

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

Voluntary Review SDGs Localization in Nepal (Final Report)

Study Organized by



Municipality Association of Nepal
(MuAN)



National Association of Rural Municipality
in Nepal (NARMIN)



Association of District Coordination
Committees of Nepal (ADCCN)

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Expert Services

Dr. Dileep K. Adhikary

Editing service for the publication was contributed by;

Mr Kalanidhi Devkota, Executive Director, MuAN

Mr Bimal Pokheral, Executive Director, NARMIN

Mr Krishna Chandra Neupane, Executive Secretary General, ADCCN

Layout Designed and Supported by

Edgardo Bilsky, UCLG world

Dinesh Shrestha, IT Officer, ADCCN

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Acronyms

ADCCN	Association of District Coordination Committees of Nepal
CAOs	Chief Administrative Officers
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CDO	Chief District Officer
CFLG	Child Friendly Local Governance
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DCC	District Coordination Committee
DCOs	District Coordination Officers
DFID	Department for International Development
DPMAS	District Planning, Monitoring and Analysis System
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EFLG	Environment Friendly Local Governance
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forest Users Nepal
FEDWASUN	Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Nepal
FNCCI	Federation of Nepal Chamber of Commerce and Industry
FY	Fiscal year
GESI	Gender equality and Social Inclusion
GoN	Government of Nepal
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
LAPA	Local Adaptation Plan of Actions
LGs	Local Governments
LGCDP II	Local Governance and Community Development Programme II
LGAs	Local Government Associations
LGOA	Local Government Operation Act
LGBTIQ	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender/transsexual, intersex and queer/questioning
LLRC	Local Level Restructuring Commission
MDGs	Millenium Development Goals

MoFAGA	Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MuAN	Municipal Association of Nepal
NAPA	National Adaptation Programmes of Action
NARMIN	National Association of Rural Municipality in Nepal
NCFL	National Cooperative Federation of Nepal Limited
NFN	NGOs Federation of Nepal
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NPC	National Planning Commission
NPR	Nepalese Rupees
NNRFC	National Natural Resources and Fiscal Commission
NUDS	Nepal Urban Development Strategy
O&M	Organization and Management
PSC	Public Services Commission
PLGSP	Provincial and Local Governance Support Programme
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
RM	Rural Municipality ??
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TDF	Town Development Fund
TSNGP	Transition to Sub National Governance Programme
UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments
UIDC	Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VAT	Value Added Tax
VNR	Voluntary National Reporting
VPR	Voluntary Peoples Review
WASH	Water Sanitation and hygiene

Forewords

The UN General Assembly including Nepal adopted "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" on 25 September 2015. Nepal, as a member state of the UN, is therefore fully committed to the implementation of this global initiative to achieve 17 SDGs associated with 169 targets and 232 indicators.

Government of Nepal has constituted a high level Central Steering Committee under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, SDG Implementation and Coordination Committee headed by the Vice-Chair of the National Planning Commission (NPC), and nine thematic working groups for SDGs have been formed under the convenorship of Members of the NPC with secretaries of the relevant Ministries as co-conveners and other concerned agencies as members of the groups. Importantly, Local Government Associations (LGAs) are also the member of these important committees that indicates the government's commitment to localize SDGs.

The Constitution of Nepal, promulgated in 2015, introduced a unique federal set up with 3-tier governments, comprising of federal, provincial and local governments with their exclusive and concurrent rights. Importantly, most of the SDGs such as basic and secondary education, basic health and sanitation, agriculture, cooperatives, local infrastructure, water supply, environment and biodiversity, social protection, and disaster preparedness fall into exclusive rights of local governments. Needless to say, localizing SDGs therefore is the single most important task for the country.

Government of Nepal has submitted its second Voluntary National Review Report to the UN High-level Political Forum. On the other hand, this study is an effort of the LGAs through the support from UCLG World and UCLG ASPAC to document the initiatives and process of SDGs localization taken place in Nepal. Obviously, the study got affected and faced several challenges in assessing information due to the ongoing pandemic. Thus, number of municipalities selected for sampling had to be reduced that resulted to limit the scope of the study. Nevertheless, it has showcased some good practices as well as lessons learnt while integrating SDGs/targets into municipal plans and trend of allocating resources.

We are thankful to the UCLG world secretariat and UCLG-ASPAC for their kind cooperation and support to conduct this study in Nepal involving independent experts. Very special thanks go to Dr Bernadia Irawati Tjandradevi, Secretary General of UCLG-ASPAC, Mr Edgardo Bilsky, UCLG HQ. Similarly, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to the National Planning Commission's Vice Chair Prof. Dr Pusparaj Kandel as well as Member Mr. Meen Bahadur Shahi for their encouragement, support and advices. We appreciate designated VNR coordinator Dr. Narayan Prasad Paudel who acknowledged our initiation and shared the framework of the study and incorporated key findings in the VNR report submitted to the UN-HLPF.

Dr. Dileep Adhikari deserves special thanks for rendering his expert services and hard work to accomplish this study as the principle writer of this report, despite during prevalence of COVID-19 Pandemic. This venture would not have been possible without the commitment, coordination and cooperation of LGAs coordination committee, as well as the professional team of chief executives of LGAs, Provincial Managers including three UNV officers deployed by UNDP to support MuAN for SDGs localization in three provinces for now. We also thank those local governments that provided us with information required to for this report in a timely manner.

Lastly, LGAs are much more committed not only to localize SDGs in Nepal, but also support local governments in achieving SDGs and targets by every means possible in the days to come.

Executive Summary

Background

With the MDGs program of action nearing its end in 2015, United Nations (UN) General Assembly through [UN Resolution 70/1](#) prescribed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): 2016-2030 as post 2015 Development Agenda. It comprises 17 global goals which together constitute a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all". It was adopted by 193 countries of the UN General Assembly including Nepal. Nepal's commitment to implement SDGs is very much reflected in just completed 14th plan (2016/17-2018/19) and the current 15th periodic plan (2019/20-2023/24).

Nepal has set a long term vision of development that comprises of a) graduation from Least Developed Country status by 2022, b) achieving the Sustainable Development Goals with 159 targets and 494 indicators (excluding SDG 14), and c) becoming a middle-income country by 2030. For the sake of SDGs implementation and performance assessment Government of Nepal (GoN) constituted a high level National Steering Committee under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, SDG Implementation and Evaluation Committee headed by Vice-Chair of National Planning Commission (NPC), and seven thematic working groups for SDGs led by the members of NPC.

SDGs national policy framework comprises a) mainstreaming SDGs in 14th (2016/17-2018/19) and 15th (2019/20-2023/24) periodic plans, b) SDGs coding in annual projects, c) bestowing high priority to projects contributing to SDGs, d) sectoral strategies prepared in line with SDGs, and e) planning monitoring and evaluation guidelines for federal, provincial and local levels.

In accordance with the Constitution of Nepal 2015, the state is structured into three tiers: federal, provincial and local level governments with exclusive powers accorded to each level, and concurrent powers shared among them to be exercised along the principle of cooperation, coordination and co-existence and responsible for citizens' satisfaction being transparent and accountable. As per these provisions many SDGs related service deliveries are entrusted at the province and local levels. They include basic and secondary education, primary health care, water supply and sanitation, agriculture, basic infrastructure, and social security. The rights of the Municipal Government are provisioned in the Clause 11 of Local Government Operations Act, 2017 with self-governance powers.

Volunteer National Review (VNR)

United Nations annually convenes a meeting of High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) where the countries are invited to present and share Voluntary National Reports (VNR) regarding progress on SDGs as all the states are responsible to achieve the targets from their end with partnership and sharing among working groups, institutions, etc.

GoN presented its VNR report in 2017 which was the year of the first VNR cycle; apart from the government, NGOs team led by NGO Federation Nepal (NFN) as well participated in HLPF meeting and presented voluntary national reporting. Next reporting is due this year (at July 13, 2020) and GoN has made it clear that there would be single reporting from the government incorporating the views of private and non-governmental sector as well. All three LGAs namely ADCCN, MuAN and NARMIN are represented in GoN constituted committees following the reorganization in October 20, 2019: a) SDGs Steering Committee, b) SDGs Implementation and Monitoring Committee, and c) SDGs Thematic Committees. All three LGAs are participating in VNR preparation meetings called by SDGs Implementation and Monitoring Committee.

In order to prepare SDGs localization report, LGAs organized meetings, where study methods and reporting format were finalized thereof. A checklist was prepared to collect data for the VNR purpose and a questionnaire were sent by LGAs through their provincial wings to concerned local governments. Field level interactions were also planned, but, could not be done owing to lockdown imposed by the government given the threats of Covid-19 pandemic. LGAs organized virtual meetings with some selected informants/ municipalities and District Coordination Committees.

Localization of SDGs

It was aptly recognized by the SDG Baseline Report, 2017 that the localization of SDGs at the provincial and local government levels is critical for the universal, equitable and inclusive outcome of sustainable development efforts. As such, alongside the national agenda for SDGs, GoN developed a national and provincial monitoring and evaluation framework and most recently identified 117 SDGs indicators for the provinces and also interacted with province level planning commissions. NPC has almost readied SDGs localization manual for provincial and local governments to facilitate their specific SDGs plan of action/budget aligned to national periodic/SDGs plan, that still remains to be rolled out.

The state restructuring, following the promulgation of Constitution of Nepal 2015 led to the formation of 753 local governments (consisting of 460 rural municipalities, 276 municipalities, 11 sub-metropolitan cities, and 6 metropolitan cities). Elections were held and the local governments started functioning from September 2017. They first sorted out the organization structure appropriate to command and service the functions stipulated by the Constitution, and enacted laws necessary for the governance. They faced capacity related issues with regards to administrative strength (in terms of number of staff and their proficiency) on the one hand and financing the much needed activities on the other. Despite limitations, local governments became functional right from the beginning of assuming their responsibilities.

Constitutionally accorded specific powers to local level government provide a upfront basis of what the local governments should be doing which mostly are in line with the SDGs. Accordingly, they have the visualization of the development that need to be brought about in their respective municipal area for which need based projects have been moved and preliminary development agenda have been set for an objective based moving forward. Many of them have started formulating periodic as well as perspective plans. However, the budget allocation and coverage for the SDGs specified programs is limited with averaging 25% in rural municipalities and 28% in municipalities as per 2019/20 budget allocations. The

share of own source revenue on the overall budget is very low with 9.94% in rural municipalities and 16.34% in municipalities. A look onto these projects shows that some of them are really exemplary in terms of the way they were implemented, and the way they brought change and happiness among people.

Local governments have realized the imperative of having SDGs interlinked development thrust and accordingly many of them are already in the process of integrating them into their annual and periodic planning. NPC is facilitating the process through training on SDGs localization and deployment of trained facilitators in 11 municipalities on a pilot basis and further training should be on the way in FY 2020/21. So far, all three local government associations, by virtue of being an umbrella organization of the respective category of local governance bodies, are actively providing supports to their local governance that include providing inter-connectivity, facilitating capacity development, dealing on the common issues, and deliberating onto SDGs as well.

The strengthening of local capacity could be visualized as a three step process: fully functional and adequately staffed organizational setup, formulation of SDGs framework (a trio of SDGs targets and indicators, implementation strategy, and plan of action with activities and financial source), and finally the execution. NPC has readied guidelines to provincial and local governments to roll out the SDGs aligned plan with systemic integration of localised indicators with national indicators. This will also make it easy to access data and verify the achievement against the stipulated targets.

NPC has already estimated what it requires to be invested to achieve national level SDGs targets. With the recent prescribing of provincial level SDGs targets and indicators the proportion out of total fund requirement should now be decomposed for province wise investment needs. Once the targets are afixed at the local level the investment requirement could be further decomposed and budget assigned. This would make it clear how much could be possibly shared by own source revenue and how much needs to be outsourced including financing supports from provincial and federal governments on the one hand and national and international sources on the other.

Way forward

Key to SDGs realization thus includes a) developing local level frameworks, b) programming and foreclosing ? funding needs, and c) monitoring and evaluation of implementation. Once the framework gets spelt out the resource requirement to achieve that would be obvious and how to meet that would become pivotal.

The immediate actions to be carried out are as follows:

- Local governments should define the local level SDGs targets and indicators, assess the gap over current state and formulate a plan of action until 2023/24 in line with the 15th plan. Besides, the local governments need to put in place the local level SDGs implementation and monitoring mechanism.
- Plan of action providea clarity of resource needs, and the proportion that could be shared by the own source revenue of the local governments. Based on that they could hold dialogues with the provincial and federal governments for the resource sharing to fulfil the gap, as well as for

outsourcing as required. Federal government accordingly can mediate with potential partners or donors.

- Local governments should make a timely interaction with financing institutions such as Town Development Fund which is being restructured as Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation.
- Integration of SDGs and targets into the local governments annual as well as periodic planning with budget allocation is key to localisation of SDGs. It is therefore important to orient elected and non elected officials of local government to ensure the desired result.
- Local governments also need to think out of the box with respect to plausible projects which could be implemented by changing modality towards applying such approaches as public-private partnership. The framework of such partnership should be developed and implemented as soon as possible.
- DCCs should be more proactive and functional for better coordination and facilitation to the urban and rural municipalities for project implementation as per the constitutional mandates and existing legal provisions.

The local governments need to be supported by the federal and provincial governments as follows:

At the federal level

- Release all the frameworks and guidelines that have recently been prepared and remain to be circulated to the provinces and local level governments and facilitate orientations as and when required. .
- Engage the LGAs to support the local governments in setting their targets, tracking the process and facilitate in order to secure cooperation from various partners including provincial as well as federal governments. Get engaged with the provincial and local governments with regards to meeting the resource needs for the scheduled implementation of provincial and local level SDGs plans of action.

At the provincial level

- Make proposition to federal governments the specific technical and resource support required to execute provincial level SDGs plan of action on year wise basis
- Interact with the local governments for briefing the provincial perspective of SDGs plan of action and what it means at the respective local level
- Hold dialogue with local governments regarding resource support that could be provided by province

1. Introduction and Methods

1.1 SDGs: Post-2015 Development Agenda

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) provided a shared framework for global action and cooperation on development from 2000 to the end of 2015. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) cover a wider range of rights based sustainable development issues beyond those encompassed in the MDGs. United Nations (UN) General Assembly through UN Resolution 70/1 prescribed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as post 2015 Development Agenda. While MDGs mainly aimed at reducing poverty and inequality, SDGs expanded these and included additional international commitments on ending poverty and achieving equality everywhere, leaving no one behind. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is integrated, indivisible and balance of three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental, and poverty eradication. To be achieved by the year 2030 it stands as a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all" through 17 global goals. 193 countries of the UN General Assembly including Nepal adopted the 2030 Development Agenda titled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" on 25 Sept. 2015.

The SDGs goals, defined by the UN General Assembly, could be categorized into 6 groups in general for the development planning context in Nepal.

Table 1: Grouping of Sustainable Development Goals

SN	Dimensions	Goals	Description
1	Economic Wellbeings	Goal 1	No Poverty
		Goal 2	Zero Hunger
		Goal 8	Decent Work and Economic Growth
		Goal 12	Responsible Consumption and Production
2	Social Development	Goal 3	Good Health and Well-being
		Goal 4	Quality Education
		Goal 5	Gender Equality
		Goal 6	Clean Water and Sanitation
3	Environment Protection	Goal 13	Climate Action
		Goal 14	Life Below Water
		Goal 15	Life On Land
4	Physical Infrastructure	Goal 7	Affordable and Clean Energy
		Goal 9	Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
		Goal 11	Sustainable Cities and Communities
5	Governance and Institutions	Goal 10	Reducing Inequality
		Goal 16	Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
6	Means of Implementation	Goal 17	Partnerships for the Goals

17 SDGs thus were set with associated 169 targets and 237 indicators. Nepal, as a member of the UN, is committed to this global initiative. Nepal added 257 to global indicators (making it 494 in total) for 159 global targets (excluding SDG 14) given such concerns as “all the global SDG targets and indicators are not fully applicable to Nepal's country condition; nor are they sufficient to depict the country specific SDG issues. Some of the targets within the SDGs are less relevant for Nepal while additional targets would be necessary to address the country specific challenge”. It is foretelling that ‘although SDGs are equally important, indivisible, and common for all countries, their priorities are country specific, depending upon the level, gaps and structure of development, and in addition such Prioritization will also be guided by financing and other resource availability and donor support to specific SDGs’ (NPC 2017).

