
March 15, 2000	UN Workshop "Towards a Rights-Based UNDAF" for UN Heads of Agencies, Chairs of UN IATGs and UNDAF Task-Force members in order to finalise the preparation of the UNDAF Position Paper that deepens the Common Country Assessment (CCA) from a rights-based perspective
April 7, 2000	HMG-UN Consultative Meeting on the UNDAF to discuss the UNDAF Position Paper
April 10, 2000	Second meeting of the UNDAF Task-Force to restructure the existing IATGs into UNDAF Working Groups that include representatives from the Line Ministries
May 2000	Preparation of UNDAF thematic papers by UNDAF Working Groups
June 5, 2000	First draft of the UNDAF ready and sent out to UNDAF Task-force and Agency Heads
June 8, 2000	Third UNDAF Task-Force meeting co-chaired by MoF and including NPC officials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Review of the first draft and prioritisation exercise ■ Discussion on the consultation process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritisation of issues to be discussed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - national/DDC level - VDC/community level
June 8, 2000	UNCT meeting to review the first draft and discuss the consultation process
June-July, 2000	Decentralised consultations with focus groups carried out by UNDP and UNICEF
June 21, 2000	National consultation in Kathmandu including representatives from HMG (NPC, line ministries), NGOs, donors and private sector
August 8, 2000	UNCT Review of the second draft
August 14, 2000	Fourth meeting of the UNDAF Task-Force to discuss the second draft
October, 2000	Fifth meeting of the UNDAF Task-Force to discuss the revised draft
December, 2000	Draft sent to MoF and UN agencies' Headquarters for comments
January, 2001	A joint UNCT-HMG/N presentation on the CCA/UNDAF process made at the Joint Session of the Executive Boards of UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and WFP in New York
February, 2001	UNDAF Implementation Task-Force created by UNCT to identify mechanisms to operationalise the UNDAF in all UN agencies
February 22, 2001	Presentation of draft UNDAF to NPC and MoF by UN Resident Co-ordinator and UNDAF Task-Force Chair. New Joint Task-Force composed of MoF, NPC, MoLJPA, UNDP, and UNICEF created to take another look and suggest modifications
March-September, 2001	UNDAF Implementation Task-Force reviews draft country programmes to ensure they are fully in line with the UNDAF

April, 2001	Comments and Suggestions from HMG/N and UN agencies Headquarters reviewed by the Joint Task-Force and incorporated in the revised draft
July, 2001	Approval sought from MoF and NPC for the revised draft
November, 2001	Final comments and suggestions from MoF and NPC incorporated in the draft
December 18, 2001	Final Draft of UNDAF sent to MoF for official clearance
February 18, 2002	HMG/N gives formal endorsement of the document

B. UNDAF CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

The UNDAF process started in November 1999 immediately after the completion of the CCA. During the annual Heads of Agency Retreat, the UNDAF process was drawn out and the Team decided to deepen the CCA analysis from the right based perspective. This led to the preparation of an UNDAF Position paper "Towards a rights-based UNDAF," which was presented and discussed with representatives of the National Planning Commission and the different line ministries. Consequently, the existing UN Inter-Agency Thematic Groups were restructured and expanded to include government representatives and were tasked with the preparation of thematic papers according to six clusters of rights (see list of UNDAF Working Groups in Annex C).

During a one day National Consultation held in Kathmandu and co-chaired by the Vice-Chairman of the National Planning Commission, more than 150 participants from the government, civil society and donor community reviewed the first draft of the UNDAF. They commented on the objectives of assistance, co-operation strategies, indicators and partnerships in working groups structured around the clusters of rights. Several leading personalities from the government and civil society acted as chairpersons, lead discussants and Rapporteur of the working groups (see enclosed list of participants). The contributions of the groups were presented and discussed in a plenary session and further incorporated in the draft.

Simultaneously, a series of decentralised consultations were organised by UNDP and UNICEF using their extensive network of projects and programmes all over Nepal. This served the double purpose of validating the objectives and co-operation strategies, as well as involving UN field staff and communities in the UNDAF process. Using a standard list of open questions pertaining to development

in general and to the different rights in particular, 22 focus group discussions with a total of 214 persons (51 men, 84 women, 31 boys and 36 girls) were conducted in 12 districts spread all over Nepal. Care was taken to seek the opinion of the most deprived communities, as identified during the UNDAF exercise:

- Poor women and adolescent girls;
- Marginal farmers and female headed households;
- Landless labourers;
- Bonded labourers;
- *Dalits* and tribals;
- Working children;
- Women and girls;
- Victims of trafficking;
- Slum-dwellers.

Separate interviews were also held in six districts with VDC and DDC members to discuss decentralisation issues.

Overall, most of the people expected as a matter of priority from the development process a better education for their children, more work opportunities and better infrastructure. The wish to acquire new skills came up repeatedly in the discussion. Interrogated on the major obstacles to development, they mainly quoted poverty, lack of education, lack of land and caste barriers. Most of them did not consider themselves able to provide adequate food, housing and drinking water to their family and expected the government to satisfy their needs of basic infrastructure. None of the elderly women and widows interviewed were getting financial assistance from the government, neither were they aware of any kind of social security provisions. Quite a sizeable amount of women reported cases of violence within the family and most of them did not benefit from any kind of special care during their pregnancy. The absolute lack of responsiveness and accountability of the health and school systems was vehemently condemned and in some instances people expressed their

willingness to be more involved in health and school management. DDC and VDC members often quoted the lack of adequate and dis-aggregated information, training and weak co-ordination as major obstacles to carry out their work. The results of the decentralised consultations are reflected in the report with the most significant quotations.

An inclusive process of consultation, analysis and review was carried out with all UN agencies present in the country as well as their re-

gional offices and headquarters. Other agencies that do not have offices here and which are actively involved in Nepal's development process were also consulted and their suggestions and feedback were incorporated in the final draft.

UNDAF drafts were extensively discussed with the National Planning Commission, representatives of Ministry of Finance and other line ministries. Their valuable inputs and suggestions were fully reflected in the final document.

C. COMPOSITION OF THE UNDAF WORKING GROUPS

UNDAF WORKING GROUPS	CHAIR		MEMBERS
Right to adequate standard of living including food, housing and clothing	FAO Mr. W. Rudder	ILO ILO FAO FAO UNDP WFP UNIDO UNFPA UNHCR WHO UNICEF MoAC MoLD MoPPC MoICS	H. S. S. Fonseka G. Rajbhandari L. K. Gautam (P) S. Mader (G) B. Dhamala D. Coutts, S. Laughton A. Upadhyaya C. Poudel R-F. Weil (HR) J. A. Speets H. Spruijt M. K. Karkee, Agricultural Economist G. D. Awasthi, Jt. Secretary U. B. Malla, Jt. Secretary R. K. Shrestha, Jt. Secretary
Right to protection and assistance to the family, women and children together with Right to social security	UNDP Ms. B. Silawal-Giri,	UNICEF FAO WHO WFP UNAIDS UNFPA UNIFEM NPC MoWCSW MoH MoPE FWLD LACC	P. O. Blomquist, C. Bakker L. Gautam (P) S. Upadhyaya P. Ghimire (G), S. Tedeschi M. Hahn S. Pant (HR) S. Thapa (G), A. Thapa P. Mathema I. Bhattarai, Under Secretary Dr. B. D. Chataut, Jt. Secretary U. Adhikary, Under Secretary S. P. Malla, Co-ordinator S. Thapalia, President
Right to highest attainable health	WHO Dr. P. Sudharto	UNHCR UNFPA UNICEF ILO UNDP WHO WFP WB MoH MoPE MoPPC	Dr. S. Pahari Dr. J. Hammeijer S. McNab, Dr. Q. Al-Nahi D. P. Bhattarai T. Karpatschof (G), P. Pannula (HR) A. Bhattarai Dr. M. Mattousch E. Heines, S. Laughton (P) Dr. T. Rana D. B. Shrestha, Jt. Secretary; Dr. C. Amatya U. Adhikary, Under Secretary D. B. Shrestha
Right to Education together with Right to Culture	UNICEF Mr. C. Meyers	UNESCO UNICEF WFP WB ILO UNDP MoES MoES MoCTCA MoST	Y. Kitamura, B. Hoelck R. Bridle (HR), S. Houminer (G) D. Shakya, P. Ghimire B. Panth U. R. Poudyal A. Bhattarai C. Singh Basnyat, Jt. Secretary C. B. Khadka, Dir. General S. Amatya, Jt. Secretary N. H. Rajbhandari

UNDAF WORKING GROUPS	CHAIR	MEMBERS
Right to Decent Work	ILO Mr. H. S. S. Fonseka UNDP WFP FAO UNIDO UNFPA WFP WHO UNICEF ILO MoAC MoICS MoLRM MoWCSW DECONT GEFONT NTUC FNCCI	<i>S. Menon (P)</i> , K. Mikkola <i>G. P. Bordignon</i> <i>P. M. Shrestha</i> <i>A. Upadhyaya</i> <i>C. Poudel</i> <i>H. K. Shrestha</i> <i>J. A. Speets</i> <i>H. Spruijt</i> <i>G. Rajbhandari</i> , N. Neupane(G) <i>Y. Amatya (HR)</i> <i>M. Prakash</i> , Under Secretary <i>G. Tiwari</i> , Under Secretary <i>P. P. Oli</i> , Jt. Secretary <i>S. K. Shrestha</i> , Section Officer <i>R. B. Raut</i> , President <i>B. Rimal</i> , Sec. Gen. <i>R. Kunwar</i> , Secretary <i>M. N. Neupane</i> , Dy. Sec. Gen.
Civil and political rights	UNICEF Mr. R. Bridle ILO UNCDF UNDP UNFPA UNHCR	<i>Y. Amatya</i> <i>H. Larsen</i> <i>P. Pannula</i> , B. Silawal-Giri (G) <i>A. D. Adhikary</i> <i>S. Panth</i> <i>R-F. Weil</i>

Note:

The names mentioned in *italics* are the members of the UNDAF Task-Force

(G): Gender focal point – (HR): Human Rights focal point – (P): Poverty focal point

UNDAF IMPLEMENTATION TASK-FORCE (2001):

Chair: Mr. Stewart McNab, Representative, UNICEF

Asst. Chair: Ms. Sonia Lokku, UNCT Support Unit

Mr. Winston Rudder, Representative, FAO

Mr. Gagan Lal Rajbhandari, Programme Officer, ILO

Dr. Michael Hahn, Country Programme Adviser, UNAIDS

Ms. Alessandra Tisot, Deputy Resident Representative (Programmes), UNDP

Mr. Himachuli Gurung, Programme Officer, UNESCO

Mr. Hernando Agudelo, Deputy Representative, UNFPA

Mr. Bhanu Niraula, Assistant Representative, UNFPA

Mr. Roland-Francois Weil, Protection Officer, UNHCR

Mr. Richard Bridle, Senior Programme Officer, UNICEF

Mr. G. P. Bordignon, Deputy Country Director, WFP

Ms. Sarah Laughton, Programme Manager, WFP

Dr. Ananda Mohan Das, Public Health Officer, WHO

Dr. Paramita Sudharto, Public Health Administrator, WHO

D. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS TO THE NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE UNDAF

Group A: Right to adequate standard of living

Chairperson:

Mr. Hari Shankar Tripathy, Honourable Member, NPC

Lead discussant:

Dr. Ram P. Yadav, Programme Director, Winrock International

Rapporteur:

Mr. M. K. Karkee, Agricultural Economist, Ministry of Agriculture & Co-operatives

Other Participants:

1. Mr. Adhikari, Sharad, National Officer, WHO
2. Mr. Bhandari, A., Forest Officer, Ministry of Forest & Soil Conservation
3. Mr. Bickersteth, Sam, Rural Livelihoods Adviser, DFID
4. Mr. Bordinon, Gianpietro, Deputy Country Director, WFP
5. Mr. DeMilner, Lawrence, Representative, IMF
6. Mr. Dhakal, Ramji, Co-ordinator, PHCR GTZ
7. Mr. Dhamala, Bheshe, ARR, Environment and Natural Resources Unit, UNDP
8. Mr. Gautam, L. K., Programme Officer, FAO
9. Mr. Gupta, Amit Das, Director, SAARC Secretariat
10. Mr. Haldorsen, Jorgen, Assistant Programme Officer, UNICEF
11. Mr. Hasegawa, Ken, Representative, JICA
12. Ms. Laughton, Sarah, Programme Manager, WFP
13. Ms. Mader, Sarah, Gender Focal Point/Programme Officer, FAO
14. Mr. Malla, Umesh Bahadur, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Physical Planning & Works
15. Mr. Manandhar, Poorna Prasad, Director General, Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology
16. Mr. Mishra, Ram Chandra, Agricultural Specialist, World Bank
17. Mr. Muller, Gerold, Resident Consultant, European Union
18. Mr. Rajbhandari, Madhu, Program Manager, Embassy of Japan
19. Mr. Rudder, Winston, Representative, FAO
20. Dr. Sharma, Suman, Research Associate, IIDS
21. Mr. Shrestha, Pushpa Raj, Deputy Director, Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology
22. Mr. Shrestha, R. K., Joint Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce & Supplies
23. Mr. Upadhyay, Kiran, Rural Sociologist, Department of Sociology, Tribhuvan University
24. Mr. Weil, Roland-Francois, Protection Officer, UNHCR

Group B: Right to protection and assistance of families, women and children - right to social security

Chairperson:

Ms. Ishwari Bhattarai, Under Secretary, Ministry of Children and Social Welfare

Lead discussant:

Ms. Sapana Pradhan Malla, Co-ordinator, FWLD

Rapporteur:

Ms. Indira Sharma, P. K. Campus, Tribhuvan University

Other Participants:

1. Ms. Bakker, Caroline, Project Officer, UNICEF
2. Mr. Blomquist, Per O., Chief of Nutrition, UNICEF
3. Ms. Krantz, Miriam E., UNICEF/ROSA
4. Ms. Mathema, Padma, Under Secretary, National Planning Commission
5. Ms. Pandey, Sharada, Chief, Nutrition/CHD, Department of Health Services
6. Ms. Pant, Sudha, Programme Officer, UNFPA
7. Mr. Poudyal, Hem Raj, Plan International
8. Ms. Poudyal, Mandira, Under Secretary, National Planning Commission
9. Ms. Pradhan, Anjali S., Project Officer, UNICEF
10. Ms. Shah, Pramoda, SAATHI
11. Ms. Sharma, Jaya, Co-ordinator, CIDA
12. Ms. Tedeschi, Sandra C., WFP
13. Ms. Thapa, Parvati, DSP, Women's Cell, Nepal Police Headquarters
14. Ms. Thapa, Sangeeta, Programme Officer/Officer-in-Charge, UNIFEM
15. Ms. Tuano, Theresa, USAID
16. Dr. Upadhyaya, Shailesh K., National Officer, WHO
17. Mr. Woodall, John, ILO

Group C: Right to Health

Chairperson:

Dr. Klaus Wagner, Representative, WHO

Lead discussant:

Dr. Shyam P. Bhattarai, Director, HIMDD, Ministry of Health

Rapporteur:

Dr. Gautam Man Shakya, Consultant, Research Group for Health Economics & Development

Other Participants:

1. Mr. Adhikari, Upendra, Under Secretary, Ministry of Population and Environment
2. Ms. Bhattarai, Anjani, Social Development Officer, Gender and Social Development Unit, UNDP
3. Mr. Bhattarai, Dilli, National Project Co-ordinator, ILO
4. Dr. Das, Uma Devi, President, Nepal Nursing Council
5. Dr. Hahn, Michael, Country Programme Advisor, UNAIDS
6. Ms. Heines, Edith, Programme Officer, WFP
7. Dr. Jayawickramaraja, P. T., Medical Educationist, WHO
8. Mr. Karki, Yad Bahadur, Senior Liaison Officer, INF
9. Ms. Karpatschof, Tania, Gender Equity Officer, Gender and Social Development Unit, UNDP
10. Ms. K. C., Vijaya, Special Secretary, Ministry of Health
11. Mr. Lama, D. B., Assistant Representative, UNFPA
12. Ms. Manandhar, Panchakumari, Adviser, USAID
13. Mr. McNab, Stewart, Representative, UNICEF
14. Dr. O'Dwyer, Mike, Health Advisor, DFID
15. Dr. Pahari, Savitri, Health Co-ordinator, UNHCR
16. Dr. Rana, Tirtha, Health Sector Specialist, World Bank
17. Mr. Singh, Arjun, Planning Division, Ministry of Health

18. Mr. Steinmann, John Peter, Programme Manager, PHCP/GTZ
19. Dr. Tiwari, R. K., Joint Secretary, National Planning Commission
20. Dr. Weakliam, David, Medical Director, UMN

Group D: Right to work

Chairperson:

Mr. C. R. Pant, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Transport Management

Lead discussant:

Dr. Shiva Sharma, Secretary General, Nepal Labour Academy

Rapporteur:

Mr. D. Chapagain, Executive Director, BISCONS

Other Participants:

1. Prof. Bajracharya, Pushkar, Professor, Tribhuvan University
2. Dr. Bista, Nirmal K., Executive Director, Industrial Enterprises Development Institute
3. Dr. Chapagain, Devendra, Consultant, SEEPOR
4. Mr. Dahal, Khila Nath, General Secretary, DECONT
5. Mr. Gupta, Amit Das, Director, SAARC Secretariat
6. Mr. Gurung, Eak B., Senior Programme Officer, SDC
7. Mr. Highton, Nick, Economist, DFID
8. Mr. Jackson, Chris, Economist, DFID
9. Ms. Menon, Saraswathi, Deputy Resident Representative (Programmes), UNDP
10. Ms. Mikkola, Kristiina, Programme Officer, Environment and Natural Resources Unit, UNDP
11. Mr. Neupane, Megh Nath, Employers' Council, FNCCI
12. Ms. Neupane, Nita, National Project Co-ordinator, ILO
13. Mr. Niroula, Ganesh, Treasurer, Nepal Trade Union Congress
14. Mr. Poudel, Keshav Prasad, Director General, Department of Cottage and Small Industries
15. Mr. Poudyal, Uddhav R., Programme Co-ordinator, ILO
16. Mr. Rajbhandari, Gagan Lal, Programme Officer, ILO
17. Mr. Rimal, Bishnu, General Secretary, GEFONT
18. Mr. Shrestha, Heera Kaji, Senior Programme Officer, WFP
19. Mr. Shrestha, Pratap Man, Programme Officer, FAO
20. Ms. Tegmo-Reddy, Leyla, Director, ILO
21. Mr. Upadhyaya, Arjun, National Director, UNIDO

Group E: Right to education, culture and science

Chairperson:

Mr. Chuman Singh Basnyat, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education

Lead discussant:

Dr. Hridaya Raj Bajracharya, Director, CERID, Tribhuvan University

Rapporteur:

Ms. Usha Pokharel, Consultant, Department of Education, Ministry of Education

Other Participants:

1. Dr. Amatya, Saphalya, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation
2. Mr. Aryal, Baikuntha, Under Secretary, NPC
3. Mr. Bista, Hikmat, Chief Advisor, DANIDA
4. Ms. Gurung, Himalchuli, Programme Officer, UNESCO
5. Mr. Hoekx, Bart, Programme Officer, UNESCO
6. Ms. Jerson, Vibeka, Advisor, BPEP/DANIDA
7. Mr. Leslie, Keith, Director, Save the Children Fund, USA
8. Mr. Meyers, Clifford, Chief of Education, UNICEF
9. Mr. Poudel, Madhuban, Director, SAARC Secretariat
10. Mr. Pradhan, R. M., Advisor, UNESCO
11. Mr. Shakya, Deepak, National Programme Officer, WFP
12. Mr. Shrestha, Chij Kumar, Vice President, World Education

Group F: Civil and Political Rights

Chairperson:

Mr. Kapil Shrestha, Honourable Member, National Human Rights Commission

Lead discussant:

Mr Anil Pant, Director, Amnesty International, Nepal Chapter

Rapporteur: Dr. Shyam Bhurtel,

Executive Secretary General, Association of District Development Committees of Nepal

Other Participants:

1. Mr. Adhikari, P., Joint Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies
2. Mr. Amatya, Yadav, National Programme Co-ordinator, ILO/IPEC
3. Mr. Bridle, Richard, Senior Programme Officer, UNICEF
4. Dr. Das, Gauri Shankar Lal, Honourable Member, National Human Rights Commission
5. Mr. Karcher, Henning, UN Resident Co-ordinator & Resident Representative, UNDP
6. Mr. Karki, Badri Bahadur, Honourable Attorney General, Attorney General's Office
7. Mr. Kayastha, Shambhu Sharan Prasad, Executive Director, Nepal Administrative Staff College
8. Mr. Larsen, Henrik, Programme Officer, UNCDF
9. Ms. Pannula, Pia, Human Rights Officer, UNDP
10. Mr. Pariyar, Dilip, Dalit NGO Federation
11. Mr. Paudel, Kedar, Under Secretary, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs
12. Ms. Petrelin, Alfild, Regional Advisor, Child Rights, UNICEF/ROSA
13. Mr. Pyakurel, Subodh, General Secretary, INSEC
14. Ms. Rana, Indira, Hon'ble Member, National Human Rights Commission
15. Ms. Rufelds, Carla Hogan, First Secretary, Development, CCO
16. Mr. Sayenju, Ashok, Consultant
17. Ms. Winter, Frances, Social Development Advisor, DFID

E. LESSONS LEARNT FROM UN SYSTEM CO-OPERATION IN THE PREVIOUS PROGRAMME CYCLE (1997-2002)

WHAT WENT WELL	WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN DONE DIFFERENTLY
<p>CCA/ UNDAF process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The CCA exercise was initiated in 1998 and had the impact of strengthening the cohesiveness and team spirit of the UN system. UNICEF decided in Nepal to replace their situational analysis by the CCA, which is a major breakthrough for the UN system as a whole. Similarly, UNFPA is not carrying out its Country Population Assessment. ■ The CCA process gave renewed impetus to the Inter-Agency Thematic Groups, which played a key role in the drafting process. It reinforced the UN team spirit within UN programme staff and enabled them to identify areas for further co-operation; ■ The adoption of a common approach to development programming, the human rights-based approach, helped the UN system to find common grounds, mandate and methodology; ■ The decentralised consultations on the UNDAF with focus groups, which were carried out by UN project staff contributed to develop a sense of ownership of the UNDAF process at that level as well. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The transition between the CCA and the UNDAF could have been facilitated if the CCA exercise had adopted a rights-based analysis right from the beginning; ■ Given the tight schedule for formulating the UNDAF and the lack of familiarity with the rights-based approach, more time should have been devoted to building the capacity of government partners, thereby influencing their planning methods; ■ The CCA/UNDAF process added a considerable workload on UN staff, and the timeframe could have been expanded.
<p>Collaborative programmes and joint advocacy initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Annual Heads of Agency Retreats and the increased frequency of Heads of Agency meetings (from once every two months to twice a month) enabled a swift implementation of the Annual RC Work Plan and a focus on substantive issues; ■ Several examples of collaborative activities under the previous programming cycle demonstrated the enhanced impact of UN system assistance when each agency' comparative advantage is made use of, especially on issues that require a multi-disciplinary approach: decentralised planning (UNDP, UNICEF and WFP), trafficking of women and children (joint programme designed and implemented by a joint UN Task-Force composed of UNIFEM, UNICEF, OHCHR, ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, and WHO), and child labour (ILO, UNICEF); ■ The Inter-Agency Thematic Groups were instrumental in fostering joint advocacy initiatives, and following up on the global conferences, especially the Gender Theme Group, which co-ordinated the joint UN effort to facilitate the process of preparation of a National Action Plan on CEDAW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The implementation of joint programmes would have been greatly facilitated by the simplification and harmonisation of UN procedures at Headquarters: common format for project document, joint monitoring and evaluation systems etc.; ■ The government and the UN system as a whole would have greatly benefited from a common dis-aggregated monitoring and information database and poverty mapping in order to design targeted interventions. This would also have reinforced UN collaboration on the ground in selected geographical areas.
<p>UN House:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The UN House was officially inaugurated in 1998 and accommodates most of the agencies represented in Nepal, which considerably facilitates meetings and informal interactions among the staff; ■ Pooling of operational services increases economies of scale (joint staff training, combined staff pick-up, joint consultant roster etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The UN Virtual House should be fully developed to give access to all UN staff to common databases, information, documents, and develop a UN knowledge network.

F. STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION IN THE COUNTRY

i. Summary table of total development assistance in 2000 (latest year available)¹

SOURCE OF AID ²	US DOLLARS (MILLIONS)	PERCENTAGE
Multilateral		
Breakdown:		
UN System (excluding the IFIs)		
Grants	47.1	10.4
Loans	1.9	0.4
World Bank		
Grants	-	-
Loans	36.6	8.1
ADB		
Grants	0.1	0.0
Loans	91.8	20.2
Non-United Nations System		
Grants	9.0	2.0
Loans	3.9	0.9
Bilateral		
Grants	200.6	44.2
Loans	39.1	8.6
Sub-total ODA	430.1	94.8
Grants	256.8	56.6
Loans	173.3	38.2
INGOs (grant)	23.5	5.2
Total Development Assistance	453.6	100
Grants	280.3	61.8
Loans	173.3	38.2

ii. Official Development Assistance (ODA) by type in 2000 (latest year available)

SOURCE OF AID ²	US DOLLARS (MILLIONS)	PERCENTAGE
Investment Project Assistance	203.3	44.9
Free-Standing Technical co-operation	130.6	28.8
Programme/budgetary aid or Balance-of-payments support	49.8	11.0
Investment-related Technical Co-operation	52.8	11.7
Emergency and relief assistance	9.7	2.2
Food aid ³	6.9	1.5
Total	453.2	100.0

¹ Based on figures provided in UNDP's Development Co-operation Report.