1.2 Rationale of VNR and Localization Study

The United Nations provides opportunity to all member states for regular follow-up and review of status and progress on preparation, implementation and results of SDGs through Voluntary National Reports (VNR) which is shared at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) convened annually. As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages member states to “conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven” processes (2030 Agenda, paragraph 79).

1.2.1 National Reporting by the Government

GoN presented its VNR report to the UN HLPF in 2017 which was the year of the first VNR cycle; next reporting is due this year (2020). While HLPF focused on thematic reviews of all goals in 2016 with a theme ‘ensuring that no one is left behind’, this is going to be all goals in 2020 as well with a theme ‘accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development’.

2017 VNR report provided for progress up to June 2017 against SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 17 (Nepal excluded SDG 14) under the theme 'eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world'. As it tries to cover the progress made in only one year of SDGs period, the information for these are also limited. It did highlight the challenges as follows: ‘A major challenge will be to cascade national efforts to sub-national levels mainstreaming the SDGs agenda into the provincial and local level planning and budgeting as these new levels of government are in the formation process. Making existing data generation system robust and data bases in line with SDGs requirement is one of the key challenges which demand huge resources and capacities as well. Data disaggregation has been a serious challenge in regularly tracking progress of SDGs. Other challenges include job creation and tackling nutrition deficiency and natural disasters, and strengthening governance at all levels’.

The review process included draft preparation and all stakeholders were invited by uploading it on the website for comments, suggestions and feedback. Besides, government agencies were requested through official letters and development partners with email correspondences. And few consultation meetings were held with representatives of the private sector, cooperatives, non-governmental organizations, members of the civil society, youths and media people. NPC also organized consultative

workshops participated by government evaluation and oversight agencies, community of evaluators and academia.

For the purpose of VNR reporting for this year (2020) GoN has set it in eight chapters (1. Introduction, 2. Ownership of VNRs, 3. Methodology and process of VNRs, 4. Policy and enabling environment, 5. Leaving no one behind, 6. Means of implementation 7. Progress on goals and targets, and 8. Conclusions and next steps). First preparatory meeting on SDGs VNR 2020 was organized by SDGs Implementation and Coordination Committee on March 2020 with participation of GoN, LGAs, NGOs, cooperatives and the private sector. NPC organized virtual meeting series on May 2020 during nationwide lockdown enforced to contain the spread of Covid-19. The meeting interacted on the preparation of VNR, 2020 following the circulation of 'Main Message' in this regard. The interaction did reveal that local governments remain to be appraised and provided technical support necessary for SDGs localization and lacking of SDGs interlinked development plan within the framework of 15th plan. The draft VNR report was readied a presentation of which was made on a zoom meeting organized by NPC on June 2020.

1.2.2 Localization Study and Role of LGAs

Local Government Associations (LGAs) initiated this study under support from United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) to have an understanding about the state of SDGs localization and also provide inputs to GoN's preparation of VNR 2020. Local level governments are, therefore, engaged in the VNR process in two ways: one in the process of GoN's preparation of VNR, and next in the current process of LGAs preparation of the inputs to VNR. All three LGAs namely ADCCN, MuAN and NARMIN are represented in GoN constituted committees following the reorganization in October 2019:

- SDGs Steering Committee- Chairpersons of LGAs as Member
- SDGs Implementation and Monitoring Committee- Representatives from LGAs as Member
- SDGs Thematic Committees- Representatives from LGAs as Member

LGAs represent their members in the meetings of above-mentioned three SDGs committees formed by the federal government. In particular, SDGs Implementation and Monitoring Committee has led the preparation of VNR. Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN), National Association of Rural Municipality in Nepal (NARMIN) are the umbrella organizations of the 293 municipalities, and 460 rural municipalities respectively. Likewise, Association of District Coordination Committee Nepal (ADCCN) is an umbrella organization of district coordination committees. ADCCN is functional in all 77 districts for the coordination, facilitation and monitoring of local level, programs (fund, functions, and functionaries).

1.3 Study Method and Processes

In order to conduct this study on SDGs localization, LGAs and designated consultant held preparatory meetings, designed processes of the study and developed reporting format. A checklist was prepared to collect data for the VNR purpose and a questionnaire asking for specific information were emailed by LGAs through their provincial wings to the concerned local governments that was to be responded from them officials.

1.3.1 Desk Review of Relevant Literatures

Related literatures were reviewed at the start of the study so as to get the understanding of the constitutional and legal provisions, plan based approach to development and SDGs framework and implementation process. Following were the major sources to refer into the study:

- Constitution of Nepal
- Local Government Operation Act, 2018
- 15th Plan of the Government of Nepal
- UN Resource Materials on Sustainable Development Goals

1.3.2 Development of Checklist and Questionnaires

The information required for the study obviously confined to how the development needs are being addressed at the local level and how the SDGs focus is being incorporated in budgetary process and getting implemented. A checklist with relevant questions were framed seeking the following information:

- a. Localization of SDGs: strategy specified with all or some of the goals/ white paper released/ plan of action prepared for all or some of the goals
- b. SDGs related program: Program/Budget and % of own source coverage/ state of execution
- c. Mechanism for SDGs implementation: Framework/ dialogue with federal, provincial government/networking with federal and provincial governments
- d. State of own organizational setting and programs for own human resources and financial capacity development

1.3.3 Selection of Sample Local Government Units

The information checklist/questionnaire was emailed to municipalities and rural municipalities by the LGAs. LGAs were kin to get every province represented. It was not possible however to get the local level further categorised into old and new municipality; and rural municipality. As such it was simplistically putting the representation of municipalities and rural municipalities by province. Final list of the sample local governments for the study of SDGs initiatives are taken as following:

Province	Old Municipality	New Municipality	Rural Municipality
Province 1	Dhankuta	Rupakot Majhuwagadhi	Diprung
Province 2	Lahan	Hariwon	Parwanipur
Bagmati	Kamalamai	Chagunarayan	Siddhalek
Gandaki	Vyas	Phalebas	Adhikhola
Lumbini	Tulsipur	Tilittama	Jhimruk
Karnali	Birendranagar	Bheri	Dungegshwor
Sudurpaschim	Bhimdatta	Sanfebagar	Jorayal

1.3.4 Field Consultation and Information Gathering

ADCCN outreached local governments through its members. The District Coordination Committee's offices enquired on a) success stories with respect to local plans and specific to SDGs, and b) challenges of development activities implemented by those governments in planning, programming and implementation aligning with SDGs. MuAN and NARMIN had already prepared 100 Good practices each of local development initiatives and undertaken printed circulations Most of which looked to be fitted towards the achievements of SDGs.

Field level interactions were also planned to have a face to face information sharing on the localization of SDGs through official interviews and focus group discussions, but, could not be done owing to lockdown imposed by the government given the threats of Covid-19 pandemic. LGAs organized virtual meetings with some selected informants/ municipalities and District coordination Committees.

1.3.5 Information Processing and Analysis

The layout of the report was tentatively framed at the initial phase of the study. As the data were received from limited number of municipalities and rural municipalities from each province these were taken as representing the specific provinces and as necessary national average has been worked out. The information are presented by province and analysis has been followed.

1.3.6 Dissemination, Sharing and Policy Feeding

NGO Federation Nepal prepared and submitted voluntary national reporting in 2017. Apart from the government NGOs team participated in high level political forum (HLPF) meeting in 2017. For this year (2020) GoN has made it clear that there would be single reporting from the government incorporating the views of private and non-governmental sector as well. In this respect, government has initiated wider consultations with NGOs, community based organizations and the private sector for sectoral representation and inclusive preparation of VNR.

A report was prepared by SDGs National Network Nepal (SDGs Network), the common platform of civil society Major Groups and Stakeholders. On behalf of SDGs Network, NFN in September 2019 published a report on the 'Civil Societies' Perspectives on SDGs Implementation which presents status, progress and achievements on SDG intervention as well as voices, perceptions and opinion of civil society organizations (CSOs) and their prospective in achieving SDGs in the country. The consultation meeting of civil society major groups and stakeholders, held on November 2019 in Kathmandu, decided to conduct the Voluntary Peoples Review (VPR) of SDGs in Nepal (VPR 2020), which is purely led by people based organizations and civil society major groups and stakeholders identified by Peoples Forum last year. The theme of the VPR 2020 is Amplifying Voices of the People: Closing the Gaps of SDGs.

1.4 Limitation of the Study

This study limits to the information from the responding municipalities and rural municipalities as the lockdown imposed by the GoN in order to check the spread of Covid-19 pandemic did not make it possible for local interactions across seven provinces. The general perspective of the situation was

derived from the opinions a) derived by the LGAs through their respective provincial level committees, and b) expressed by the participants to NPC called on meetings on the preparation of VNR. The virtual meetings called on by the SDGs National Network Nepal with respect to preparation of VPR also provided insights into the state of SDGs localisation.

2. Evolution of Economic Development Planning in Nepal

2.1 Nepal Geo-political

Nepal nation grew out of the unification of principalities which saw the takeover of Kathmandu in 1768 which was historically known as Nepal valley. The territorial expansion that was continuing ended with the Sugauli Treaty with British India in 1816; a part of the ceded territory 'naya muluk' in the south west was returned by the British during the reign of Jung Bahadur Rana in 1860. On the northern side the territorial incursion into Tibet ended with treaty at Betravati on 1792, but, the war erupted again and ended with the Treaty of Thapathali in 1856 that was replaced in 1956 following the takeover of Tibet by China. Nepal signed a fresh treaty with China in 1960. Thus within the set boundary located at 28°10'N 84°15'E the political governance of Nepali nation has followed. Geographically the land mass of Nepal has three distinct features running east-west: a) terai in the south that constitutes extension of the Gangetic plane, b) majestic Himalayas in the north (Nepal has 14 of the top 20 highest peaks in the world including Everest), and hills in the middle from lower Chure to higher Mahabharat range.

Fig 1: Nepal Map with Provinces and Districts



From unification to governance Nepal was led by the king and the courtiers. This changed in 1846 as Jang Bahadur Rana took power through the bloodshed known as 'Kot Parva'. The Rana regime ended with the political movement for democracy in 1951. During the period of 1951 to 1960 Nepal moved from a political transition period to promulgation of Constitution for multi-party system of governance, installation of government through election and its dismissal by the King. The partyless Panchayat System of governance was installed by the King in 1961 through the promulgation of new constitution. Under the system, the legislative members were informally elected and the prime minister was appointed by the King. Through a referendum in 1980 in response to movement for political pluralism the informal system of political governance was replaced by election based on adult franchise and formation of government through it. That setup could not last long as in the wake of peoples' movement the King gave way to multi-party system with constitutional monarchy in 1990.

The royal massacre in 2001 installed King Gyanendra who assumed full power in February 2005 by dismissing the government that provoked the political parties who then sided with the Maoists. The peoples' movement thereof culminated with the King relinquishing power in 2006. The country entered into an era of peacefulness through signing of a comprehensive peace agreement between the Maoists and the Government in November that year. Nepal embarked into a consensual form of governance from 2006 to 2015 and thereafter. An interim constitution was promulgated pending the promulgation by the Constituent Assembly. The first Assembly was dissolved and elections were held for 2nd Assembly. This Assembly finally completed the formulation of Constitution that was promulgated in September 2015.

Following the 2017 elections at the federal, 7 provincial and 753 local levels Nepal moved onto a new state of political governance under the 2015 constitution.

2.2 Development Drives

The Rana regime (1846-1951) which led Nepal under stricture authoritarian governance made a little strides socio-economically with a laissez faire approach. Organized establishments ushered in 1937 with the establishment of Biratnagar Jute Mills and it got the momentum during the phase of scarcity created by World War II and the movement for independence of India from British rule. With the change in the regime Nepal entered into a democratic phase of governance that heralded the budgetary process in 1951/52 and initiated planned development approach with the formulation of First Plan (1956-1961). And what followed was a gradual departure from laissez faire to control and command economy as Nepal went onto introducing foreign aid to finance the economic development projects on the one hand and inducting state participation in economic activities through public enterprises on the other.

During the period of Panchayat regime (1961-1990) the control and command economic framework had its peak, but, owing to limitation of economic growth (less than 4% per annum) and mass poverty (42% of the people as per Central Bureau of Statistics_Nepal Living Standard Survey 1995/96) it started weakening in the context of global movement for economic liberalization. Nepal introduced a first change onto the policy towards economic liberalization of openness and competitiveness in 1987. The

weightage and direction of investment during this period changed its focus from infrastructure (Plan II to IV) to agriculture (Plan V to Plan VI) to basic needs (Plan VII to VIII).

The political transition onto multiparty governance in 1990 opted for full economic liberalization on current account transactions albeit gradually and Nepal had a welcome economic growth order during 1990s and the country initiated the planned shift towards poverty reduction (Plan IX to Plan X). The growth order, however, started weakening from the end of 1990s as the country had plunged into armed insurgencies through Maoist movement in 1995.

The signing of the peace treaty in 2006 unleashed the hope for economic revival but the absence of political stability could not thrust adequate inertia. It led to ups and downs in the economic growth though the poverty did come down to 25.2% of the population in 2010. Nepal adopted three years periodic plans (Plan XI to Plan XIII) during the interim period which was focused on moving from economic downturns that happened during the conflict (mainly 2001-2006) towards stabilisation and growth. However, the unexpected Gorkha Earthquake in April 2015 and second major one on May 2015 had a devastating effect that killed over 9,000 people and destroyed over 600,000 houses in 14 districts of the country.

Following the earthquake and following the promulgation of Constitution Nepal entered into new phase of development management. This also marked the end of 2000-2015 adoption of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and entry into new planning phases and 2015-2030 period of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2.3 Socio-economic Strides

Nepal's development has embarked upon economic growth and social equity along with environmental orderliness. The following provides a glimpse of Nepal's development from 1991 to 2017:

Table 2: GDP, Per-capita Income, and Population below Poverty line

Year	GDP Nominal NPR mn	GDP Real NPR mn	GDP growth %	Population (heads)	Per-capita GDP (NPR) Nominal	Population below poverty (%)	
						NLSS	M P I
2010/11	1366954	639694	3.42			25.2	
2011/12	1527344	670279	4.78	26494504	57648		39.13
2012/13	1695011	697954	4.13	26875445	63069		
2013/14	1964540	739754	5.99	27264592	72055		
2014/15	2130150	764336	3.32	27660775	77010		28.62
2015/16	2253163	768835	0.59	28062832	80290		
2016/17	2674493	832060	8.22	28469460	93943		
2017/18	3044527	887817	6.70	28879636	105421		
2018/19	3458793	949886	6.99	29291746	118081		

Source: GDP data from Economic Survey 2019/20, MoF; Population Projections 2011-31, CBS;
NLSS: Nepal Living Standard Survey; MPI: Multiple Poverty Index

2.4 Nationalization Efforts of Global Development Agenda

With respect to development felt at the peoples' level, the social indicators were duly targeted along with economic and environmental indicators. In this regard Nepal embarked upon attaining millennium development goals (MDGs) by 2015 in eight areas that were based on the actions and targets contained in the Millennium Declaration adopted by 189 nations-and signed by 147 heads of state and governments during the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000. The eight MDGs were broken down into 21 quantifiable targets and measured by 60 indicators; the implementation of which led to the achievement as follows:

Table 3: Nepal MDGs Achievement

SN	MDGs	Achievement
1	Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extreme poverty dropped from 33.5 percent of the population in 1990 to 16.4 percent in 2013 • Almost met the target of reducing by half the proportion of underweight children (aged 6 to 59 months) two years early in 2013
2	Achieve universal primary education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • net enrolment ratio (NER) to 96.6, the survival rate to 89.4 percent • literacy rate (15-24 years) to 88.6 percent (all 2013 figures).
3	Gender equality & empowerment of women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender parity index (GPI) scores of 1.09 in primary and 1.0 in secondary education in 2015. • Share of women engaged in wage employment in the non-agriculture sector has increased to 44.8 percent
4	Reduce child mortality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • infant mortality rate (IMR)- reduced to 33 per 1,000 live births in 2014 • under-five mortality rate (U5MR)- reduced to 38 per 1,000 live births in 2014 • increasing immunization against measles- 92.6 percent of one-year old in 2015
5	Improve maternal health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maternal mortality ratio (MMR): declined from 281 in 2005 and 258 in 2015. • proportion of births attended by skilled birth attendants (SBAs): increased from just 7 percent in 1990 to 55.6 percent in 2014
6	Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and TB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIV infection rate (15-49 years) decreased from 0.3 percent in 2000 to 0.2 percent in 2015; 26.5 percent of people living with HIV enrolled in antiretroviral therapy (ART) in 2015. • almost achieved most of the malaria related MDG targets by 2015. Yet concerns about the slow reduction of indigenous Plasmodium vivax cases

SN	MDGs	Achievement
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> halted and reversed the spread of TB, met the target of 91 percent of cases being treated under the Directly Observed Treatment Short Course (DOTS), but, fell short of the target of the proportion of cases detected.
7	Ensure environmental sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CO2 emissions of only 0.1 tonnes per capita in 2015 and the growth rate of its CO2 equivalent emissions is low amongst developing countries. the proportion of people using fuelwood as main source of cooking fuel declined from about 68.4 percent of the population in 2000 to 53.8% in 2015. 44.7 percent of total land area dedicated to forest conservation, more than the target of 42 percent by 2030; and 23.3 percent of terrestrial land protected in 2015, close to the 2030 target of 25 percent about 83.6 percent of households had access to an improved source of drinking water and 81 percent had access to sanitation (toilets). the population living in slums and squatters rather increased from an estimated 11,850 in 2000 to 500,000 in 2010
8	Global partnership for development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite joining the World Trade Organization in 2004, improved market access not materialized for Nepali goods and services the actual receipt of ODA declined from 4.8 percent of GDP in 1999/00 to 2.6 percent of GDP in 2014/15 Nepal's debt low at 25.6 percent of GDP, and foreign debt makes up to 16.1 percent of GDP tremendous progress in the communications sector with tele-penetration now at more than 106.1% and 43.7% of the population having internet access

Source: Nepal and the Millennium Development Goals Final Status Report 2000-2015

Contribution of local authorities in achieving the MDGs remained outstanding as much of the programme depended upon the collaboration of local bodies. In the past decades, local authorities were massively involved in several campaigns – ODF, fully-immunized territories, indoor pollution free zones, child-friendly local governance and others. In addition, municipalities, DDCs and VDCs mobilized their grass-root organizations in basic health provisions, literacy campaigns, women empowerment, enterprises promotion and farming commercialization through women groups, forest users groups, cooperatives and right-based institutions. Such movements were stepping stones to achieve MDGs and to foundations of the SDGs. ADCCN, MuAN and NARMIN in their previous avatars did organize MDGs support programmes with respect to orientation and local body capacitation.

2.5 Human Development Indicators in Recent Years

UN's annual publication of human development report has summed up Nepal's standing as follows in the year 2015 and 2018:

Table 4: Nepal Human Development Index

SN	Particulars	2015	2018
1	Human development index	0.558	0.579
	Life expectancy at birth	70.0	70.5
	Expected years of schooling	12.2	12.2
	Mean years of schooling	4.1	
	Per capita GNI (2011 PPP dollar)	2337	2748
	Inequality	0.437	0.43
	Gender development index	0.925	0.909
	Poverty		34
	Employment to population	80.5	81.9
	Skilled labour force		41.9
	Human security (homicide per 100,000)	2.9	2.2
	Exports and Imports (% of GDP)	53.2	54.3
	Environmental (carbon emissions capita in ton)		0.3
	HDI rank	144	147

Source: Human Development Report 2016 and 2019, UNDP

2.6 Nepal's Envisionment towards Sustainable Development Agenda

Nepal has set a long-term vision of development that comprises of a) graduation from Least Developed Country status by 2022, b) achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the post-Millennium Development Goals era, and c) becoming a middle-income country by 2030. This was clearly set forth in the 14th Periodic Plan (2016/17-2018/19) and the ongoing 15th Periodic Plan (2019/20-2023/24). While GoN formulated SDGs Roadmap 2016-30 delineating the accomplishment to be achieved with targets and indicators, the periodic plans incorporated accomplishing them as part and parcel of planned development directives and drives. 14th Plan aimed at building an independent and prosperous state ensuring access to basic social services and providing adequate food, health, energy and job security, and at the same time also called for working towards the SDGs under 5 major pillars- (i) Infrastructure (Goals 6, 7, 9 and 11), (ii) Social (Goals 3 and 4), (iii) Economic (Goals 1, 2, 8, 9, 10 and 12), (iv) Governance (Goals 16 and 17) and (v) Cross-cutting (Goals 5, 13, and 15). The current 15th Plan is a step further for the above specified long term vision along the following specifics of prosperity and happiness over the long term:

Table 5: Nepal's 15th Periodic Plan's Vision of Prosperity and Happiness

SN	Prosperity		Happiness
1.1	Accessible modern infrastructure and intensive connectivity	2.1	Well-being and decent life
1.2	Development and full utilization of human capital potentials	2.2	Safe, civilized and just society
1.3	High and sustainable production and productivity	2.3	Healthy and balanced environment
1.4	High and equitable national income	2.4	Good governance
		2.5	Comprehensive democracy
		2.6	National unity, security and dignity

Source: 15th Plan, NPC, Kathmandu

The Plan has directed the adoption of eight strategies and eight instruments of transformation. Further, it has internalized the SDGs calling out provincial and local governments to follow thru in the provincial and local level development programs that together would lead to overall achievement. This is important as starting in the FY 2017/18, the number of central government projects was reduced to less than 400, as many smaller projects were devolved to local governments. Development programs/projects are classified as 'priority one' (P1), 'priority two' (P2) or 'priority three' (P3) with resource provided to P1 even in situation of revenue shortfalls. Most SDG-related projects fall in the P1 category.

3. National Strategy and Localization of SDGs

What we have is that the government has aligned its periodic plan with the SDGs and the budget allocations in the annual programs are audited against the SDGs and checked if the allocations are balanced across SDG areas. To track the contribution of programs in achieving the SDGs, the government worked out a detailed inventory of 484 programs to link them with SDG targets (outcomes). These conform to the drives to be made for SDGs achievement specified in the Baseline Report: Macroeconomic policy reforms, Undertaking SDGs needs assessment and their financing requirement, Drawing SDGs financing strategies and meeting the financing gaps, Prioritizing SDGs and sequencing them, Further aligning SDGs into periodic plans, Coordinating SDGs implementation at the federal, provincial and local levels, Improving governance around the SDGs, Putting apex monitoring and evaluation system in place, and Strengthening data, reporting, and progress dissemination system.

3.1 National Institutions Design for SDGs

More specifically for the sake of SDGs implementation and performance assessment GoN has constituted a high level National Steering Committee under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, SDG Implementation and Evaluation Committee headed by Vice-Chair of National Planning Commission (NPC), and seven thematic working groups for SDGs (Economic development, Social development, Energy development and climate change, Agriculture development and drinking water, Infrastructure development, Governance and gender mainstreaming, and Coordination) have been formed under the convenorship of Members of the NPC with secretaries of the relevant Ministries as co-convenors and other concerned agencies as members of the groups. Furthermore, Parliament has also setup Sustainable Development and Good Governance Committee to overview the national performance.

Further, the government has forged partnership with non-state actors for SDGs implementation that include national federation of cooperatives, the apex private sector organizations of the chambers of commerce and industries, and NGO Federation Nepal (NFN). As a result of this, the National Cooperative Federation of Nepal Limited (NCFL) has organized many SDG-related initiatives. It celebrated 2017 Cooperative Day under the slogan of ‘Cooperatives for Sustainable Development’. Federation of Nepal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) commissioned a study ‘Sustainable production and consumption pattern in Nepal’, which is directly related to SDG 12. NFN initiated the establishment of Nepal SDGs Forum representing civil society organizations, the Forum is regularly undertaking facilitation in 23 constituencies (children, women, Dalits, Madhesis, indigenous people, persons with disabilities, farmers, rural and urban poor, disadvantaged areas, Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender/transsexual, intersex and queer/questioning (LGBTIQ), local authorities, migrants, senior citizens, people living with HIV (PLHIV), non-government organizations (NGOs), business and industry, scientific and technological community, workers and trade unions, cooperative, media and youth) and 19 thematic areas (education, health, environment and climate, agriculture food sovereignty and nutrition, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), energy, sustainable cities, forestry, water resources, land resources, disaster management, governance, anti-corruption, access to justice, human rights, peace building, development financing, consumer protection and women and gender justice) for partnership and for the implementation of the SDGs.

In a nutshell, SDGs national policy framework comprises a) mainstreaming SDGs in 14th and 15th periodic plans, b) SDGs coding in annual projects, c) bestowing high priority to projects contributing to SDGs, d) sectoral strategies prepared in line with SDGs, and e) planning monitoring and evaluation guidelines for federal, provincial and local levels.

3.2 Localization Strategies

The Constitution of Nepal 2015 envisages a 3 tiered, devolved and decentralized architecture of governance, comprising Federal, Provincial and Local governments with spheres of governance and service deliveries as (a) Exclusively Federal Functions, (b) Exclusively Provincial Functions, (c) Exclusively Local Functions, (d) Concurrent Functions of Federal and Provincial governments, and (e) Concurrent Functions of Federal, Provincial and Local governments. Accordingly, many of the SDGs (basic and

secondary education, primary health care, water supply and sanitation, agriculture, basic infrastructure, and social security) fall under the jurisdiction of local governments. The localization strategy as such holds significance for the following reasons: First, the federal system of government has entrusted many SDGs related service delivery at the province and local levels. Second, revenue and other resource mobilization authority has been devolved to the provincial and local governments. Further, the fiscal transfer of larger portion of federal revenue from the Federal government provide sub-national governments with large amount of resources to carry out SDGs. Third, the level of development being different across sub national units and the priorities of development being different, prioritization and sequencing of SDG interventions could be best addressed through the planning and budgeting process at the sub national levels. Fourth, local people's participation and effective service delivery can be best assured when the SDGs are implemented at the sub-national levels.

It was aptly recognized by the SDG Baseline Report, 2017 that the localization of SDGs at the provincial and local government levels is critical for the universal, equitable and inclusive outcome of sustainable development efforts, which make it important to have a political set up at those levels to handle the development agenda in an effective manner. As such, alongside the national agenda for SDGs, GoN has developed a national and provincial monitoring and evaluation framework and has identified 117 SDGs indicators for the provinces and also interacted with province level policy and planning commissions.

SDGs implementation committees will have to be established at provincial, district and municipality levels. And recently directives have been issued to them to constitute a Provincial SDG Committee headed by Chief Ministers, and Municipality SDG Committee under the convenorship of Deputy Mayor. GoN has recognized the need to support sub-national levels on capacity development in planning, monitoring and statistics. Accordingly, NPC has conducted SDGs awareness campaign at each province and more recently 25 facilitators were enrolled for four months and provided (9 days) training on SDGs localization with Nepal Administrative Staff College coordinating the event and these facilitators have moved to the 11 municipalities. The facilitators (2 to 3 per municipality) are there to support chief of the city/rural municipality and his team of staff in municipal preparations of periodic plan and annual plan of action with SDGs actions at the core, the tenure of the facilitators would end by mid-July 2020. Meanwhile, NPC has readied planning and monitoring guidelines as well as SDG Localization Resource Book for provincial and local governments to work out their specific SDGs plan of action/budget aligned to national periodic/SDGs plan. It remains to be rolled out.

3.3 Local Government Mechanisms for SDGs

Article 56 of the Constitution of Nepal states that the governance structure of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal will have three levels, namely the Federal, the Province and the Local level. Provincial and local governments have been vested with specific powers within the jurisdiction of federal government to enact laws, formulate policies, undertake planning, generate resources and incur expenditures through budgetary process. The powers of these specific levels are provided in the Schedules 5 to 9 with a) 21 exclusive powers and 25 powers concurrent with federal for provincial governments, and b) 22 exclusive and 15 powers concurrent with federal and province to the local governments (see Annex 2).

As per Article 59(1) all three levels: Federal, Province and Local are vested with legislative, judiciary and executives functions. The executive functions among others include presenting annual budget, formulating and implementing policies and plans on any matters related to financial powers within their respective jurisdictions. Article 232 (1) states that the relations between the Federal, Province, and Local level shall be based on the principles of cooperation, coordination and co-existence. With respect to coordination Article 235 (1) provides that the Federal Parliament shall make necessary laws in order to maintain coordination between the Federal, Province and Local level. Accordingly, to implement the provisions related to the powers of the local level Federal Parliament on 15th October 2018 enacted Local Government Operation Act (LGOA), 2018 for the municipalities and rural municipalities that have been formed as provided by Article 295 (3) of the Constitution of Nepal with name, headquarter, and wards (5-21 in rural municipality, 9-35 in municipality) designated by the Federal Government. Likewise, LGOA part 12 (clause 92 to 96) has made provisions for district council.

The rights of the municipalities are provided in the Clause 11 of LGOA with self-governance powers (sub-clause 1 and 2.) Sub-clause 4 and 5 provide for taking care of the some specific services within the framework of federal and provincial legal frameworks. A clear view of them is depicted below.

Table 6: Main responsibility sectors and sub-sectors

Particulars	Provincial level	Local level
1. General public services	State civil service and other government services; State level electricity, irrigation and water supply services; Navigation	Management of the local services; Local roads, rural roads, agro-roads; Irrigation
2. Public order and safety	State police administration and peace and order; State bureau of investigation	Town police
3. Economic affairs/transport	Intra-State trade; State highways; Exploration and management of mines; Agriculture and livestock development; Factories and industrialization	Agriculture and animal husbandry; Agro-products management; Animal health; Cooperatives and local markets management
4. Environmental protection	Use of forests and waters; Management of environment within the State	Environment protection and biodiversity
5. Housing and community amenities		Local level development plans and projects
6. Health	Health services	Basic health and sanitation
7. Recreation, culture & religion	Protection and use of languages, scripts, cultures, fine arts and religions	Protection and development of languages, cultures and fine arts
8. Education	State universities; Higher education; Libraries; Museums	Basic and secondary education
9. Social protection	Management of trusts (Guthi)	Management of senior citizens, persons with disabilities and the incapacitated

Source: World Observatory of Subnational Finance and Investment, 2019 Edition, <http://www.sng-wofi.org/>

These functional fronts do indicate that there could be problems posed by overlapping functions which require the different tiers of government to chart out areas of their scope of responsibilities through joint deliberations for a non-conflicting public services. The activation on these fronts as well as providing for own organizational expenditure require resources. Constitution has specified collection of revenues on sharing basis for which the Inter-Governmental Fiscal Transfer Act of 2017 has made provisions. Besides, GoN provides different types grants to take on the activities by the local governments (see 3.6 hereunder).