² Disbursements only

³ For development purposes only.

iii. United Nations System Official Development Assistance in 2000 (latest year available)

FUNDS, PROGRAMMES AND AGENCIES	US DOLLARS (MILLION)
WB	36.6
WFP	11.4
UNICEF	10.8
UNDP	9.2
WHO	4.8
UNHCR	4.0
UNCDF	2.8
UNFPA	2.4
IFAD	1.5
FAO	1.2
UNV	0.5
ICAO	0.5
ILO	0.5
UNIFEM	0.2
UNIDO	0.2
IMF	0.1
ESCAP	0.1
UNEP	0.1
UNESCO	0.1

G. CCA INDICATOR FRAMEWORK DATA*

CONFERENCE GOAL	CONFERENCE TARGET	9 TH PLAN TARGET	INDICATOR	YEAR	VALUE	URBAN-RURAL DIFFERENTIAL	SOURCE	DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	SOUTH ASIA
Poverty									
Reduced poverty levels	Proportion in poverty in 1990 reduced by ½ by 2015 (WSSD)	32%	% of population below poverty line	2000 1996	38 42	Mts: 56 Hills: 41 Terai: 42 Urban: 23 Rural: 44	NPC NLSS and NPC, Ninth Plan		35 (1995)
			Share of total income by population group (%)	1996	Bottom 40% = 11 Top 10% = 52		CBS		
			Human Development Index	1999 1996 1990 1980	0.480 0.378 0.411 0.327		HDR 2001 NHDR1998 HDR HDR	0.647 (1999) 0.637 (1997)	0.564 (1999) 0.544 (1997)
			Human Poverty Index (HPI-1) %	1999 1997	44.2 51.9		HDR	27.7	36.6

Economy

Not applicable	218	GNP per capita (US\$)	1999 1997	220 210			HDR WorldBank	1,314 (1997) 1,250 (1998)	490 (1998)
			1999 1996 1986	5.0 4.5 2.8			HDR 2001 WorldBank		
	17%	Gross domestic savings/GDP (%)	1999/00 1998/99 1997/98	15.1 13.6 13.8			CBS Economic Survey	27(1997)	18(1997)
	25%	Total investment/GDP (%)	1999/00 1998/99 1997/98	24.3 20.5 24.8			CBS Economic Survey	27(1997)	23(1997)
		Development expenditure/GDP (%)	1999/00 1998/99 1997/98	8.4 8.3 9.6			CBS Economic Survey		
		Total revenue/GDP (%)	1999/00 1998/99 1997/98	11.3 11.0 11.0			CBS Economic Survey		

* The data are derived from the CCA, with some augmentation and revision based on more recent information. Indicators highlighted in bold are the indicators used to monitor Millennium Development Goals.

CONFERENCE GOAL	CONFERENCE TARGET	9 TH PLAN TARGET	INDICATOR	YEAR	VALUE	URBAN-RURAL DIFFERENTIAL	SOURCE	DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	SOUTH ASIA
		6	Total imports/GDP (%)	1998/00 1998/99 1997/98	28.2 25.6 29.6		CBS Economic Survey		
			Average annual growth of GDP (%)	1980-99 1990-99 1980-90	4.8 4.8 4.6		World Bank		
			Average annual growth of GNP (%)	1998-99 1980-90	2.2		World Bank		
			Total ODA received in net disbursements (US\$ millions)	1999 1998 1997 1991	343.7 404.3 414 453		HDR UNDP		
			External debt service/Regular expenditure ratio	1999/00 1998/99 1997/98	29.1 28.1 28.3		CBS Economic Survey		
Agriculture Not applicable		37.9	Agriculture as a % of GDP	1999	41		CBS, HDR	13	25
		7.3	Real GDP growth rate of agriculture (%)	1998/99 1991-96 1981-90 1971-80	2.7 2.2 4.6 0.5		CBS, MoAC		
		5	Annual growth rate of agriculture (%)	1998/99 1997	2.7 3.0		NPC, Ninth Plan		
		3	Annual Growth rate of per capita agricultural income (%)	1997	0.5		NPC, Ninth Plan		
			Total agricultural land (%)	1993	17		CBS		
			Average size of landholding (hectares)	1996 1993	0.96 0.24		CBS		
			% of labour force engaged in \ agriculture	1998/99	76.1 Male:67.1 Female:85.2		NLFS		
				1996 1991	55.6 81.2		NLSS CBS		
			Employment elasticity of Agriculture	1997	0.7		ILO-SAAT		

CONFERENCE GOAL	CONFERENCE TARGET	9 TH PLAN TARGET	INDICATOR	YEAR	VALUE	URBAN-RURAL DIFFERENTIAL	SOURCE	DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	SOUTH ASIA
Food security Increased food security	Reduced number of chronically under-nourished by half by 2015 (WFS)		Households consuming less than the required number of calories (%)	1997	47	Urban 40 Rural 60 Mountain 31 Total 23 Hills 46	WFP		
			% of household income spent on food for the poorest quintile	1992	49				
			% of household income spent on food for the poorest quintile	1984/85	70		Nepal Rastri Bank		
			Per capita access to energy (KC/day) Recommended = 2,250	1994/95 1993/94 1991/92 1989/90 1987/88	2138 2429 2258 2125 2000		MoAC, 1992, 1996		
			Food production per capita	1997	277		NPC, Ninth Plan		
Nutrition	Reduction of severe/moderate underweight among children <5 by 2000 to half of the 1990 level		Food and live animals import/export ratio	1995/96 1986/87	2.75 1.46		CBS 1997		
			Percentage of under-fives who fall below minus 2 and below minus 3 standard deviations from median weight for age of NCHS/WHO reference population	2001 1998 1996 1996 1995 1975	<2 48.3 47.1 [6-59 months] 54.2 56.9 48.5 72 29.2 73.0	<3 12.6 12 male: 47.4 [6-59 months] 19.0 21.5 13.2 72 29.2 73.0	MoH, NDHS 2001, Preliminary Report NMSS NFHS NMIS4 NMIS1 NNSS		
			Percentage of under-fives who fall below minus 2 and below minus 3 standard deviations from median height for age of NCHS/WHO reference population	2001 1998 1996 1996 1975	[6-35 months] <2 50.5 54.1 [6-59 months] 54.7 53.3 65 [6-35 months]	<3 21.3 22.1 [6-59 months] 22.4 21.5 31	MoH, NDHS 2001, Preliminary Report NMSS NFHS NMIS4 NNSS		
			Reduction of Severe/moderate stunting among children <5 by 2000 to half of the 1990 level						

CONFERENCE GOAL	CONFERENCE TARGET	9 TH PLAN TARGET	INDICATOR	YEAR	VALUE	URBAN-RURAL DIFFERENTIAL	SOURCE	DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	SOUTH ASIA
Reduction of iron deficiency anaemia in women by one third of the 1990 levels	Reduction of severe/moderate wasting among children <5 by 2000 to half of the 1990 level		Percentage of under-fives who fall below minus 2 and below minus 3 standard deviations from median weight for height of NCHS/WHO reference population	2001 1998	<2 9.6 6.7 [6-59 months]	Male: 7.3 1.1 0.5 Female: 6.0	MoH, NCHS 2001, Preliminary Report NMSS		
				1996 1996 1975	12.7 16.5 18 [6-35 months]	1.7 4 1.5	NFHS NMIS4 NMSS		
	Reduction of iron deficiency anaemia in women by one third of the 1990 levels		Percentage of women aged 15-49 with haemoglobin levels below 12 g/100 ml blood for non-pregnant women, and below 11 g/100 ml blood for pregnant women	1998	74.6 (pregnant women) 66.7 (non-pregnant women)		NMSS		
	Reduction of iron deficiency anaemia in women by one third of the 1990 levels		Percentage of pregnant women receiving iron/folic acid tablets	1997	11		NMIS5 NFC		
Virtual elimination of iodine deficiency disorders			Percentage of households consuming adequately iodised salt	2000 1998 1996	62.6 55 63		CBS, BCHMES NMSS NFHS		
			Percentage of population with urinary iodine levels below 20mg/100 ml urine	1998	3.1 (women 15-49 years) 1.7 (children 6-11 years)		NMSS		
Virtual elimination of vitamin A deficiency and its consequences, including blindness			Percentage of targeted children 6-59 months who have received a high dose vitamin A supplement in the last 6 months	2000 1998 1995	89.5 (6-59 months) 87.4 (6-59 months) 65 (6-35 months)		CBS, BCHMES NMSS NMIS1		
			Percentage of children 6-59 months of age with serum retinol levels 20mg/100 dl.	1998	32.3		NMSS		

CONFERENCE GOAL	CONFERENCE TARGET	9 th PLAN TARGET	INDICATOR	YEAR	VALUE	URBAN-RURAL DIFFERENTIAL	SOURCE	DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	SOUTH ASIA
Health and mortality	Empowerment of all women to breastfeed their children exclusively for 4-6 months and to continue breastfeeding, with complementary food, well into the second year (exclusive breastfeeding)	6	Percentage of infants less than 4 months (120 days) of age who are exclusively breastfed	2000 1996 1996 1995	72.2 (0-3 months) 82 (0-3 months) 70 (0-4 months) 72 (0-4 months) 31 (0-4 months)		CBS, BCHMES NFHS NFHS NMISA NMISI		
	Empowerment of all women to breastfeed their children exclusively for 4-6 months and to continue breastfeeding, with complementary food, well into the second year (timely complementary feeding)		Percentage of infants 6-9 months of age who are receiving breastmilk and complementary food.	2000 1996 1995	73 (6-9 months) 74 (7-9 months) 71 (8-9 months) 69 (8-9 months) 71 (8-9 months)		CBS, BCHMES NFHS NMISA NMISI		
Health and mortality									
Reduction in level of HIV/AIDS	Universal access to RH services and information by 2015 (ICPD)		Estimated HIV adult prevalence rate (per 100,000)	1999	132		National Centre for STD/AIDS		
Reduced Child Mortality	MR at ages <5 reduced by 2/3 of 1990 level by 2015 (ICPD/ WSC)	102.3	Under 5 mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	2001 1999 1997	91 104 118		MdH, NDHS 2001, Preliminary Report NPC, Ninth Plan MdH	90 (1999) 94 (1997)	104 (1999) 106 (1997)
Reduced Infant Mortality	Reduction of IMR by 1/3 1990 level and below 35 per 1,000 by 2015 (ICPD, WSSD, WCW, WSC)	61.5	Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	2001 1999 1997 1987	64 75.0 .7 105		MdH, NDHS 2001, Preliminary Report NPC, Ninth Plan MdH	63 (1999) 64 (1997)	74 (1999) 72 (1997)

CONFERENCE GOAL	CONFERENCE TARGET	9 th PLAN TARGET	INDICATOR	YEAR	VALUE	URBAN-RURAL DIFFERENTIAL	SOURCE	DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	SOUTH ASIA
Reproductive Health	Improved maternal health and reduced maternal mortality	Reduction by ½ of 1990 levels by year 2000 and a further ½ by 2015 (ICPD/WSSD/FWC/WSC)	400	Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)	1996 1987	539 850	NFHS NPCMoH	384 (1993) 491 (1990)	583 (1993) 551 (1990)
							Annual Report, DoHS, MoH		
					2000 1998 1997 1996	13.5 8.1 6.0 4.0			
					2000 1998 1997 1996	35 28 21 19	DoHS, MoH		
					2000 1998 1997 1996	1.7 1.8 1.9 1.8			
Increased Access to Family Planning	Universal access to safe and reliable contraceptive methods (ICPD)	36.6	50	Obstetric Services by trained Health Workers (%)	1997	31.5	NPC, Ninth Plan		
							MoH, NDHS 2001, Preliminary Report		
					1999 1998 1997 1996 1991	39.3 34.0 31.3 29.0 28.8 24	MoPE DoHS, MoH NFHS Population Census		
					2001	99.5	MoH, NDHS 2001, Preliminary Report		
					1996 1976	98.3 21.3	DoHS		
					1996	31	Rural: 32 Urban: 21		

CONFERENCE GOAL	CONFERENCE TARGET	9 th PLAN TARGET	INDICATOR	YEAR	VALUE	URBAN-RURAL DIFFERENTIAL	SOURCE	DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	SOUTH ASIA
Child Health And Welfare									
Reduced child labour	Elimination of child labour (WSSD)		Workforce Participation Rate of Children aged 5-14 years	1998/99	40.9 (2.6 million) Male: 36.8 Female: 45.1	Urban: 19.0 Rural: 43.6 Urban M: 17.3 Urban F: 21.0 Rural M: 39.3 Rural F: 48.0	NIFS		
				1996	41.7 (2.6 million) Male: 36.1 Female: 47.6	Urban: 23.0 Rural: 43.4 Urban Male: 17.2 Urban F: 29.4 Rural M: 37.9 Rural F: 49.2	CLSN, CDFS		
			Economically Active Children in paid and Unpaid activities	1998/99	Paid: 4.1 Unpaid: 95.9		NIFS		
				1996	Paid: 16.7 Unpaid: 83.1 Paid M: 15.4 Unpaid M: 84.2 Paid F: 18.2 Unpaid F: 81.7		CLSN, CDFS		
			Distribution of Economically Active children (%)	1998/99	Agriculture: 85.1 Tech, services/ sales: 3.3 Elementary Occup.: 11.6		NIFS		
				1996	Agriculture: 94.7 Technical, Services and Sales: 2.8 Production: 0.8 Construction, Transport and Comm: 1.6		CLSN, CDFS		

CONFERENCE GOAL	CONFERENCE TARGET	9 th PLAN TARGET	INDICATOR	YEAR	VALUE	URBAN-RURAL DIFFERENTIAL	SOURCE	DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	SOUTH ASIA	
Improved child Health	Universal Immunisation (WSC)	100	BCG (%)	1995/6 1990/1	76 69		NFHS - 1996	88 (1995-97)	95 (1995-97)	
			DPT3 (%)	1995/6 1990/1	54 38		NFHS - 1996			
			OPV3 (%)	1995/6 1990/1	51 38		NFHS - 1996			
			Measles (%)	1995/6 1990/1	57 42		NFHS - 1996	79 (1995-97)	80 (1995-97)	
			T.T. (%)	1998 1995/6	35.3 33		NMIS V (NFC) 1998			
				1990/1	26.8 17.1					
			Incidence of Diarrhoea/1,000 < 5 Children New Case	1998 1997 1996	15.4 13.1		DoHS, MoH			
			Incidence of ARI/1,000 < 5 children New Case	1998 1997 1996	140 123 104		DoHS, MoH			
Basic Education										
Increased Access to Basic Education	Universal access and completion of Primary education by 2015 (EFA/WCSWSC/ICPD)	100%	Net primary enrolment (%)	2000	Total: 65.8 Male: 71.1 Female: 60	Rural: 65 Urban: 69	CBS, BOCHMES	85.7 (1997)	78.0 (1997)	
				1999	Total: 72.1 Male: 79.4 Female: 64.4		MoES			
				1997	Total: 69.6 Male: 78.9 Female: 59.9		MoES			
				1996	Total: 69.4 Male: 79.4 Female: 58.7		MoES			
				1988	Total: 64		MoES			

CONFERENCE GOAL	CONFERENCE TARGET	9 th PLAN TARGET	INDICATOR	YEAR	VALUE	URBAN/RURAL DIFFERENTIAL	SOURCE	DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	SOUTH ASIA
			Gross primary enrolment (%)	2000	Total: 102 Male: 109.5 Female: 93.9		McES CBS, BCHMES	104 (1998)	100 (1993)
				1999	Total: 127.7 Male: 143.1 Female: 111.5		McES		
				1997	Total: 122 Male: 139.7 Female: 103.8		McES		
				1996	Total: 117 Male: 134 Female: 98		McES		
Increased Access to Basic Education	Universal access and Completion of Primary education by 2015 (EFA/WCSWSC/ICPD)		Class one repetition and drop out (%)	1997	Total: 41.7 Male: 41.2 Female: 42		McES	31 (1991)	41 (1991)
				1996	Total: 62 Male: N/A Female: 61				
Increased literacy	Adult literacy reduced by 1/2 1990 level by 2000(EFA)	70-	% of female primary school teachers	1999 1997 1996	23.8 22.5 21		McES McES	50 (1995)	31 (1995)
			Adult literacy rate	2000 1997	50.5 40		NPC, BCHMES NPC, Ninth Plan	Total: 71.4 Male: 80.0 Female: 62.9 (1997)	Total: 52.2 Male: 65.0 Female: 38.6 (1997)
				1997	Total: 44.7 Male: 62.4 Female: 27.6		NMIS V, NPC		
				1996	Total: 33 Male: 49 Female: 17		McES		