3.4 Local Governments Setup and Functions

As per the constitutional provision, GoN constituted Local Level Restructuring Commission (LLRC) that recommended 753 viable local government units that comprise 460 rural municipalities, 276 municipalities, 11 sub-metropolitan cities and 6 metropolitan cities. Local level elections were held in 2017 in three phases. With the election results declared the local governments started functioning.

Like wise 77 districts also have elected political institution. Each district council elects a District Coordination Committee (DCC) within 30 days of the election of municipalities and rural municipalities.

Local governments initiated revisit to the administrative and service delivery structure as existed or as indicated by Federal government's suggestive circular and have set up the new structure by 2018/19. Given the poorly staffed local government administration and lacking in technical competence on some essential fields and also because of unwillingness of 17102 locally deployed Federal staff to get transferred a new hiring process was initiated. For the sake of hiring requisite manpower to undertake the business of the local government and service the people, GoN enacted Civil Services Adjustment Act 2018 and adjusted the existing civil servants in all levels of the government. There were wider vacant positions of staff in sub-national government structure.

With respect to furthering up the capacity development of the local governments, federal government facilitated orientation program on 'Operation of Local Government and Budget Formulation' at the provinces inviting mayors and deputy mayors.

3.5 LGAs Initiatives for Strengthening Local Governance

Along the exclusive and concurrent powers accorded by the Constitution of Nepal, GoN enacted Local Government Operation Act (LGOA), 2018 which has been described as revolutionary for laying the foundation for autonomous/full functional local governments under new federal structure. From the limited functioning in the past the local governments are now autonomous and empowered to take on wide range of functions that has fundamentally enlarged the domain of public services on their part. While the new elected leaders took on the charge, transitioning to well-functioning government setup with requisite staff was a challenge by itself over the limitedly scoped organizational setting of the previous regime. It required restructuring and enactment of necessary laws on the one hand and providing sufficient exposure to the elected leaders and completing the recruitment in vacant positions and providing necessary training to the staff on the other.

On taking up the functions LGOA provided scope but the the Act has also been criticized for the limitation it makes. First, it allows local governments to raise revenue across limited sources that too within the limits of federal and provincial laws which is insufficient when compared to the list of functions local governments are supposed to perform. Second it does not address the capacity gaps among elected representatives and administrative staff. Third, some functions, which were unbundled by the federal government were not clear and sufficient. Finally, control has been maintained through leadership of centrally delegated Chief Administrative Officer as the head of administration (Acharya 2018).

Arising from the need of helping themselves towards efficient functioning on the domain of constitutionally prescribed role for the services to the people, the local governments have setup LGAs in continuation of such formations from the days prior to the current state restructuring. Association of district development committees was changed to Association of District Coordination Committees of Nepal (ADCCN), and Association of village development committees was changed to National Association of Rural Municipalities in Nepal (NARMIN). Municipality Association of Nepal (MuAN) has continued in the same name. All three local government associations, by virtue of being an umbrella organization of the respective category of local governance bodies have taken strides towards capacity development of the local governments, improvement of communication, awareness and advocacies, and strengthening of planning and project deliberations including SDGs.

ADCCN is an umbrella association of 77 District Coordination Councils. A new working committee was elected in January 24, 2018 for a period of 2.5 years. Article 220(1) of Constitution states that there will be District Council for the better coordination among Municipalities and Rural Municipalities within the district and article 220(7) has explicitly mentioned the role, responsibility and authority to the District Council. ADCCN works for strengthening local Government in line with the spirit of Constitution:

The supports rendered by ADCCN include activation of local governments for local development including SDGs. It is supporting District Coordination Committee (DCC) to facilitate municipalities/rural municipalities for the inter-governmental relation and common agenda for the best utilization of natural resources (river basin, conservation of forest and watershed management, extraction of sand, stone and gravel from the river and hills. The following have also added to the contribution of ADCCN in specific thrust areas so vital in that regard:

- It organized its first National Convention on September 8, 2018 in Kathmandu with participation of 75 out of 77 districts with 600 delegates which drafted the new statue of the ADCCN as per the constitutional provision.
- It organized National Climate Conference on December 31, 2018 and January 1, 2019. Due to climate change adverse impacts are being faced in agriculture, forestry, glaciers, fresh water and biodiversity. The conference was a step toward enhancing the understanding of climate change, thereby leading onto formulation and promotion of adaptation strategies to reduce the threat of climate change.

- In coordination with Ministry of Women Children and Senior Citizen it facilitated a National Conference on Violence against Women and Girl on May 30, 2019 which was participated by all elected female mayors or deputies from all over the country.
- It participated in a seminar on Road Map for local government in localizing SDGs held in Kathmandu from 12 – 14 December, 2019.

MuAN is an umbrella association of 293 municipalities. A new working committee was elected in September 2018 through a general assembly for a period of five years. It is actively working for the capacity development of the municipalities including facilitation on information networking, providing technical and advisory support, undertaking topical advocacy and lobbying. Following the election of new working committee MuAN has carried out several orientation, topical interaction as well as facilitation activities to support the efficient functioning of the municipalities including ways to SDGs activation. Illustrative examples are as follows (see annex 5 for details)

- Municipalities Network Advocacy on Sanitation in South Asia (Ongoing from 2018)
- Strengthening Municipal Governance & Localization of SDGs (Aug 2019 - July 2020)
- Enabling Local Governance Support Program (Ongoing from 2019)
- Strengthening Municipal Institutional Capacity (2019 -2020)
- Preparation of LDCRP/DRR of Bidur Municipality (Nov 2018 - Oct 2019)

More recently (April 2020), in situation of Covid-19 pandemic MuAN has issued an appeal for federal and provincial government to a) provide medical and personal protection supplies, as well as relief materials through municipalities for effective administration, and b) immediately release the funds as provisioned in the budget as the resources at hands of the municipalities are getting depleted. Further, MuAN has also circulated a draft of 'Covid-19 prevention and treatment fund operation procedures' with a view to facilitate the municipalities to formulate and operationalize such procedure at the earliest.

NARMIN is an umbrella association of 460 rural municipalities. A 37 members new working committee was elected for a period of five years through a national convention held in March 31-April 2, 2018 at Kathmandu. It supports rural municipalities by way of policy advocacy, capacity building and strengthening networks. Following the election of new working committee NARMIN has carried out several activities alike that of MuAN that includes orientation, topical interaction as well as facilitation activities to support the efficient functioning of the rural municipalities including ways to SDGs activation. NARMIN, in this regard, has adopted a Directive with 15-Point for Rural Municipalities to help with mainstreaming the SDGs into the local planning and monitoring process.

4. Efforts of Local Governments towards SDGs

4.1 SDGs and Functional Assignment of Local Governments

Local governments are expected to articulate local level SDGs targets and indicators, and formulate local level periodic plan appropriately incorporating them. This would provide the strategic guide in preparing annual plan of action and budget. Powers (both exclusive and concurrent) accorded by the Constitution and the rights provisioned by LGOA do provide considerable scope for the local governments to work on SDGs front. On that basis the federal budget has provisioned grants so that the local governments can allocate funds for SDGs related activities/projects. From the powers accorded to this level of government the following matrix does help to deduce SDGs related functioning on the part of local governments:

Table 7: SDGs Indicative Activities of Local Governments

Goals	Description	Exclusive Powers (Schedule 8/ Constitution)	Concurrent Powers (Schedule 9/ Constitution)	Provisions of Local Gov. Operations Act
Goal 1	No Poverty	Management of senior citizens, persons with disabilities and the incapacitated	Social security and poverty alleviation	Services to elderly & disabled
Goal 2	Zero Hunger	Agriculture and animal husbandry, agri extension, agro-products mgmt., animal health, cooperatives	Landless squatters	Promotion of agriculture and livestock, agri extension services
Goal 3	Good Health and Well-being	Basic health	Health	Basic health and hygiene
Goal 4	Quality Education	Basic and secondary education	Education	Basic and secondary education
Goal 5	Gender Equality			
Goal 6	Clean Water and Sanitation	Water supply, sanitation, Protection of watersheds,	Water supply	Drinking water, Preservation of watersheds
Goal 7	Affordable and Clean Energy	Small hydropower project, alternative energy,	Electricity	Electricity & alternative energy
Goal 8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	Services		Local services, Management of unemployed
Goal 9	Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure	Local roads, rural roads, agro-roads, irrigation	Irrigation, mines and minerals	Roads, Irrigation
Goal 10	Reducing Inequality			Promote local opportunities
Goal 11	Sustainable Cities	Local market management,		Settlement dev.,

Goals	Description	Exclusive Powers (Schedule 8/ Constitution)	Concurrent Powers (Schedule 9/ Constitution)	Provisions of Local Gov. Operations Act
	and Communities	Protection and development of languages, cultures and fine arts		Transport and Local market mgmt., Waste mgmt. Preservation of local language, fine arts & culture, Town police & safety of people
Goal 12	Responsible Consumption and Production			Promote efficient use of natural & other resources
Goal 13	Climate Action			
Goal 14	Life Below Water			
Goal 15	Life On Land	Environment protection and biodiversity, Disaster management, Protection of wildlife, mines and minerals	Forests, wildlife, birds, water uses, environment, ecology and biodiversity	Preservation of environment & bio-diversity (flora and fauna), Disaster management.
Goal 16	Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions			
Goal 17	Partnerships for the Goals			

The specific powers accorded to the local level government as indicated above provide a upfront basis of what the local governments should be doing which mostly are on the line with SDGs. Local governments, as such, have a basis to move onto SDGs, however, they are yet to spell out the SDGs specific targets and indicators, but, they do have the visualization of the development that need to be brought about in their respective municipal area for which need based projects have been selectively supported on the one hand, and development agenda are slowly getting focused towards objectively moving forward on the other. Many of them have started formulating periodic as well as perspective plans with an estimation of resource needs to be met through own source revenue, provincial and federal grants and tapping of other national and international grants and loan financing.

The intervention by them so far includes such area as poverty, health, education, sanitation, decent living which are components of SDGs, but, the way it is being done ends at budgetary accomplishment while it misses out the outcome for being devoid of targets and appropriate addressal strategies. It is now more a matter of taking strong initiatives moving from the level of scorching, that automatically cropped up on the local needs and rights based platform accorded by the Constitution and the Act, onto defining a SDGs framework with white paper spelling out SDGs implementation strategy along with goal wise targets and indicators. Local governments have realized the imperative of having SDGs interlinked development thrust and accordingly many of them are already in the process of formulating it. That would be the effective way of guiding the formulation of annual plan of action with budget outlay.

4.2 Support of National Government in Localization

NPC is already facilitating the process with training on SDGs localization and deployment of trained facilitators for the period till the end of FY 2019/20 in 11 municipalities:

Province 1: a) Mahalaxmi Municipality Dhankuta, b) Rong Rural Municipality Ilam

Province 2: a) Matihani Municipality Mahottari, b) Birgunj Metropolitan Municipality Parsa

Province 3: a) Icchakamana Rural Municipality Chitwan

Province 4: a) Putalibazar Municipality Syanja, b) Palungtar Municipality Gorkha

Province 5: a) Siddhartha Nagar Municipality Rupandehi, Bardhaghat Nawalparasi

Province 6: a) Dullu Rural Municipality Dailekh

Province 7: a) Ajaymeru Rural Municipality Dadeldhura

Further training should be on the way in FY 2020/21. LGAs could outreach the local governments in short span of time on supports of NPC and provincial planning commissions to extend this training cum plan facilitation support. This would greatly help the local governments to develop SDGs framework therein for a speedy localization.

4.3 Local Planning and State of Budget Outlays

National Planning Commission (NPC) has issued a local level planning guidelines in 2018 which requires every local government to formulate a) long term vision, b) periodic plan, c) mid-term expenditure framework, and d) annual development program and budget. The plan should be prepared with results framework following the participatory process as follows: a) preparatory meeting/workshop, b) information collection for local profile preparation, c) analysis and writeup of local profile, d) activation of sectoral committees (economic development, social development, infrastructure development, environmental and disaster management, and institutional development, services and governance), e) planning formulation workshop, f) sectoral plan formulation, g) drafting of integrated development plan, and h) approval and publication of the plan. The guidelines specify that the preparation should internalize and localize SDGs.

The status of periodic plan formulation by reporting local governments are given below which shows that some of them are yet to formulate it.

Table – 8: Local Governments with Periodic Plans

SN	Name of Municipality	Population	Five years Periodic plan	Plan Size (NPR million)	Budgetary Gap (%)
1	Diprung RM (Province 1)	22387	√	10305.6	69.0
2	Parwanipur RM (Province 2)	22787	√	2408.2	33.0
3	Siddhalek RM (Bagmati)	31395	√	3234.1	44.0
4	Adhikhola RM (Gandaki)	25454	√	6998.9	14.6
5	Jhimruk RM (Lumbini)	27931	√	1984.6	20.0
6	Dungeswor RM (Karnali)	16883	√	3490.3	58.0

SN	Name of Municipality	Population	Five years Periodic plan	Plan Size (NPR million)	Budgetary Gap (%)
7	Joraya RM (Sudurpaschim)	21667	√	2273.6	12.5
	Average of Rural Municipality	24072			
8	Rupakot Majhuwagadhi (Province 1)	46903	√	5809.6	23.18
9	Dhankuta	36619	X		
10	Lahan (Province 2)	91766	X		
11	Hariwon	42783	X		
12	Kamalamai (Bagmati)	39413	X		
13	Chagunarayan	113471	X		
14	Waling (Gandaki)	52320	√	3612.2	21.11
15	Phalewas	34120	√	7617.2	4.54
16	Tulsipur Sub-Metro (Lumbini)	141528	√	15700.0	44.74
17	Tilottama	123836	√	9113.6	15.29
18	Birendranagar (Karnali)	100458	X		
19	Bheri	33515	X		
20	Bhimdattas (sudurpaschim)	98651	X		
21	Sanfegagar	33788	X		
	Average of Municipality	66806			

Besides, the local governments do need to take into consideration the aspects of global initiatives that the GoN has agreed to take appropriate stepping, and frameworks of most of which have been approved. These include:

- gender equality and social inclusion (GESI): a programmatic action to end disparities between women and men and different social groups
- disaster risk reduction (DRR): a systematic approach to identifying, assessing and reducing the risks of disaster. It aims to reduce socio-economic vulnerabilities to disaster as well as dealing with the environmental and other hazards that trigger them.
- local adaptation plan for actions (LAPA): to integrate climate change resilience into local-to-national development planning processes and outcomes within the context of National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA) identifying priority activities that respond to their immediate needs to adapt to climate change,
- environment friendly local governance (EFLG): to combat with the impacts of climate change and disaster and conserve the environment aiming to build a resilient society safeguarding the poor and vulnerable people from the climate change and related risks.

- child friendly local governance (CFLG): realizing and mainstreaming the rights of children (Survival, Development, Protection and Participation) into the local government system, structure, policies and process.

Further, the local planning is also impacted by sectoral frameworks of GoN such as School Sector Development Plan (2016-2023), National Health Sector Strategy Implementation Plan (2016-2021), Agriculture Development Strategy (2015-2035), National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS), Zero Hunger Challenges Action Plan, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) program, 20-Year Roads Plan and the Five Year Road Sector Strategy, National Tourism Strategic Plan, and National Energy Strategy, and etc.

Many of the local governments in due course completed the budget allocation process after undergoing seven steps of participatory planning process. Under the present state restructuring the local governments themselves are responsible to formulate and approve the plans, promulgate laws on health, education facilities, infrastructure development and fiscal resources. They have to project their sources of revenue, claim the resources with provincial and federal governments, allocate the resources, prioritizes the program. The functional thrusts now have covered almost all the fronts as per exclusive powers (schedule 8) as well as concurrent powers (schedule 9) accorded by the Constitution and further specified by Clause 11 of LGOA albeit on a limited scale constrained by the level of own source revenue and the grants allotted by federal and provincial governments. As of now the local governments are about ready to go deep into the arena of local development in general and thrusts of SDGs in particular, which of course would require technical supports from NPC and provincial planning commissions.