* Human Development in South Asia 2000

CONFERENCE GOAL	CONFERENCE TARGET	9 th PLAN TARGET	INDICATOR	YEAR	VALUE	URBAN/RURAL DIFFERENTIAL	SOURCE	DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	SOUTH ASIA
Gender Equality	Eliminate disparities between men and women (ICPD, WSSD, FWCW)		Gender Empowerment -Measure (GEM)	1996	0.19		NHR	0.367 (1994)	0.229 (1994)
			Gender-related Development Index (GDI) value and rank	1999	0.461 (value) 120 (rank)		NHR	0.630 (1997)	0.525 (1997)
				1996	0.267		NHR		
Women's political empowerment	Equitable access to political institutions (FWCW)		% of seats held by women in parliament	1999	8.01		UNDP	10 (1997) — including national government	6 (1997) including national government
Employment									
Creation of full employment	Universal access to paid employment (WSSD)		Total labour force (in millions)	1998/99	11.2		NLFS	2,263'1	522'11
				1996	10.3		NLSS		
			Rate of growth of labour force	1997	3.0		ILO-SAAT	2.0 (1980-1991)	2.1 (1980-1991)
			Distribution of Economically Active Population (%)		Male:50.1 Female:49.9		NLFS		
			Agriculture Services Manufacturing	1998/99	76 23.9 5.9				
			Agriculture Services Manufacturing	1996	Male:51.1 Female:48.9 55.6 21.7 13.7	Urban: 5.2 Rural: 94.8	NLSS		
			Agriculture Services Manufacturing	1991	81.2 14.7 2.7				
			% of labour force in the formal sector	1997	Women: 4 Men: 12		NLSS		

CONFERENCE GOAL	CONFERENCE TARGET	9 TH PLAN TARGET	INDICATOR	YEAR	VALUE	URBAN/RURAL DIFFERENTIAL	SOURCE	DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	SOUTH ASIA
			Workforce Participation Rate	1998/99	Total : 85.8 Male: 90.2 Female: 81.9	Urban: 73.3 Urban M: 83.9 Urban F: 62.9 Rural: 87.7 Rural M: 91.1 Rural F: 84.5	NLFS		
		32	Underemployment	1998/99	Total: 4.1 Male: 5.4 Female: 2.9	Urban: 4.8 Urban M: 4.9 Urban F: 4.6 Rural: 4.1 Rural M: 5.5 Rural F: 2.7	NLFS ^a		
				1996	Total: 47.1 Male: 39.7 Female: 54.6		NLSS ^a		
		3.0	Unemployment	1998/99	Total: 1.8 Male: 2.0 Female: 1.7	Urban: 7.4 Rural: 1.2	NLFS ^a		
				1996	Total: 4.9 Male: 5.6 Female: 4.2	Urban: 14.3 Rural: 85.7 Kathmandu: 14.7	NLSS ^a		
			% of self employed in labour force	1998/99	Total: 84.0 Male: 75.6 Female: 92.3		NLFS		
				1996	Total: 78.3 Male: 70.5 Female: 86.3	Urban: 57.6 Urban M: 49.7 Urban F: 69.5	NLSS		

^a Different methodologies and definitions of underemployment and unemployment used

CONFERENCE GOAL	CONFERENCE TARGET	9 th PLAN TARGET	INDICATOR	YEAR	VALUE	URBAN-RURAL DIFFERENTIAL	SOURCE	DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	SOUTH ASIA
Industry Not applicable						Rural: 79.5 Rural M: 71.9 Rural F: 86.9			
				1997	0.6		ILO/SAAT		
				1996	Total: 74.8 Male: 79.8 Female: 70.2	Urban: 59.3 Urban M: 80.0 Urban F: 40.1 Rural: 76.0 Rural M: 79.7 Rural F: 72.5	NLS		
			Employment elasticity						
				1997					
				1996					
			Employment to population of working age ratio						
				1997					
				1996					
			Minimum wages in rupees (unskilled)	1997 1992 1989	1,300 1,000 800		Department of Labour		
Industry Not applicable			Industry (Manufacturing plus Mining & Quarrying) as % of GDP	1999/00 1998/99 1997/98 1996/97	9.47 9.04 9.31 9.21		MeF Economic Survey 1999/2000	36	29
				1999/00 1998/99 1997/98 1996/97	49.94 50.04 51.32 49.88		MeF Economic Survey 1999/2000	51	46
			Services as a % of GDP	1999/00 1998/99 1997/98 1996/97	9 9.1		MeF Economic Survey 1997/98		
			Manufacturing as % of GDP	1998/99 1997			MeF Economic Survey 1997/98		
				1996/7- 1991/2	5.5		CBS, MoF		
			Average annual growth rate of manufacturing sector (%)	1996/7- 1991/2					

CONFERENCE GOAL	CONFERENCE TARGET	9 TH PLAN TARGET	INDICATOR	YEAR	VALUE	URBAN-RURAL DIFFERENTIAL	SOURCE	DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	SOUTH ASIA
			Industrial production growth (%) compared to 1991	1996/7	30.8		CBS, MoF		
			Value added output ratio (%)	1996/7	39.8		CBS, MoF		
			Industries utilising over 60 percent of installed capacity (%)	1996/7	31.4		CBS, MoF		
			% of labour force engaged in industry (Manufacturing plus Mining & Quarrying)	1998/99	5.9 (Male: 7.8 Female: 4.0)	Urban: 13.4 Rural: 5.1	NLFS		
				1996	Total: 3.9 Male: 5.1 Female: 2.1	Urban: 6.7 Urban M: 8.5 Urban F: 4.0 Rural: 3.6 Rural M: 4.8 Rural F: 1-9	NPC CDPS, TU CBS 1998		
				1997 1991/92	5 2.4				
			% of labour force engaged in services	1998/99	18.0		CDPS, TU		
				1996	Total: 19.6 Male: 17.8 Female: 22.1	Urban: 38.3 Urban M: 28.3 Urban F: 52.5 Rural: 17.7 Rural M: 16.7 Rural F: 19.0			
				1991	Total: 10.3 Male: 13.6 Female: 5.3	Urban: 34.5 Urban M: 25.8 Urban F: 30.6 Rural: 8.4 Rural M: 11.4 Rural F: 4.2	Population Census 1991		

CONFERENCE GOAL	CONFERENCE TARGET	9 th PLAN TARGET	INDICATOR	YEAR	VALUE	URBAN/RURAL DIFFERENTIAL	SOURCE	DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	SOUTH ASIA
Improved environment	Clean and healthy Environment and reversal of current trends in loss of environmental resources (UNCED)	100	Forest area (%)	1998/99 1978/79	29 38	LRMP 1998			
			Annual rate of deforestation	1976-96	1.3	LRMP 1998			1.1% (1981-90)
			% of population relying on traditional fuels for energy	1994/5	92	MoPE, 1998			
			Per capita energy use per annum	1998	13	NPC, MoPE 1998			
			Carbon dioxide emissions (million metric tonnes)	1996	1.6	HDR 8,716.2T			1,392.9T
			Biodiversity: land area protected (%)	2000 1998	18.11 16.2	MoFSC, Draft Nesal Bio-diversity Action Plan Dept. of National Parks			
			Production of fuelwood and charcoal (MT/year)	1994/5	540,000	Water and Energy Secretariat	1,669,840T (1995)		349,084T (1995)
			Internal renewable water resources per capita (cubic metres per year)	1998	7,338	HDR	6,055 (1997)		2,860 (1997)
			% of population with (sustainable) access to safe drinking water	2000 1996 1991	79.9 63.2 45.6	CBS, 72 BCHMES (1997) NFHS			82 (1997)
			% of population with access to safe excreta disposal	2000 1995/6 1991	29.4 23 20	CBS, 43 BCHMES (1997) NFHS			36 (1997)

CONFERENCE GOAL	CONFERENCE TARGET	9 th PLAN TARGET	INDICATOR	YEAR	VALUE	URBAN/RURAL DIFFERENTIAL	SOURCE	DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	SOUTH ASIA
Population	Not applicable		Size of Population (millions)	1999 1991 1971	22.4 18.5 11.56		MoPE1998 CBS1991 CBS1971	4,502.9T (1997)	1,340.3T (1997)
		1.5	Population growth rate (%)	1996-2001 1981-91	2.37 2.1		MoPE1998 CBS1995	2.0 (1975-97)	2.2 (1975-97)
		33.1	Crude birth rate	1999 1997 1987	34.1 35.4 41.6		MoPE NPC	26 (1996)	28 (1996)
			Crude death rate	1999 1997 1987	10.3 11.5 14.9		MoPE NPC	9 (1996)	9 (1996)
		4.2	Total fertility rate	1999 1997 1996 1976	4.35 4.58 6.3 4.6		MoPE NPC NFHS NFHS	3 (1997)	3.3 (1997)
			Median age at marriage for 20-49 year olds ever married (in years)	1996	16.4		NFHS		
		59.7	Life expectancy (in years)	1999 1997 1987	59.25 56.1 53.0		MoPE NPC NPC	64.4 (1997)	62.7 (1997)

GOAL	TARGET	INDICATOR	YEAR	STATUS	SOURCE				
International Legal Commitments For Human Rights									
Universal ratification of international human rights instruments	According to all international human rights instruments and avoiding the resort to reservations, as far as possible	Status of ratification of reservations to and reporting obligations under international human rights instruments	1999	Nepal has signed 16 human rights instruments, more than any country in South Asia, although the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees remains unratified.	MoLJA				
		Status of follow-up to intermediate observations of UN human rights treaty bodies	1999	Nepal's performance in reporting to treaty bodies has, on the whole, been good; both in the relative timeliness and quality of its reports as well as the high degree of participation involved.	MoFA				
Democracy And Participation									
Strengthened democratic institutions and popular participation	Free and fair elections and democratic government (WCHR)	Periodicity of free and fair elections	1999	Nepal has held three parliamentary elections since 1990: in 1992, 1994 and 1999.	HMG				
		Recognition in law of the right to freedom of expression, association and assembly	1999	Guaranteed in Constitution	Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal				
CONFERENCE GOAL	CONFERENCE TARGET	9 th PLAN TARGET	INDICATOR	YEAR	VALUE	URBAN/RURAL DIFFERENTIAL	SOURCE	DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	SOUTH ASIA
Administration Of Justice									
Fair administration of Justice	Effective legislative framework, law enforcement, prosecutions, legal profession and fair trials in conformity with international standards (WCHR)		Recognition in law of guarantees for independent and impartial judiciary and free trial	1999	Guaranteed in Constitution		Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal		
Improved framework of remedies	Existence of legal remedies in conformity with international standards		Recognition in law of the right to seek judicial remedies against state offences/officials		Guaranteed in Constitution		MoLJA		
Security Of Person									
Liberty and security of person	Elimination of gross violations of human rights affecting security of person, including torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, summary and arbitrary execution, disappearances and slavery (WCHR)		Recognition in law of the prohibition of gross violations of human rights affecting the security of person	1999	Guaranteed under the Constitution		Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal		

H. SELECTED ARTICLES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Article 6

1. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right to work, which includes the right of everyone to the opportunity to gain his living by work which he freely chooses or accepts, and will take appropriate steps to safeguard this right.

2. The steps to be taken by a State Party to the present Covenant to achieve the full realization of this right shall include technical and vocational guidance and training programmes, policies and techniques to achieve steady economic, social and cultural development and full and productive employment under conditions safeguarding fundamental political and economic freedoms to the individual.

Article 7

The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of just and favorable conditions of work, which ensure, in particular:

(a) Remuneration which provides all workers, as a minimum, with:

(i) Fair wages and equal remuneration for work of equal value without distinction of any kind, in particular women being guaranteed conditions of work not inferior to those enjoyed by men, with equal pay for equal work;

(ii) A decent living for themselves and their families in accordance with the provisions of the present Covenant;

(b) Safe and healthy working conditions;

(c) Equal opportunity for everyone to be promoted in his employment to an appropriate higher level, subject to no considerations other than those of seniority and competence;

(d) Rest, leisure and reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay, as well as remuneration for public holidays

Article 8

1. The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure:

(a) The right of everyone to form trade unions and join the trade union of his choice, subject only to the rules of the organization concerned, for the promotion and protection of his economic and social interests. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those prescribed by law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public order or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others;

(b) The right of trade unions to establish national federations or confederations and the right of the latter to form or join international trade-union organizations;

(c) The right of trade unions to function freely subject to no limitations other than those prescribed by law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public order or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others;

(d) The right to strike, provided that it is exercised in conformity with the laws of the particular country.

2. This article shall not prevent the imposition of lawful restrictions on the exercise of these rights by members of the armed forces or of the police or of the administration of the State.

3. Nothing in this article shall authorize States Parties to the International Labour Organisation Convention of 1948 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize to take legislative measures which would prejudice, or apply the law in such a manner as would prejudice, the guarantees provided for in that Convention.

Article 9

The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to social security, including social insurance.

Article 10

The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize that:

1. The widest possible protection and assistance should be accorded to the family, which is the natural and fundamental group unit of society, particularly for its establishment and while it is responsible for the care and education of dependent children. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses.
2. Special protection should be accorded to mothers during a reasonable period before and after childbirth. During such period working mothers should be accorded paid leave or leave with adequate social security benefits.
3. Special measures of protection and assistance should be taken on behalf of all children and young persons without any discrimination for reasons of parentage or other conditions. Children and young persons should be protected from economic and social exploitation. Their employment in work harmful to their morals or health or dangerous to life or likely to hamper their normal development should be punishable by law. States should also set age limits below which the paid employment of child labour should be prohibited and punishable by law.

Article 11

1. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right, recognizing to this effect the essential importance of international co-operation based on free consent.

2. The States Parties to the present Covenant, recognizing the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, shall take, individually and through international co-operation, the measures, including specific programmes, which are needed:

- (a) To improve methods of production, conservation and distribution of food by making full use of technical and scientific knowledge, by disseminating knowledge of the principles of nutrition and by developing or reforming agrarian systems in such a way as to achieve the most efficient development and utilization of natural resources;
- (b) Taking into account the problems of both food-importing and food-exporting countries, to ensure an equitable distribution of world food supplies in relation to need.

Article 12

1. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

2. The steps to be taken by the States Parties to the present Covenant to achieve the full realization of this right shall include those necessary for:

- (a) The provision for the reduction of the stillbirth-rate and of infant mortality and for the healthy development of the child;
- (b) The improvement of all aspects of environmental and industrial hygiene;
- (c) The prevention, treatment and control of epidemic, endemic, occupational and other diseases;
- (d) The creation of conditions which would assure to all medical service and medical attention in the event of sickness.

Article 13

1. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to education. They agree that education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity, and shall

strengthen the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. They further agree that education shall enable all persons to participate effectively in a free society, promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations and all racial, ethnic or religious groups, and further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

2. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize that, with a view to achieving the full realization of this right:

(a) Primary education shall be compulsory and available free to all;

(b) Secondary education in its different forms, including technical and vocational secondary education, shall be made generally available and accessible to all by every appropriate means, and in particular by the progressive introduction of free education;

(c) Higher education shall be made equally accessible to all, on the basis of capacity by every appropriate means, and in particular by the progressive introduction of free education;

(d) Fundamental education shall be encouraged or intensified as far as possible for those persons who have not received or completed the whole period of their primary education;

(e) The development of a system of schools at all levels shall be actively pursued, an adequate fellowship system shall be established, and the material conditions of teaching staff shall be continuously improved.

3. The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to choose for their children schools, other than those established by the public authorities, which conform to such minimum educational standards as may be laid down or approved by the State and to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.

4. No part of this article shall be construed so as to interfere with the liberty of individu-

als and bodies to establish and direct educational institutions, subject always to the observance of the principles set forth in paragraph 1 of this article and to the requirement that the education given in such institutions shall conform to such minimum standards as may be laid down by the State.

Article 14

Each State Party to the present Covenant which, at the time of becoming a Party, has not been able to secure in its metropolitan territory or other territories under its jurisdiction compulsory primary education, free of charge, undertakes, within two years, to work out and adopt a detailed plan of action for the progressive implementation, within a reasonable number of years, to be fixed in the plan, of the principle of compulsory education free of charge for all.

Article 15

1. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone:

(a) To take part in cultural life;

(b) To enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications;

(c) To benefit from the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

2. The steps to be taken by the States Parties to the present Covenant to achieve the full realization of this right shall include those necessary for the conservation, the development and the diffusion of science and culture.