Studies have found a positive contribution of local government expenditures on economic growth in Nepal, however, 'a difficult transition to federalism and weak local government capacity exacerbates already low budget execution in Nepal. Three of the seven provinces spent less than half of the budgeted expenditure in fiscal year 2018-19 and some local governments seem still dysfunctional' (Beyer,2019) though they prepare the annual plan and budget and get approval from the respective council meeting. Most of the ward members including ward chair are also not clear of their dual role of being municipal executive member as well with regards to implementation of the municipal decisions.

This apart local bodies are being provided grants out of Federal and provincial budgets. Federal government transfers to local governments comprise of fiscal equalization grants on the basis of their expenditure needs and capacity of revenue (clause 8.1), conditional grants (clause 9), complementary/matching grants (clause 10) and special grants (clause 11). The government initiated fiscal transfers starting 2017/18, (equalization grants) to the 744 local governments (prior to completion of state restructuring) on the basis of population (70 percent weight), development status (15 percent) and cost-adjusted geographical area (15 per cent). The equalization grants are designed to realize federalism and the right of local communities to make their own development choices. Therefore, the grants are unconditional and guaranteed with each of the 481 village councils (rural municipalities) will receive a guaranteed allocation equal to 0.01 to 0.03 percent of the national budget, and each of the 263 municipalities will receive slightly larger allocations. In addition, the central government transfers

conditional grants to local governments, amounting to 6 percent of the budget. Other transfers such as complementary grants and special grants, has started materializing with the establishment of the Natural Resource and Fiscal Commission (NRFC).

In Nepal, there is a clear pattern that larger metropolitan cities, as characterized by larger population sizes, receive lower levels of grants per capita than sub-metropolitan or other smaller municipalities. The federal government allocates greater amounts of grants (in per capita terms) to those municipalities that are smaller in size and less urbanized (Beyer 2019). As per the budget allocation of federal government rural municipalities received minimum of NPR 100 million and maximum of NPR 390 million, municipalities received minimum of NPR 150 million and maximum of NPR 430 million, sub-metropolitan cities received minimum of NPR 400 million and maximum of NPR 630 million and metropolitan cities minimum of NPR 560 million and maximum NPR 1.24 billion as per the grant allocation. Similarly, the sectoral ministries' supporting projects and programs included budget up to NPR 5 million for rural municipality, up to NPR 10 million for municipalities, and up to NPR 20 million for sub-metropolitan and metropolitan cities (Acharya 2018)

The overall budgetary grants provisioned by the federal government comprised of following for FY 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21:

Table 9: Federal Grants (NPR in Million)

SN	Grants	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
		Actual	Actual	Estimated	Proposed	
1	Grants to provinces		4411	123434		
	Fiscal equalization		4411	50298		
	Conditional			63135		
	Complimentary			5000		
	Special			5000		
		Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimated	Proposed
2	Grants to local level		245556	321182	283337	362631
	Fiscal equalization		150430	135581	145264	145250
	Conditional		95124	174092	125068	197447
	Complimentary			4619	6499	9967
	Special			6890	6506	9967
		Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimated	Proposed
3	Grants to local body	54737	8318	13791	10328	7972
	Capital	41533	5908	12357	9281	5837
	Recurrent	13204	2410	1434	1047	2135

Source: Budget Speeches, Ministry of Finance, Kathmandu

Provincial governments as well transfer funds to local governments by way of hitherto stated grant categories. Besides, municipalities are also in dialogue with Town Development Fund (TDF), a sub-national financing institution, to finance the urban infrastructure projects with a proportionate of grant and loan provisions.

4.4 Budget Allocation and Own Source Revenue

Local Government Operations Act, 2018 through Clause 11 has empowered the local body to levy local taxes, fees and charges within the limits of Federal and Provincial laws. Inter-Governmental Fiscal Transfer Act, 2018 has provisioned 15 different types of taxes and fees such as house rent, real-estate registration, vehicle, land, entertainment, advertisement, business and hoarding board taxes to enable local governments to cover various recurrent and capital expenses. They are also allowed to collect fees from various types of services, tourism, collection of herbs and scrap, and operation of carts, rickshaw, cable cars and boats. Further, local governments are provisioned to get 15 percent of the income generated from Value Added Tax (VAT), and excise duties imposed on domestic products (Acharya 2018). According to the provision of revenue sharing out of total revenue federal government holds 70%, province 15% and 15% for local government.

Table – 10: Sharing of Own Shource Revenue in Sample Local Governments

SN	Name of Municipality	Population	Budget (76/77) NPR 000	Own Source Rev. NPR 000	% Share in Budget
1	Diprung RM (Province 1)	22387	415523	1050	0.25
2	Parwanipur RM (Province 2)	22787	322198	161817	5.02
3	Siddhalek RM (Bagmati)	31395	562862	50200	8.92
4	Adhikhola RM (Gandaki)	25454	393978	45400	11.52
5	Jhimruk RM (Lumbini)	27931	471424	22100	4.69
6	Dungeswor RM (Karnali)	16883	286098	1461	0.51
7	Jorayal RM (Sudurpaschim)	21667	397952	1300	0.33
	Average of Rural Municipality	24072	407148	40475	9.94
8	Rupakot Majhuwagadhi (Province 1)	46903	838716	16500	1.97
9	Dhankuta	36619	542618	29953	5.52
10	Lahan (Province 2)	91766	995511	102383	10.28
11	Hariwon	42783	702114	430303	61.29

SN	Name of Municipality	Population	Budget (76/77) NPR 000	Own Source Rev. NPR 000	% Share in Budget
12	Kamalamai (Bagmati)	39413	1068290	142418	13.33
13	Suryabinayak	113471	1300000	464670	35.74
14	Waling (Gandaki)	52320	656757	42105	6.41
15	Phalewas	34120	665636	18957	2.85
16	Tulsipur Sub-Metro (Lumbini)	141528	1718806	180000	10.47
17	Tilottama	123836	1543910	437350	28.33
18	Birendranagar (Karnali)	100458	1207930	139092	11.51
19	Bheri	33515	445901	12500	2.80
20	Tikapur (sudurpaschim)	98651	1317630	111110	8.43
21	Sanfebagar	33788	63300	8200	12.95
	Average of Municipality	70655	13067119	2135541	16.34

Source: Respective municipalities

This shows that the share of own sourcer revenue is limited and the local governments are heavily dependent upon federal grants and donors. Population wise the size of the budget is NPR 17,000 on average in rural municipality (from 14,000 to 18,000) while it limits to NPR 13,000 on average in case of municipality (from 11,000 to 27,000).

4.5 Municipal Budgets towards SDGs

Looking at the structure of local budgets examples of local governments have allocated budgets across the major SDGs provide a glimpse of total allocation and coverage from the annual budget which accounts very limited proportionately as follows:

Table 11: Proportion of Local Governments' Budget Allocation for SDGs in 2019/20

11.1 Rural Municipalities

SDGs	Diprung (Province 1)	Parwanipur (Province 2)	Siddhalek (Bagmati)	Adhikhola (Gandaki)	Jhimruk (Lumbini)	Dungeswor (Karnali)	Jorayal (Sudurpaschim)	Av.
Total Budget (NPR 000)	415523	322198	562862	393978	471424	286098	397952	
Goal 1: No poverty	0.074	1.56	1.38	0.78	0.11	1.18	1.3	0.91
Goal 2: Zero hunger	6.98	1.56	4.23	2.067	3.57	3.37	1.05	3.26
Goal 3: Good health and	7.51	11.94	3.24	2.04	1.7	2.1	3.51	4.58

SDGs	Diprung (Province 1)	Parwanipur (Province 2)	Siddhalek (Bagmati)	Adhikhola (Gandaki)	Jhimruk (Lumbini)	Dungeswor (Karnali)	Jorayal (Sudurpaschim)	Av.
well-being								
Goal 4: Quality education	10.5	3.57	3.1	14.15	11.01	3.8	3.71	7.12
Goal 5: Gender equality	1.31	0.68	0.58	0.51	0.29	0.52	0.82	0.67
Goal 6: Water & sanitation	1.4	2.98	12.82	1.32	3.25	1.9	4.51	4.03
Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy	0	2.01	0.71	1.23	0.34	1.16	0.55	0.86
Goal 8: Decent work	0.12	2.97	0.17	0.04	0.19	0.37	0.13	0.57
Goal 11: Sustain. cities & communities	0.07	1.56	1.38	0.78	0.11	1.18	1.3	0.91
Goal 13: Climate action	7.51	11.94	3.24	2.04	1.7	2.1	3.51	4.58
Goal 15: Life on land	1.3	0.99	0.85	0	0.088	0.041	0.13	0.49
Goal 16: Peaceful inclusive societies	0.51	0	0.11	0.47	0.8	0.27	0.28	0.35
Total (%)	30.90	30.36	31.08	26.64	23.36	16.51	16.36	25.03

Source: Respective Rural Municipalities

11.2 Municipality

SDGs	Province1		Province 2		Bagmati		Gandaki		Lumbini		Karnali		Sudurpaschim		Av.
	1*	2*	3*	4*	5*	6*	7*	8*	9*	10*	11*	12*	13*	14*	
Total Budget (NPR mn)	839	543	996	702	1068	1300	657	666	1719	1544	1208	446	743	63	
Goal 1: No poverty	0.22	0.3	0.15	3.86	0.28	5	7.82	2.12	4.5	3.3	1.18	1.31	1.63	1.65	2.4
Goal 2: Zero hunger	8.24	0.89	3.5	1.92	2.15	0.9	6.12	3.24	1.7	2.8	1.6	2.24	2.3	5.15	3.1
Goal 3: Good health and well-being	3.24	1.92	1.61	20.05	1.93	3.6	2.64	2.03	4.5	3.1	4.37	1.75	3.2	3.45	4.1
Goal 4: Quality education	7.23	8.08	1	3.81	1.12	3.44	8.42	9.6	8.6	7.5	2.86	2.98	5.1	7.03	5.5
Goal 5: Gender equality	0.48	0.43	0.4	0.45	1.54	0.01	1.76	0.3	1.5	1.6	1.26	0.33	0.6	3.72	1.0
Goal 6:	1.39	2.06	2.5	3.5	0.89	0.94	3.45	1.71	4.3	4.2	1.9	2.57	2.6	16.35	0.0

SDGs	Province 1		Province 2		Bagmati		Gandaki		Lumbini		Karnali		Sudurpaschim		Av.
	1*	2*	3*	4*	5*	6*	7*	8*	9*	10*	11*	12*	13*	14*	
Water & sanitation															
Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy	0.67	0.28	1	1.93	0.93	0	2.02	0.36	0.7	0.6	1.31	0.4	1	2.64	3.5
Goal 8: Decent work	0.38	2.3	1.9	2.8	2.01	1.42	0.98	5.085	2.2	2.2	1.06	0.93	1.8	1.92	1.0
Goal 11: Sustain. cities & communities	4.62	5.74	1	1.05	2.48	2.7	1.58	1.77	8.5	6	4.06	0.74	3.45	1.11	0.0
Goal 13: Climate action	0.13	0.13	0.4	0.62	0	0.03	0.32	0.55	1.1	1.7	0.12	1.34	1.6	0.35	0.0
Goal 15: Life on land	0.26	0.26	0.9	2.65	0.56	0.7	2.4	0.15	4.7	5.1	0.32	1.02	1.3	0.21	0.0
Goal 16: Peaceful inclusive societies	0.38	0.23	0.26	0.31	0.56	0.19	1.93	0.73	0.5	0.4	1.09	0.56	1	0.94	1.5
Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals															0.6
Total (%)	27.24	22.62	14.62	42.95	14.45	18.93	39.44	27.64	42.8	38.5	21.13	16.17	25.58	44.52	28.32

Source: Respective Municipality

* Name of the municipality follows orderly as given in Table_9.

This shows that the SDGs specified programs hold a quarter of budget allocation of rural municipalities while it is slightly higher to 28% as regards the municipalities.

4.6 State of SDGs Implementation

As the services on the part of local governments within the framework of powers accorded by the Constitution and specifically authorized by LGOA are closely related to 13 of the 17 SDGs, the local governments service and development initiatives are very much confining and contributing to SDGs framework with or without white paper on SDGs alignment. Local governments with support from federal government have also taken current initiatives to control Covid-19 pandemic which is contributing to SDGs 3 as well as 1, 2, and 6.

Data forwarded by a number of municipalities/rural municipalities provide a glimpse of how SDGs related special activities are being taken up by the local governments. While they are very much engaged along the constitutional and LGOA provisions the information is revealing that these do relate to SDGs even without a position paper.

4.6.1 SDGs-focused Municipal Initiatives

Others have reported of some specific deliberations as reported by the local governments in the course of this study (details are presented in Annex 4).

- SDG 1: "leave no one behind" initiatives focus on poor women income generating employment program is reported by Hetauda Sub Metropolitan in Makwanpur district. The program is also linked to SDGs 5, 8, and 10.
- SDG 2: Programs include such consideration as 'One Ward One Agro-farm' (in Parbat district, Phalebas municipality), supports to single women and poor Dalits for goats farming (in Kailali district, Dhangadhi Sub-metropolitan). The program is also linked to reducing inequalities (SDG 10)
- SDG 3: Apart from primary health care services, the special focus remain diverse as reported by the municipalities such as snakebite treatment center (in Dhanusha district, Kshreshwarnath municipality), senior citizens (in Dailekh district, Dullu municipality), integrated sports, family planning and reproductive health (in Rukum West district, Aathbiskot municipality), Ayurved, immunization, etc. (in Kailali district, Dhangadhi Sub-metropolitan), nutrition support to pregnant and HIV affected (in Achham district, Sanfebagar municipality, and in Dadeldhura district, Amargadhi municipality), birthing center, women volunteers, etc. (in Bajhang district Jayaprithvi municipality)
- SDG 4: Apart from school education, the special focus on the part of the municipalities include such programs as education materials distribution to children (in Dailekh district, Dullu municipality) scholarship (in Kailali district, Dhangadhi Sub-metropolitan), educational reform, scholarship for Dalits, etc. (in Achham district, Sanfebagar municipality), educational reform, school supports, etc. (in Dadeldhura district, Amargadhi municipality and in Bajhang district Jayaprithvi municipality).
- SDG 5: Almost all local governments are getting attentive to women development. Some specific programs as reported include Women Model Entrepreneur Development (In Sindhuli district, Kamalamai municipality), women capacity development training (in Jajarkot district, Bheri municipality). This focus is also linked to SDGs 1, 8 and 10.
- SDG 6: Water and sanitation has received attention of almost all local governments. Such consideration has been made special one with programs like one household one tap (in Kalikot district, Raskot municipality), supply management (in Jajarkot district, Bheri municipality), overhead tank, toilet, drainage, waste management, etc. (in Kailali district, Dhangadhi Sub-metropolitan), school toilets, waste management, etc. (in Achham district, Sanfebagar municipality), improved supplies and solid waste management (in Dadeldhura district, Amargadhi municipality), supply system, reserve tank, menstruation kits, etc. (in Bajhang district Jayaprithvi municipality).