3. The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to respect the freedom indispensable for scientific research and creative activity.

4. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the benefits to be derived from the encouragement and development of international contacts and co-operation in the scientific and cultural fields.

I. SELECTED ARTICLES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Article 1

1. All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

2. All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic co-operation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.

3. The States Parties to the present Covenant, including those having responsibility for the administration of Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories, shall promote the realization of the right of self-determination, and shall respect that right, in conformity with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

Article 7

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In particular, no one shall be subjected without his free consent to medical or scientific experimentation.

Article 8

1. No one shall be held in slavery; slavery and the slave-trade in all their forms shall be prohibited.

2. No one shall be held in servitude.

3. (a) No one shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour;

(b) Paragraph 3 (a) shall not be held to preclude, in countries where imprisonment with hard labour may be imposed as a punishment for a crime, the performance of hard labour in pursuance of a sentence to such punishment by a competent court;

(c) For the purpose of this paragraph the term "forced or compulsory labour" shall not include:

(i) Any work or service, not referred to in subparagraph (b), normally required of a person who is under detention in consequence of a lawful order of a court, or of a person during conditional release from such detention;

(ii) Any service of a military character and, in countries where conscientious objection is recognized, any national service required by law of conscientious objectors;

(iii) Any service exacted in cases of emergency or calamity threatening the life or well-being of the community;

(iv) Any work or service which forms part of normal civil obligations.

Article 12

1. Everyone lawfully within the territory of a State shall, within that territory, have the right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose his residence.

2. Everyone shall be free to leave any country, including his own.

3. The above-mentioned rights shall not be subject to any restrictions except those which are provided by law, are necessary to protect national security, public order (order public), public health or morals or the rights and freedoms of others, and are consistent with the other rights recognized in the present Covenant.

4. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of the right to enter his own country.

Article 14

1. All persons shall be equal before the courts and tribunals. In the determination of any criminal charge against him, or of his rights and obligations in a suit at law, everyone shall be entitled to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law. The Press and the public may be excluded from all or part of a trial

for reasons of morals, public order (ordre public) or national security in a democratic society, or when the interest of the private lives of the parties so requires, or to the extent strictly necessary in the opinion of the court in special circumstances where publicity would prejudice the interests of justice; but any judgement rendered in a criminal case or in a suit at law shall be made public except where the interest of juvenile persons otherwise requires or the proceedings concern matrimonial disputes or the guardianship of children.

2. Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall have the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law.

3. In the determination of any criminal charge against him, everyone shall be entitled to the following minimum guarantees, in full equality:

- (a) To be informed promptly and in detail in a language which he understands of the nature and cause of the charge against him;
- (b) To have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defence and to communicate with counsel of his own choosing;
- (c) To be tried without undue delay;
- (d) To be tried in his presence, and to defend himself in person or through legal assistance of his own choosing; to be informed, if he does not have legal assistance, of this right; and to have legal assistance assigned to him, in any case where the interests of justice so require, and without payment by him in any such case if he does not have sufficient means to pay for it;
- (e) To examine, or have examined the witnesses against him and to obtain the attendance and examination of witnesses on his behalf under the same conditions as witnesses against him;
- (f) To have the free assistance of an interpreter if he cannot understand or speak the language used in court;

(g) Not to be compelled to testify against himself or to confess guilt.

4. In the case of juvenile persons, the procedure shall be such as will take account of their age and the desirability of promoting their rehabilitation.

5. Everyone convicted of a crime shall have the right to his conviction and sentence being reviewed by a higher tribunal according to law.

6. When a person has by a final decision been convicted of a criminal offence and when subsequently his conviction has been reversed or he has been pardoned on the ground that a new or newly discovered fact shows conclusively that there has been a miscarriage of justice, the person who has suffered punishment as a result of such conviction shall be compensated according to law, unless it is proved that the non-disclosure of the unknown fact in time is wholly or partly attributable to him.

7. No one shall be liable to be tried or punished again for an offence for which he has already been finally convicted or acquitted in accordance with the law and penal procedure of each country.

Article 15

1. No one shall be held guilty of any criminal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a criminal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time when the criminal offence was committed. If, subsequent to the commission of the offence, provision is made by law for the imposition of a lighter penalty, the offender shall benefit thereby.

2. Nothing in this article shall prejudice the trial and punishment of any person for any act or omission which, at the time when it was committed, was criminal according to the general principles of law recognised by the community of nations.

Article 16

Everyone shall have the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 18

1. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.

2. No one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice.

3. Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect public safety, order, health, or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others. 4. The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.

Article 19

1. Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference.

2. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice.

3. The exercise of the rights provided for in paragraph 2 of this article carries with it special duties and responsibilities. It may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall only be such as are provided by law and are necessary:

(a) For respect of the rights or reputations of others;

(b) For the protection of national security or of public order (ordre public), or of public health or morals

Article 20

1. Any propaganda for war shall be prohibited by law.

2. Any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence shall be prohibited by law.

Article 21

The right of peaceful assembly shall be recognized. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those imposed in conformity with the law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order (ordre public), the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

Article 22

1. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

2. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those which are prescribed by law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order (ordre public), the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. This article shall not prevent the imposition of lawful restrictions on members of the armed forces and of the police in their exercise of this right.

3. Nothing in this article shall authorize States Parties to the International Labour Organisation Convention of 1948 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize to take legislative measures which would prejudice, or to apply

the law in such a manner as to prejudice, the guarantees provided for in that Convention.

Article 23

1. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.
2. The right of men and women of marriageable age to marry and to found a family shall be recognized.
3. No marriage shall be entered into without the free and full consent of the intending spouses.
4. States Parties to the present Covenant shall take appropriate steps to ensure equality of rights and responsibilities of spouses as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution. In the case of dissolution, provision shall be made for the necessary protection of any children.

Article 24

1. Every child shall have, without any discrimination as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, national or social origin, property or birth, the right to such measures of protection as are required by his status as a minor, on the part of his family, society and the State.
2. Every child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have a name.
3. Every child has the right to acquire a nationality.

Article 25

Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity, without any of the distinctions mentioned in article 2 and without unreasonable restrictions:

- (a) To take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives;
- (b) To vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and

equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors;

- (c) To have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his country.

Article 26

All persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law. In this respect, the law shall prohibit any discrimination and guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection against discrimination on any ground such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Article 27

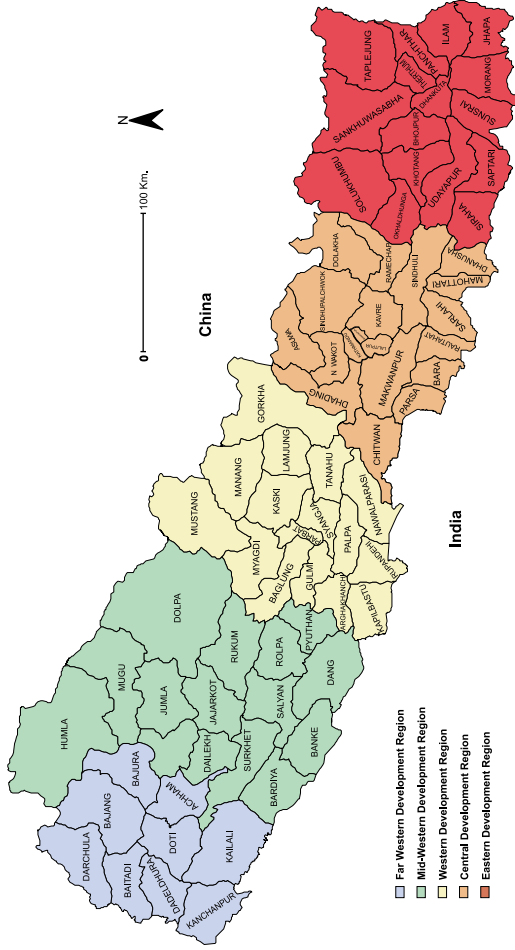
In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practice their own religion, or to use their own language.

Article 28

1. There shall be established a Human Rights Committee (hereafter referred to in the present Covenant as the Committee). It shall consist of eighteen members and shall carry out the functions hereinafter provided.
2. The Committee shall be composed of nationals of the States Parties to the present Covenant who shall be persons of high moral character and recognized competence in the field of human rights, consideration being given to the usefulness of the participation of some persons having legal experience.

1. The members of the Committee shall be elected and shall serve in their personal capacity.

N E P A L





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