- SDG 7: Local governments are focusing on electrification and street lighting is getting special attention. Some are implementing projects such as developing multicultural park with clean energy (in Sunsari district, Inaruwa municipality), this is also linked with SDG 13.
- SDG 8: In providing decent work various initiatives are being taken. Mention could be made of popularizing city as pilgrimage point (in Dhanusha district, Janakpurdham sub-metropolitan), integrated livelihood program (in Kalikot district, Raskot municipality), goat farming by mothers' group (in Jajarkot district, Bheri municipality), skills training for youth and targeted groups, agro incentive plan, and homestay entrepreneurship development (in Rukum West district, Musikot municipality), empowerment, income generations and enterprising skills to poor, disabled and single women (in Rukum West district, Aathbiskot municipality).
- SDG 10: Local governments have taken up initiatives to reduce inequalities as a matter of priority. Such programs of specific kind include income generation for Dalits (in Dailekh district, Dullu municipality), training and seed capital grants for employment of poor women and Dalits (in Kailali district, Dhangadhi Sub-metropolitan), awareness against child marriage and violence against women, eradication of chhaupadi i.e. menstruation huts (in Achham district, Sanfebagar municipality), wheel chairs to disabled and senior citizens, etc. (in Dadeldhura district, Amargadhi municipality), providing skill dev training to women, eradicating chhaupadi and violence against women, building Dalit community center. (in Bajhang district, Jayaprithvi municipality).
- SDG 11: With respect to promoting safe and sustainable settlements local governments are more focused on transforming into clean and green municipality. Tree planting at the roadside has been advanced as reported by Jaleshwar Municipality in Mahottari district and Dullu municipality in Dailekh district.
- SDG 13: Combatting climate change has become a welcome drive for the local governments. Special projects have been put to implementation that include a climate smart village (in Dhankuta Municipality at Dhankuta district), one house-five trees program (in Bheri municipality at Jajarkot district).

4.6.2 Good Practices (case examples/stories)

Case stories drawn from MuAN and NARMIN publication of 100 success stories and a few reported in the course of this study provide a glimpse of how the local governments have taken up SDGs related specific projects on exemplary basis.

With the focus on all-round development across social economic and environmental fronts the specific projects executed or supported by the local governments show that they are mostly within the domain of SDGs. A look onto these projects shows that some of them are really exemplary in terms of the way they were implemented, and the way they brought change and happiness among people. A few of the case stories are briefly stated below under the sub-headings of a) SDGs Out-front, b) SDGs priority fronts, and c) specific projects.

1. SDGs out-front

- a. Barju Rural Municipality (Rustic category from Province 1, Sunsari District) has initiated planned development of the municipality with SDGs focus as it started functioning following the formation of local government through elections in 2017/18. It has identified 10 priority areas comprising education, health, governance, equality/inequality, eco-stability, food and nutrition, employment, poverty and social issues, physical structure/infrastructure, and conflict and pitched a slogan: 'Agri-ed-health-ind-tourism-infra, Drive for harmonious and prosperous Barju'. It has set to provide basic services on health and education within 30 minutes, solar based clean energy promotion, absence of gender violence. This thrust was put on the planning process which led to the formulation of the first periodic plan for the five years tenure of the elected body.
- b. Sisne Rural Municipality (Rustic category from Province 5, Rukum East District) has formulated 5 years periodic plan and 20 years perspective plan for strategic overall development. It has conceptualized transforming onto a smart city with fully equipped and functional bus park, dumping site, playground, electrification, road network, slaughter house, pilgrimage tourism. This has been followed by detailed project report preparation. The plan has also set an eye on agro business promotion with specific pockets identified for commercial crops covering host of activities such as seedlings distribution, soil improvement. Health constitutes another thrust area with outreach expanded through community health services in general, and ophthalmic and reproductive health services in particular while supports for 15 bed hospital and 50 bed hospital have been asked to provincial and federal governments respectively.

2. SDGs Priority fronts

- a. Prasuni Rural Municipality (Semi-urban category from Province 2, Bara District) has moved to enhance the status of the poor as a focused priority. It has identified specific plan of action that included establishing Skill Development Centre to provide employment opportunities within the municipality, voicing against gender discrimination, providing girls education through parental awareness campaigning topped with distribution of bi-cycles as well as long-term fixed deposit receipts to school going girls, providing of houses to Dalit families through construction schemes, and facilitating health care particularly birthing center facilitation in each ward and ophthalmic services.
- b. Chaukune Rural Municipality (Semi-urban category from Province 6, Surkhet District) has eyed on technical education ultimately leading to self-employment. It allocated budget to two secondary schools and as a result two 18 months long classes for graduation as agriculture junior technicians and civil sub-overseers. It has planned to take it further to next level: three years course on agriculture and also establish Campus for Agriculture and Forestry Science. Besides, more schools are being supported to initiate vocational courses that ensures self-employing opportunities.

- c. Simta Rural Municipality (Rustic category from Province 6, Surkhet District) carried out poverty classification (absolute, poor, mid-income, and well-off) of its inhabitants through 54 indicators based household surveys on support of Poverty Alleviation Fund. Based on this it has formulated four pillars development policy comprising government, private, cooperative, and non-governmental sector to lead on poverty reduction crusades. Following this the households by each ward of the municipality have been brought into a cooperative framework while a municipal wise cooperative association has been formed to support the cooperatives towards prosperity. Under this initiative local government has prioritized to support absolute poor for skills and gainful employment.
- d. Mahashila Rural Municipality (Rustic category from Province 4, Parbat District) has focused on economic wellbeing for which it has advanced the slogan of 'one house one employment'. Under this initiative labor camps are facilitated for individual profiling of ability and interest. Following that the trainees are sent for internship for 15 days as volunteers in such occupations as road maintenance, school services including teaching, utility works (plumbing, electricity repairs), health aides, agro and veterinary works, social mobilization and cooperatives. They are encouraged to initiate self-employment over next 15 days. They are paid a monthful emolument for these 30 days activation. This initiative has led to gradual push to gainful self-employment as it has opened up the opportunities across the municipality. Likewise, Kailari Rural Municipality (Rustic category from Province 7, Kailali District) Initiated youth self-employment drive arranging vocational training (on carpentry, masonry, plumbing, electricity repairs, knitting/tailoring, beauty salons, painting, handicraft, etc.) to 550 youths in first lot who have started their respective trades. The plan is continuing.
- e. Myagde Rural Municipality (Rustic category from Province 4, Tanahun District) has focused on infrastructure (roads, drinking water, irrigation, housing) building through 60:40 public private partnership on cost sharing basis with the households. Under this initiative, households in a block of locality apply for project support and Municipality thereupon assesses design and cost estimates. Upon local acceptance a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is signed for project execution and a joint team executes the project. Likewise, Khaptad Chhededaha Rural Municipality (Rustic category from Province 7, Bajura District) has moved to construct ideal settlements in four different locations in the municipal areas (one to two projects per location with 25-30 housing units per project). These settlements feature proper road network, a health center, a school and every house provisioned with a latrine facility, livestock shed, and vegetable garden. The municipality provided budgetary support to each settlement projects and the plan continues for improvising the livelihood status.
- f. Malika Rural Municipality (Rustic category from Province 5, Gulmi District) has made a move on agro-economy to move from sustenance to commercialization. It has promoted the concept of topping with cash incentives over the value of sales of specific agri produces (vegetables, fruits, herbs, mushrooms) and livestock, meat, milk, and honey. While Siyari Rural Municipality (Rustic category from Province 5, Rupandehi District) has made a move on corporatization framework for agro investment. Under this framework the farming communities are encouraged to form

agro-cooperatives for eligibility of municipal support for agriculture (subsidies on agri extension, agro mechanization, and agro seeds etc.) and storage facilities.

- g. Sunwal, the mid-order municipality from Province 5, at Nawalparasi west District has leapfrogged on economic engagement of women establishing one women enterprising center in each ward with one door framework towards prosperity. Each center in-houses one training hall with latrine. Each center run by management committee constituted through a public session of women and other stakeholders has organized income generating skills training on budgetary support of the municipality. This has enabled self-employment opportunities to women and the plan continues.
- h. Devachuli, the mid-order municipality from Province 5, at Nawalparasi west District has focused on becoming child-friendly city which happens to be first of the Province and second in the country. Under this initiative Municipality has been providing supports to transport students from absolute poor communities (Bote, Majhi, Mushahar), provide tiffin to children of Child Development Centre, provide maternity nutrition allowance, facilitate separate latrines at school for girls and boys including sanitary pad distribution to the girl students with incinerator facility for pad disposal alongside girl's latrine. The Municipality has also initiated unification of the schools taking into account number of students, resource persons and travel distances for the sake of improvising quality of education.

3. SDGs Specific Projects

- i. Nepalgunj submetropolitan city, which is an old municipality located in Lumbini province has opted for PPP model in order to manage their solid wastes. Private sectors and community based organizations are engaged in door-to-door or community based wastes collection system on a users-fee or polluters pay basis agreement. . The MOU includes collection, segregation, , processing and recycling of wastes while construction of sanitary landfill site or wastes processing center is also part of the integrated waste management framework.
- j. Duhabi, a new urban municipality from Province 1, at Sunsari District has moved to provide housing to homeless subsistence communities (poor, dalit, minority, vulnerable, and indigenous communities). The beneficiaries are asked to apply and are checked for the authenticity through field observation and are selected on a priority basis who form construction committee to develop housing settlements in pre-designate area on a uniform design (2 bedroom and 1 kitchen) with latrine, water and electricity supplies. Each settlement will house 100 to 200 homes plus child playground, community hall, health center, and a primary school.
- k. Nilkantha, a new urban municipality from Bagmati Province, at Dhading District has set an eye on economic well-off of local people through entrepreneurship development program. Under this initiative, the participants undergo training, enterprise selection process, and topped with self-employing skills. The municipality plan also includes to drive onto 'one ward one product' to lead agriculture and tourism growth as gainful economic activities.

- l. Kamalamai, an old municipality from Bagmati Province, at Sindhuli District supported Women's Model Enterprise Development Project with the financial support of UNDP Nepal and facilitation of SEEDS Nepal bringing communities (83 members from different groups) from 1, 2, 4 and 5 wards into commercial spice farming and processing business. Under participants from different wards have formed groups and engaged in Turmeric farming. are engaged in turmeric and spice business. The business has been registered in domestic and small industry development committees and have obtained food licenses from the Food and Quality Control Office, Hetauda to verify the quality of their products. The business raised NPR 5000 from each member for working capital while Municipality is building infrastructure needed for the operation and UNDP has been working on the technology required for the business: turmeric washing, cutting, drying, processing, labeling and packaging and providing financial support to the group.
- m. Kshireswarnath, a new urban municipality from Province 2, at Dhanusha District has supported construction child and disable friendly 20 beds snakebite treatment center at Mahendranagar with the financial and technical support of UNDP and humanitarian and management support of CIC of the Nepal Army. Expected to be operational from May 2020. After building of physical infrastructure municipality will provide NPR 2.5 million for operation and management of the center where physician of Nepal Army will provide treatment to snakebite victims.
- n. Hetauda, the old sub metropolitan city from Province 3, at Makwanpur District supported Auto mechanical training to 7 Dalits and 3 indigenous women from 15 and 18 wards. Many of them are now engaged in auto mechanical service and providing repairing services. Hetauda sub metro is to provide other technical support to promote their business and leave no one behind.

4.7 Challenges and Opportunities of SDGs Localization

The state restructuring, following the promulgation of Constitution of Nepal 2015 that led to formation of 753 local governments (consisting of municipalities and rural municipalities), could only be completed in 2017 with elected local representatives after election. One of the initial tasks of the newly formed local governments was to sort out the organization structure appropriate to command and service the functions authorized by the Constitution, and to enact laws necessary for the governance. Finally with plan of actions and budget the local governments were able to become functional in the true sense starting FY 2018/19.

The local governments faced capacity related issues with regards to administrative strength (in terms of number of staff and their proficiency) on the one hand and financing the much needed activities on the other. The staff recruitment is yet not fully done in most of the local governments that was expected to be completed by FY 2019/20, affected by the lockdown enforced to contain the spread of Coronavirus. The budgetary requirement to take up the deficiencies in all the fronts of local development is so huge, most of the local governments happen to be dependent on federal and provincial grants owing to limited own source revenue. The grants are being provided on lump sum as local governments being

autonomous, federal government is not supposed to dictate program specific allocation. Apart from taking on programs in responding to immediate local needs (which relate to SDGs as well) the budget allocation on the part of local governments has spanned areas of SDGs on targeted basis as a basic imperative as well as a matter of intervening drive.

Both the capacity and the resource related issues would take time to resolve, nevertheless, the local government functioning is slowly and steadily coming to shape as a result they are becoming more proactive and more efficient. This would surely lead to enhanced effectiveness in planning, resourcing and budget provisioning, and implementing social, economic, and environmental programs for local development on targeted basis. This would be instrumental for an orderly focus on SDGs as these relate to core of developmental thrust needed in both municipal and rural-municipal areas. So far the grants from the provincial and federal governments have been a supply side contribution and the absence of SDGs framework at the local level has missed the demand side perspective. Once the target is spelt out the resource requirement to achieve that would be obvious and how to meet that would become pivotal. For instance, with the adoption of Nepal Urban Development Strategy (NUDS) back in 2015 it was evident that a decent living in the municipalities at a specified order of urban infrastructure would require a multi-billion investment which remains outside the capacity of the municipalities and sub-national financing institution like Town Development Fund (which is now proposed to be transformed into Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation) would have to lend the funding gap.

The business of SDGs is indeed an opportunity for development at the local level. In a regular development focus the local governments will be constrained by the resource shortfall, with SDGs the consideration shifts to results which makes it possible to forge an appropriate partnership with provinces and federal government to reach there. Here the critical requirement is to lay out local level targets and indicators and roll out plan accordingly.

5. Means of Implementation

5.1 Resource Supports and Partnerships

The own source revenue of many of the local governments is too tight to underpin even the lowly programmed developmental action plan as such the dependency on the federal and provincial grants is too heavy. Partnerships among three tiers of government is vital for the development of Nepal as envisioned by the 15th Plan and GoN's commitment to SDGs. Local governments need support to develop programmatic action plan in line to these and financing modality need to be agreed upon among the three tiers on a results frame. Within that frame the additional sources could be tapped as hereunder.

Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC) developed norms for minimum desirable state of urban infrastructure for existing municipalities and new towns. Accordingly, in order to meet the infrastructural deficit in 58 old municipalities, staggering NPR 372.94 billion investment need was estimated. Nepal Urban Development Strategy (NUDS) released by Ministry of Urban Development put the total estimated investment required for all the municipalities, both old and new, by 2031 at staggering NPR 2,453 billion. This cost increases to NPR 3,605 billion, if cost by 25% is added to unleash local and regional development potential—which may also include specialized infrastructure need of the future provincial capitals, and when additional cost by 22 % is accounted for project preparation, implementation/management, safeguards, institution development, building community resilience, and land provisioning and rehabilitation support. The Strategy states that as that cannot be met by the internal resources of the municipality, the major contribution (about 60%) is proposed from the central government through fiscal transfer. It expects that the development partners would contribute up to 30% while the municipality may contribute around 5% of the total investment requirement and 5% is slotted for the community and private sector.

As such, the local governments have looked for the supports from donors and non-governmental partners. INGOs mobilized NPR 18.51 billion (71 projects) in 2017/18 and NPR 26.25 billion (49 projects) in 2018/19 for supports to health, education, children, disaster relief/reduction, community development, agriculture and a lot of miscellany. In addition, NGOs mobilized foreign supports worth NPR 17.46 billion (1181 projects) in 2017/18 and NPR 15.74 billion (1065 projects) in 2018/19 going into the same fronts as that of INGOs. While these projects have rooted at the local levels it is not clear which provinces and which local level to what extent were the beneficiaries. Donors and non-governmental partners are involved in local government areas either on approval of federal government agency or in camaraderie with local government.

In some areas, public private partnerships seem plausible and as such they have gone out for that such as waste management which have already been initiated by several municipalities. Besides, they are actively partnering with the resident customers to develop the much needed upgradation of the infrastructure (inner roads, drainage, etc.) on cost sharing basis. This mechanism has been in place for long under initiation of old municipalities. Further, there is presence of several community based organizations, civil society organizations and their networks which are also working towards SDGs achievements. In particular, Federation of Community Forest Users Nepal (FECOFUN) and Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Nepal (FEDWASUN), Irrigation users networks are joining hands with local governments in achieving SDGs.

5.2 Strengthening Local Capacities (Knowledge and Resources)

Local governments were facilitated for a proper setup and functioning following the election in 2017. LGAs have been supporting for the coming of age of the local governments through training, provincial level meetings, national level convention, and topical seminars. NPC has moved onto facilitating the provincial as well as local governments in developing respective level SDGs framework and plan of action. The coverage of provincial and local governments so far has been limited which could be proliferated once LGAs are tasked with this.

Functional and resourcing capacity of the local governments is key to effective implementation of SDGs related activities once the strategic plan of action is released. There has been early inertia on the part of a) Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration by way of guiding the organizational setup and staffing and training, and b) National Planning Commission (NPC) by way of releasing the provincial SDGs indicators and targets, and fielding facilitators at local governments (yet on a pilot scale) to support on planning and resourcing process.

While the provincial governments are fully activated towards formulating SDGs aligned development plan, the supports to local governments so far confined to a few on account of mobilisation of NPC deputed facilitators and UNDP mobilised field officers to a small fraction of 753 local governments. LGAs did provide support to local governments with regards to enhancing the vision of elected officials and staff capacity. LGAs now should best concentrate in facilitating the local governments with respect to working out SDGs framework which is possible with the help of NPC and provincial planning commissions.

NPC has already estimated what it requires to be invested to achieve national level SDGs targets. With the recent prescribing of provincial level SDGs targets and indicators the proportion out of total fund requirement should now be decomposed for province wise investment needs. Once the targets are affixed at the local level the investment requirement could be further decomposed and the local government can see how much can be shared by own source revenue and how much needs to be outsourced including financing supports from provincial and federal governments. It is time to work out now.

5.3 Progress Monitoring and Reporting (at provincial and local level)

There is a mechanism at provincial level to monitor and report budget implementation specific to allocation made project wise. This is done by each provincial ministry, but, more specifically by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Planning. Further, each province has constituted a commission for policy and planning which has the role of monitoring plan performance as well.

There is also a mechanism at local level to monitor and report progress on budget implementation in general and specific to budget allocated project in particular. Both budgetary performance and target achieved are monitored. This is done by Monitoring and Evaluation Committee headed by the Deputy Mayor of municipality or Vice chair of rural municipality

6. Way forward [or Policy Recommendations]

6.1 Lessons learned

The discussion in the earlier chapters do highlight the state of the situation in getting SDGs implementation localized. Key learning thereof could be summarized as follows:

From the national perspective

- National mechanism to oversee the implementation of SDGs has been put to place, national level SDGs targets and indicators have been defined, and periodic development plans (14th for the period 2016/17-2018/19, and 15th for the period 2019/20-2023/24) have been SDGs aligned.
- GoN has realized the need for localizing SDGs at the provincial and local levels for much of the SDGs related actions fall under the jurisdiction of sub-national governments in accordance with the powers vested onto them by the Constitution. Accordingly government directed them to form subnational level SDGs implementation mechanism and also recommended provincial level targets and indicators.
- GoN has through its annual budgetary outlays set aside grants to provinces and local level governments for them to set forth programs relating to SDGs as local source revenue does not suffice to execute such actions. National Planning Commission which has been given the powers to oversee SDGs implementation has started facilitating provincial and local governments to roll out SDGs specific plan of action. On a pilot scale some of the local governments were provided with the assistance of deputed facilitators.
- The initiations made so far deserves to be appreciated but GoN could not come all out to complete the localization process within 2019/20 in terms of covering all 753 local governments. With respect to completing the articulation of SDGs plan of action the process now will get delayed over to 2020/21 owing to the lockdown of the entire country from March 24, 2019 to minimize the transmission of Corona Virus pandemic. The government has somewhat eased the stricter restrictions from June 12, 2020 towards gradual opening of the economy.

From the provincial perspective

- Provincial planning commissions have readied or almost readied provincial level SDGs aligned development plans, but, that remain to be rolled out as well as interacted with the local governments within the respective province. Gandaki Province, for example, has formulated the 5-Year Province-Level Periodic Plan 2019/2020-2023/2024 and has also set province-level development targets relating to the SDGs (SDGs Baseline Report of Gandaki Province 2019).

From the local perspective

- Newly formed local governments were able to initiate all out local self-governance through a budgetary process of their own from FY 2018/19 providing outlays across the arena of their constitutionally accorded functional fronts. For many of them the task of completing the organizational setting and staffing has continued in the current FY 2019/20 and it might get pushed to next FY owing to the effects of lockdown imposed to minimize the risks of coronavirus.
- The budgetary provision of the local governments do cover the gamut of SDGs triggered by the local needs. Awareness to SDGs has been increasingly felt across local governments as voiced by the federal government, and in result some have included special projects across most of the SDGs. The facilitation supports to some of the local governments by NPC and UNDP have helped them to align the budgetary provision along SDGs.
- Although a few of the local governments have come out with white paper on SDGs, a totality of SDGs framework, however remain to be defined in terms of local level targets and indicators to guide the plan of action objectively for a definitive result within a stipulated time frame.
- The resource constraint is very much vivid that the local governments are depending upon the federal and provincial grants. And in absence of the time bound result oriented SDGs aligned development plan of action the local governments capability to bargain for the resource and even outsource the funding has remained low.

6.2 Improvization Needs (Policy, Specific interventions, Resources)

It is very much clear at the national level that SDGs implementation has to be result bound within the specified time period for which target led plan of action has to be strictly followed from resourcing to execution. By virtue of functional imperative local governments are very much in the SDGs process, which is appreciable but not sufficient. The best practice stories do indicate that the local governments do intend to be a successful crusader in bringing smile on the face of local people. It is about time to complete the preparatory phase by way of:

- DCC needs to be made more functional for better coordination with and facilitation to the municipalities, rural municipalities in project implementation and monitoring through provincial regulatory provisions.
- Each and every local government should define the local level SDGs targets and indicators, assess the gap over the current state and formulate a plan of action at least up to 2023/24 in line to the 15th plan. Besides, the local governments need to put in place the local level SDGs implementation and monitoring mechanism.
- The plan of action would provide a clarity of resource needs, and the proportion that could be shared by local source revenue. Based on that they could hold dialogue with the provincial and

federal governments for the resource supplements and for the proportion that need outsourcing accordingly call on the federal government to mediate with potential donors. Local governments could also make a timely interaction with subnational financing institution which is currently known as Town Development Fund proposed to be transformed into Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation.

- Local governments annual budget formulation should best use the above specified premise in order to be effective enough in managing local development within cost, within time and with quality. It is indeed a challenge for the local governments as it requires a move out of red tape procedures onto applying a project based approach at least for implementing investible programs while non-investible programs may follow the expending basis as usual.
- Local governments also need to think out of the box with respect to plausible projects which could be implemented by changing the modality towards applying such approaches as public private partnership or public community partnership. The framework of such partnership needs to be appropriately articulated.

6.3 Recommendations for Federal/Provincial/Local Governments

It is about time to expedite SDGs implementation as the country has moved into the 15th five-year plan period that is focused on SDGs. Full-fledged mechanism is about to be in place at the provincial level and the process has just started at the local level. Covid-19 pandemic lockdown has contributed to the delay as it affected the final (third) trimester of 2019/20. The process would pick up with the easing of lockdown which has started from June 12, 2020. The following are to do things to be taken up and completed immediately:

At the federal level

- Release all the frameworks and guidelines that have recently been prepared and remain to be circulated to the provinces and local level governments and facilitate orientations as the need be.
- Support the provincial level SDG implementation and monitoring mechanism to adopt the provincial level SDGs targets and indicators, and roll out the provincial level SDGs aligned development plan
- Engage the local government associations to help out the local governments in drafting local level SDGs targets and indicators, and plan of action as well, as they are in a position to reach out the local governments on a focused basis
- Get engaged with the provincial and local governments with regards to meeting the resource needs for the scheduled implementation of provincial and local level SDGs plans of action

At the provincial level

- Make proposition to federal governments the specific technical and resource support required to execute provincial level SDGs plan of action on year wise basis
- Interact with the local governments for briefing the provincial perspective of SDGs plan of action and what it means at the respective local level
- Dialogue with the local governments regarding the resource supports that could be provided by the province
- Establish institution of think tank and pass suitable law and regulation that no-one is left behind from the achievement of SDGs.

At the local level

- Formulate local level SDGs targets and indicators, as well as periodic plan of action within the order of national and provincial framework
- Make proposition to provincial and federal governments the specific technical and resource support required to execute local level SDGs plan of action on year wise basis
- Move off from need based to target based approach to SDGs implementation

These are crucial to end the preparatory phase of SDGs localization possibly within the first trimester of FY 2020/21 for a quicker move into the all-out implementation phase. Besides, District Council should convene regularly as well so as to share local level policies, plans and put forward by the respective municipality/rural municipality and their execution, achievement and impacts on the local populace (socially, economically and environmentally).

Annexures

Annex 1: Sources of Information

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Annex 2: Powers of Provincial and Local Level Governments

Schedule 6 of Constitution of Nepal provides exclusive powers to the province (state level) that include the following:

1. State police administration and peace and order
2. Operation of banks and financial institutions in accordance with the policies of and with the consent of the Centre
3. Operation of Radio in frequency modulation (FM), television
4. House and land registration fee, motor vehicle tax, entertainment tax, advertisement tax, tourism, agro-income tax, service charge, fee, penalty
5. State civil service and other government services
6. State statistics
7. State level electricity, irrigation and water supply services, navigation
8. State universities, higher education, libraries, museums
9. Health services
10. Matters relating to the State Assembly, State Council of Ministers
11. Intra-State trade
12. State highways
13. State bureau of investigation
14. Physical management and other necessary matters of State governmental offices
15. State Public Service Commission
16. Management of lands, land records
17. Exploration and management of mines
18. Protection and use of languages, scripts, cultures, fine arts and religions
19. Use of forests and waters and management of environment within the State
20. Agriculture and livestock development, factories, industrialization,
21. Management of trusts (Guthi)

Schedule 8 of Constitution of Nepal provides that the local level will have exclusive powers on the following:

1. Town police
2. Cooperative institutions
3. Operation of FM.
4. Local taxes (wealth tax, house rent tax, land and building registration fee, motor vehicle tax), service charge, fee, tourism fee, advertisement tax, business tax, land tax (land revenue), penalty, entertainment tax, land revenue collection
5. Management of the Local services
6. Collection of local statistics and records
7. Local level development plans and projects
8. Basic and secondary education
9. Basic health and sanitation
10. Local market management, environment protection and biodiversity
11. Local roads, rural roads, agro-roads, irrigation
12. Management of Village Assembly, Municipal Assembly, District Assembly, local courts, mediation and arbitration
13. Local records management
14. Distribution of house and land ownership certificates
15. Agriculture and animal husbandry, agro-products management, animal health, cooperatives
16. Management of senior citizens, persons with disabilities and the incapacitated
17. Collection of statistics of the unemployed
18. Management, operation and control of agricultural extension
19. Water supply, small hydropower projects, alternative energy
20. Disaster management
21. Protection of watersheds, wildlife, mines and minerals
22. Protection and development of languages, cultures and fine arts

Further, Schedule 9 of Constitution of Nepal provides the list of concurrent powers of Federation, State and Local levels on the following:

1. Cooperatives
2. Education, health and newspapers
3. Health
4. Agriculture
5. Services such as electricity, water supply, irrigation
6. Service fee, charge, penalty and royalty from natural resources, tourism fee
7. Forests, wildlife, birds, water uses, environment, ecology and biodiversity
8. Mines and minerals
9. Disaster management
10. Social security and poverty alleviation
11. Personal events, births, deaths, marriages and statistics
12. Archaeology, ancient monuments and museums
13. Landless squatters' management
14. Royalty from natural resources
15. Motor vehicle permits

Annex 3: Nepal SDGs Targets and Indicators

Global and Nepal:

SN	Goals	Target	Indicators		
			Global	+ in Nepal	Total
1	End poverty (End poverty in all its forms everywhere)	7	13	17	30
2	Zero hunger (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture)	8	14	18	32
3	Healthy lives and well-being (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages)	13	28	32	60
4	Inclusive and quality education (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all)	10	12	32	44
5	Gender equality (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls)	9	14	22	36
6	Clean water and sanitation (Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all)	8	11	14	25
7	Affordable and clean energy (Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all)	5	6	9	15
8	Decent work and economic growth (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all)	12	16	14	30
9	Industry, innovation and infrastructure (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation)	8	12	8	20
10	Reduce inequalities (Reduce inequality within and among countries)	10	14	13	27
11	Sustainable cities and communities (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable)	10	14	16	30
12	Responsible consumption and production (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns)	11	13	14	27
13	Climate action (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts)	5	8	16	24
14	Life below water (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development)	10	Not relevant for Nepal		
15	Life on land (Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests,	12	14	17	31

SN	Goals	Target	Indicators		
			Global	+ in Nepal	Total
	combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss)				
16	Peace, justice and strong institutions (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels)	12	24	7	31
17	Partnership for goals (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development)	19	24	8	32
Total		169	237	257	494

National and Provincial level:

Goal	National Targets		National Indicators	Provincial Indicators
1. End poverty	1.1	End absolute poverty	1.1.1 (3)	1.1.1(a, b)
	1.2	End poverty in all dimensions	1.2.1(1), 1.2.2(2)	1.2.1, 1.2.2(2)
	1.3	Social security coverage	1.3.1(2)	1.3.1(2nd),
	1.4	Access to services	1.4.1(2), 1.4.2(2)	1.4.1(2), 1.4.2(1)
	1.5	Risk reduction to resilience	1.5.1(2), 1.5.2(1), 1.5.3, 1.5.4	1.5.1(2), 1.5.2,
	1A	Resource mobilization	1A1, 1A2, 1A3	
	1B	Policy led mechanism	1B1, 1B2	
2. End hunger...	2.1	End hunger	2.1.1, 2.1.2(3)	2.1.1, 2.1.2(2)
	2.2	End malnutrition	2.2.1, 2.2.2(3),	2.2.1, 2.2.2(2nd)
	2.3	Improve agro-productivity	2.3.1, 2.3.2(1)	2.3.2(5)
	2.4	Resilient agro practices	2.4.1(4)	2.4.1(1&3)
	2.5	Ensure genome sources	2.5.1, 2.5.2(5)	
	2A	Increase investment	2A1(2), 2A2	2A2(2nd)
	2B	Reduce subsidies	2B1,	
	2C	Increase storages	2C1(3), 2C2	2C1(2nd)

Goal	National Targets		National Indicators	Provincial Indicators
3. Ensure healthy lives	3.1	Reduce maternal mortality	3.1.1, 3.1.2	3.1.2
	3.2	Reduce child mortality	3.2.1, 3.2.2	3.2.1, 3.2.2
	3.3	Combat diseases	3.3.1,3.3.2,3.3.3,3.3.4,3.3.5(7)	3.3.1,3.3.2,3.3.3,3.3.5(a, c-f)
	3.4	Reduce non-communi.diseas.	3.4.1(5), 3.4.2	
	3.5	Control drug abuses	3.5.1, 3.5.2 (2)	
	3.6	Reduce road accidents	3.6.1	
	3.7	Improve reproductive health	3.7.1(2)	3.7.1(2)
	3.8	Access to essential drugs	3.8.1(10), 3.8.2(2)	3.8.1(a-d,g,i), 3.8.2
	3.9	Reduce pollution & death	3.9.1(3), 3.9.2, 3.9.3	
	3A	Execute code on tobacco	3A1	
	3B	Improve health facilities	3B1, 3B2(2), 3B3	3B2
	3C	Enhance HW capability	3C1(2)	
	3D	Improve emergency prep.	3D1	
4. Ensure quality education	4.1	Enrollment of all	4.1.1(7)	4.1.1(1st & 7th)
	4.2	Child care/development	4.2.1, 4.2.2(2)	
	4.3	Access to higher education	4.3.1(3)	
	4.4	Enhance skills of adults	4.4.1 (3)	
	4.5	Reduce gender inequality	4.5.1(3)	4.5.1, 4.5.2,
	4.6	Adult literacy & numerics	4.6.1(5)	4.6.1(1st&2nd)
	4.7	Improve human development	4.7.1(2)	
	4A	Improve ed. facilities	4A1(4)	
	4B	Increase scholarships	4B1	
	4C	Increase quality educator	4C1,4C2	
5. (Achieve gender	5.1	End inequalities	5.1.1(3)	
	5.2	End VAW and Child	5.2.1(2), 5.2.2(2)	5.2.2(1st)
	5.3	End harmful social practices	5.3.1(1), 5.3.2	5.3.1(1,2)

Goal	National Targets		National Indicators	Provincial Indicators
equality	5.4	Provide social securities	5.4.1(2)	5.4.1(1,a-c,e,f) 5.6.1(a) 5A1(a-c) 5B1(2,b)E
	5.5	Ensure opportunity for women	5.5.1(3), 5.5.2(4)	
	5.6	Ensure repro. health rights	5.6.1(2), 5.6.2	
	5A	Provide legal rights	5A1, 5A2, 5A3	
	5B	Provide IT to empower women	5B1	
	5C	Promote W&C friendly practice	5C1	
6. Ensure water & sanita. for all	6.1	Access to safe drinking water	6.1.1(5)	6.1.1(2nd) 6.2.1(1st)
	6.2	End open defecation	6.2.1(4)	
	6.3	Improve water quality	6.3.1, 6.3.2	
	6.4	Sustainable use of water	6.4.1, 6.4.2(4)	
	6.5	Integrated water res. mgmt.	6.5.1, 6.5.2	
	6.6	Conserve water sources	6.6.1	
	6A	Rainwater harvest, recycle	6A1	
	6B	Com. participa. in water mgmt.	6B1	
7. Ensure access to energy	7.1	Reliable energy sources	7.1.1(2),7.1.2(3)	7.1.1, 7.1.2(1st) 7.2.1
	7.2	Energy mix/renewables	7.2.1(2)	
	7.3	Improve energy efficiency	7.3.1.(4)	
	7A	Renewable clean energy	7A1	
	7B	Improve energy infrastructure	7B1	
8. Decent work for all	8.1	Achieve 7% economic growth	8.1.1 (1)	8.3.1(2,3,a-c) 8.5.2(1) 8.6.1(1,a,b) 8.7.1(a-e)
	8.2	Value addition, innovation	8.2.1	
	8.3	Employ inno.intensive policies	8.3.1(3)	
	8.4	Improve resource use effici.	8.4.1(1),8.4.2	
	8.5	Productiv. employ, equal pay	8.5.1, 8.5.2(1)	
	8.6	Reduce un-skill youth employ.	8.6.1(1)	
	8.7	End child labour	8.7.1(1)	

Goal	National Targets		National Indicators	Provincial Indicators
	8.8	Ensure labour rights	8.8.1, 8.8.2	
	8.9	Sustainable tourism	8.9.1(2), 8.9.2.(1)	
	8.10	Access to financial services	8.10.1(3), 8.10.2	
	8A	Trade commitments	8A1	
	8B	Youth employment strategy	8B1	
9.	9.1	Develop resilient Infrastruct.	9.1.1(1), 9.1.2(3)	9.1.1(1)
Build resilient infrastr.	9.2	Inclusive & sust. Industrialisa.	9.2.1(1), 9.2.2	9.2.2
	9.3	Access to credit & cap. market	9.3.1, 9.3.2	
	9.4	Effective tech. & In. procure.	9.4.1(1)	
	9.5	Promote R&D	9.5.1, 9.5.2(2)	
	9A	Increase official dev. assistance	9A1	
	9B	Improve VA ratio	9B1	
	9C	Enhance network access	9C1	
10.	10.1	Improve income level	10.1.1(5)	10.1.1(2-5)
Reduce	10.2	Inclusiveness of all	10.2.1(3)	
inequality	10.3	Equal opportunity for all	10.3.1(2)	
within & among	10.4	Improve social security	10.4.1(1)	
countries	10.5	Improve financial markets	10.5.1(4)	10.5.1(1st)
	10.6	Voices of developing nations	10.6.1	
	10.7	Responsive migration	10.7.1(1),10.7.2	
	10A	Differential trade practices	10A1	
	10B	Fin asst. to developing nations	10B1	
	10C	Reduce cost of remittances	10C1	
11.	11.1	Improved services/slums	11.1.1(3)	11.1.1(2nd)
Safe	11.2	Access to transport services	11.2.1(2)	11.2.1(2nd)
sustaining	11.3	Inclusive, sust. urbanization	11.3.1,11.3.2(2)	11.3.2(2nd)

Goal	National Targets		National Indicators	Provincial Indicators
settlement.	11.4	Protect cultures/heritage	11.4.1(1)	
	11.5	Protect vulnerables	11.5.1(2),11.5.2	
	11.6	Air quality, effluent disposal	11.6.1,11.6.2(4)	
	11.7	Access to public places	11.7.1, 11.7.2(1)	
	11A	Intercity cooperation	11A1	
	11B	Adaptation & resilient DRR	11B1, 11B2	
	11C	Aid to developing nations	11C1	
12.	12.1	Execute 10 yr. framework	12.1.1(1)	
Sust.	12.2	Sust. mgmt. of natural resour.	12.2.1(1), 12.2.2(5)	
Consump.	12.3	Reduce food misuse/loss	12.3.1(3)	
& produc.	12.4	Effective disposal of chemicals	12.4.1(1), 12.4.2(2)	
	12.5	Reduce & reuse	12.5.1(2),	
	12.6	Adopt sustainable practices	12.6.1	
	12.7	Sust. public procurement	12.7.1	
	12.8	Harmonised life practices	12.8.1	
	12A	Improve S&T capacity	12A1	
	12B	Sustainable tourism	12B1	
	12C	Reduce fossil fuel subsidies	12C1	
13.	13.1	Improvise resilient capacity	13.1.1(1), 13.1.2(1),13.1.3(8)	13.1.1
Combat	13.2	Adopt CC policies/plans	13.2.1(5)	
climate	13.3	Improve awareness/capability	13.3.1(1),13.3.2(2)	
change	13A	Green climate fund mobilisa.	13A1	
	13B	Improve adaptive mechanism	13B1	
14.	@@			
Conserve	@@			
marine	@			

Goal	National Targets		National Indicators	Provincial Indicators
resource				
15.	15.1	Ensure sustainable uses	15.1.1(2),15.1.2(2)	15.1.2(2)
Sust. Use of eco systems	15.2	Reforestation	15.2.1(3)	
	15.3	Rehab degraded land	15.3.1.(2)	
	15.4	Conserve bio-diversity	15.4.1(1), 15.4.2(1)	
	15.5	Conserve natural habitat	15.5.1(5)	
	15.6	Proper use/genetic sources	15.6.1	
	15.7	End trafficking F/F species	15.7.1	
	15.8	Control harmful species	15.8.1	
	15.9	Integrate bio-div. system/plan	15.9.1(2)	
	15A	Sust. use ov bio-div. system	15A1	
	15B	Improve forest managemen	15B1	
	15C	Efforts/trafficking of species	15C1	
16.	16.1	Reduce violence	16.1.1(1),16.1.2,16.1.3,16.1.4	
Promote peaceful inclusive societies	16.2	End abuses & trafficking	16.2.1(1), 16.2.2(1), 16.2.3	16.2.3
	16.3	Access to justice	16.3.1(1), 16.3.2(2)	
	16.4	End organized crimes	16.4.1, 16.4.2	
	16.5	Reduce corruption	16.5.1(1), 16.5.2	16.5.1(1)
	16.6	Accountable & transparent org	16.6.1, 16.6.2	
	16.7	Responsive & participative org	16.7.1, 16.7.2(1)	
	16.8	Developing nations in intl. org.	16.8.1	
	16.9	Legal identity of everyone	16.9.1	16.9.1
	16.10	Public access to information	16.10.1, 16.10.2	
	16A	Efforts to check terrorism	16A1	
	16B	Promote equality Acts & polic.	16B1	16B1
17.	17.1	Improve internal res. mobilis.	17.1.1, 17.1.2	

Goal	National Targets		National Indicators	Provincial Indicators
Strengthen means of impleme.	17.2	Implement committed ODA	17.2.1	17.8.1
	17.3	Mobi. additional fin. resources	17.3.1(4), 17.3.2	
	17.4	Remove loan distress	17.4.1(1)	
	17.5	Create invest. friendly regime	17.5.1	
	17.6	Access to intl. cooperation	17.6.1, 17.6.2(1)	
	17.7	Develop environ friendly tech	17.7.1	
	17.8	Promote IT	17.8.1	
	17.9	Increase International aid	17.9.1	
	17.10	Extend multilateralism trade	17.10.1	
	17.11	Increase dev. nations' export	17.11.1	
	17.12	Provide preferential access	17.12.1	
	17.13	Promote macro-econ stability	17.13.1	
	17.14	Logical execution of sus. dev.	17.14.1	
	17.15	Policy space for poverty alle/SD	17.15.1	
	17.16	Promote intl. partnership	17.16.1	
	17.17	Build on PPP/civil society partn.	17.17.1	
	17.18	Improve disaggregated stat.	17.18.1, 17.18.2, 17.18.3	
	17.19	Improve on SD initiatives	17.19.1, 17.19.2.(1)	

Annex 4: Information Collection Check-list from Local Ggovernments

Particulars	Information	
Population and HHs		
Total Budget: F/Y 2076-77 ('000)		
Periodic Plan (5 Years) Estimated Budget		
Periodic Plan (5 Years) Budgetary Gap		
Own Source Revenue 2076-77 (NPR '000)		
Municipal Budgetary Preference to SD Goals	Budget (%)	Program Orientations
Goal 1: Poverty Reduction and Income Generation		
Goal 2: Promote Farming and Food products		
Goal 3: Health Infrastructures, Awareness and Services		
Goal 4: Improve Schools and vocational institutes		
Goal 5: Women-empowerment Programs		
Goal 6: Water Supply, Sanitation, Sewerage, ODF		
Goal 7: Solar plants, bio-gas, ICS and Electrification		
Goal 8: Informal trade and employment promotion		
Goal 11: Planning, Open-space, Shelter and Housing		
Goal 13: Water-recharge, off-season products, seeds store		
Goal 15: Green forest and watershed conservation		
Goal 16: Digital Data, electronic documentation		

Annex 5: SDGs related activities by LGAs

1. MuAN's SDG related Projects from 2018 – Present

Project Name: Municipalities Network Advocacy on Sanitation in South Asia (Ongoing)

Project Start Date: 2018

Actions: Support for Policy on Urban Sanitation at large and Fecal Sludge Management in specific of 5 pilot cities and sensitization of their satellite cities, institutional and human capacity developments of pilot cities, and technical support to pilot municipalities for Fecal Sludge Treatment Plant etc.

Funding agency: UGLG ASPAC/Bill & Medina Gates Foundation (BMGF)

Project Name: Strengthening Municipal Governance & Localization of SDGs (Ongoing)

Project Start Date: Aug 2019 **Project End Date :** July 2020

Project Goal: Support to municipalities in localizing the goals of SDGs

Actions: Conduct local level orientations on SDGs localization through integration of SDGs in periodic planning, Making Women Mayors/Deputy Mayors SDGs champion, Mobilising UNVs to support municipalities to align SDGs into local plans etc.

Funding agency: UNDP

Project Name: Enabling Local Governance Support Program

Project Start Date: 2019

Actions: Supporting municipalities or local government to develop laws/regulations/guidelines by reviewing or by drafting model laws on Municipal Assembly, Legislative Committee, GESI, Consumers Rights, NGOs coordination, etc. Capacity building of elected representatives, dialogues between three tiers of government for coordination for better planning & service delivery.

Funding agency: Aus Aid/The Asia Foundation

Project Name: Strengthening Municipal Institutional Capacity

Project Date: 2019 -2020

Actions: Capacity development of women elected representatives (Lady Mayors/Deputy Mayors/Ward Members from marginalized group), inclusion, urban poverty reduction, community mediation, GESI, women empowerment etc.

Funding agency: CDSG/GIZ

Project Name: Preparation of LDCRP/DRR of Bidur Municipality

Project Date: Nov 2018 - Oct 2019

Actions: Comprehensive Support to prepare municipal disaster reduction and preparedness plan under the periodic planning of Bidur Municipalities. Peer to peer learning was conducted to share the process and approach of the plan to satellite cities via Provincial Municipal Learning Centers of MuAN.

Funding agency: CDSG/GIZ

In the past, MuAN had undertaken several projects contributing to achieve MDGs as follows:

1. Project Name: Improved Water and Sanitation in Kalaiya Municipality for Sustainable Environment and Resilient Community against the impact of Climate Change

Project Date: January 2007 - December 2010

Project Goal: Establish the sustainable local plans in relevant to water, sanitation and climate resilient communities.

Actions: Conduct local level water sanitation and hygiene plan linking with strengthening communities for climate change, build the capacity of community towards responding to disaster and climate change, lobby with local government agencies to implement relevant climate change related plans at local level.

Funding agency: UN-HABITAT **Recipient of the funding:** MuAN and Kalaiya Municipality
Total funding

2. Project Name : Making City Resilient Campaign (My City Getting ready)

Project Date: October 2010 - December 2011

Project Goal: Develop common understanding about roles and responsibilities of the local government bodies in disaster preparedness and management

Actions: Assess the requirements of support to the municipalities for implementing viable mechanism for DRR, Share good practices on DRR from municipalities of Nepal. Lobby with government agency for effective implementation of disaster management services and national building code in the municipalities

Funding agency: UNISDR, CityNet Yokohama Chapter, Ministry of Local Development

3. Project Name: SWASTHA Project

Project Date : January 2009 - December 2012

Project Goal: Contribute to sustainable improvement in health and well-being of vulnerable population especially, women and children residing in urban and peri-urban settlements of project municipalities and small towns.

Actions: Develop participatory water and sanitation master plans for project municipalities and small towns, develop and implement water safety measures to improve existing and new water supply schemes, promote appropriate point of use of water treatment options, water handling and storage in households.

Funding agency: European Union, UN-HABITAT

4. Project Name: Child Friendly Local Governance

Project Date: July 2012- June 2013 (1st Phase), June 2015 (2nd Phase)

Project Goal: Capacity Development of Urban Local bodies to reduce the impacts of disaster; through mobilizing children under the project CFLG in Nepal

Actions: Capacity development of local bodies for promoting survival, development, protection and participation rights of children and adolescents in all contexts including humanitarian situations, conduct programs to formulate plans, strategy and budget related to children development and participation whereby integrating DRR and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) with special attention to building resilience of children, adolescents especially girls and women

Funding agency: UNICEF Nepal **Recipient of the funding:** MuAN and Project municipalities

5. **Project Name:** SUNYA –Towards Zero Waste in South Asia Project

Project Date: January 2012 - April 2015

Country of Implementation: Multi-country project (Nepal, Srilanka, India, Bangladesh, Bhutan)

Project Goal: Promotion of zero-waste concept as sustainable waste management practice in urban areas of South Asia through 3 R principles for improvement of living conditions.

Actions: Project consortium establishment and analysis of the situation in pilot cities, Municipal cluster coordination and identification of relevant strategies, capacity building of concerned stakeholders on 3 R towards zero-waste, pilot demonstration activities, reproducibility and consolidation of the project

Funding agency: European Union

PARTNERS:



Municipality Association of Nepal
(MuAN)



National Association of Rural Municipality
in Nepal (NARMIN)



Association of District Coordination
Committees of Nepal (ADCCN)

