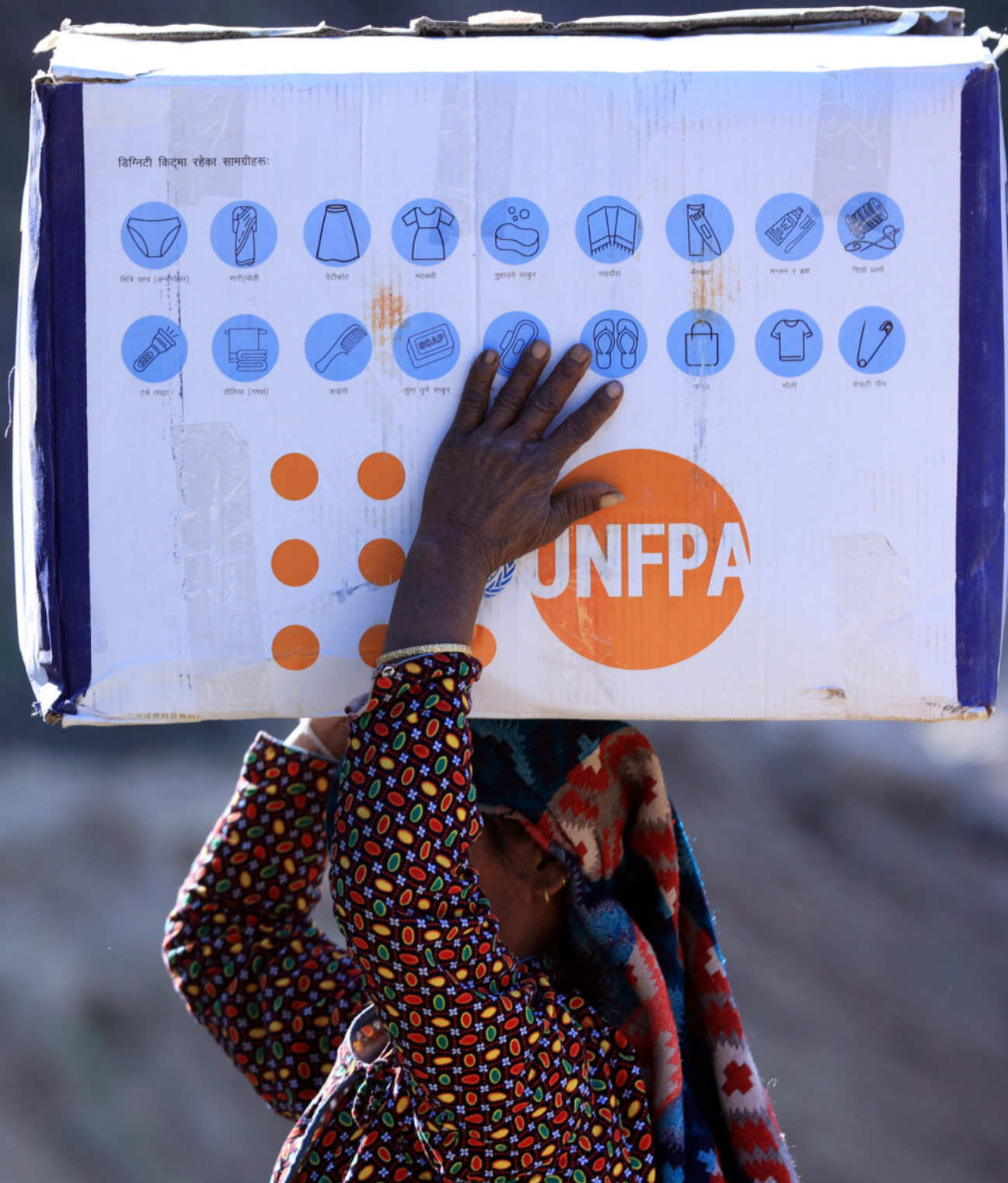




UNFPA NEPAL

Nepal Annual Report
2024



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Annual report 2024

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THREE ZEROS by 2030

Ending unmet need for family planning

Ending preventable maternal death

Ending gender-based violence and harmful practices

UNFPA is the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency.

Our mission is to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.



UNFPA NEPAL

Nepal Annual Report

2024

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FOREWORD

This past year at UNFPA Nepal we have successfully sharpened our programme focus on the acceleration of our priority areas whilst at the same time increasing synergies between them to ensure we are providing 'one vision and three zeros' at all levels.

In a time of increasing global uncertainty and risk, Nepal has remained a beacon of stability as we reach the halfway mark of the SDGs. Despite the global funding cutbacks for development aid in 2024, UNFPA in Nepal remains on track to deliver fully on our country programme's commitments.

This is in no small part due to the incredible efforts of our staff and international and national partners, who have worked to consolidate our joint efforts to meet key development targets. Their continued commitment and dedication to the ICPD agenda and the three zeros that are integral to our mandate are more important today than they have ever been.

As Nepal moves towards middle-income status, these three zeros – zero preventable maternal deaths, zero unmet need for family planning, and zero harmful practices such as child marriage and gender-based violence – will be crucial to realize the full potential of Nepal.

Our vision, as Nepal prepares to graduate from least developed country status in 2026, is to increasingly support Nepal to effectively utilize the extensive data that reflects the rapid changes underway, encompassing demographic shifts, urbanization, the impact of climate change, and economic development.





Furthermore, we intend to intensify our investment in technological innovation to target developmental challenges across diverse sectors. These efforts will contribute to Nepal's goal to achieve sustainable, inclusive, and equitable progress for all citizens while also accelerating UNFPA's three transformative results.

In 2024 we have made good progress on all our major thematic areas outlined in our country programme document and these three transformative results. I am also excited that as part of our work in investing in new and innovative ideas, we will be starting implementation of a number of new projects in 2025.

These include a comprehensive maternal healthcare programme in Madhesh province where progress on the maternal mortality ratio targets is lagging behind and a youth empowerment programme that will target harmful practices and gender-based violence in three provinces. A new partnership that will strengthen the adaptive capacity of maternal healthcare services to manage climate-related and natural disaster shocks in two districts most exposed to disasters will also be started.

As I conclude my posting in Nepal, I would like to take this opportunity to salute our staff, international partners and the Government of Nepal for all being part of Nepal's crucial development journey.

Ensuring women and girls and their sexual and reproductive health and rights, their right to live freely from violence in their lives, and their right to give birth in a safe and conducive environment are at the heart of the future. Meeting those relevant SDG targets over the next five years will be crucial. To do this, we need to redouble our efforts to ensure progress is accelerated. It is only together that we can realize the full potential of women and girls in Nepal to build a future of prosperity.

Won Young Hong
UNFPA Resident Representative
Nepal

IMPACT IN NUMBERS

729,718

COUPLE-YEARS OF **PROTECTION** FROM USERS OF ALL MODERN FAMILY PLANNING METHODS.

122,455

UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES **PREVENTED**.

70,500

UNSAFE ABORTIONS **AVERTED**.

180,294

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SURVIVORS ACCESSED HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL **SUPPORT SERVICES**.

35,674

ADOLESCENTS PARTICIPATED IN COMPREHENSIVE **SEXUALITY EDUCATION AND LIFE SKILLS PROGRAMMES**.

72,580

ADOLESCENTS RECEIVED SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH INCLUDING **FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES**.

100%

REPRODUCIBILITY OF HUMAN-CODED ANALYSIS IN OUR AI PILOT TEST FOR ANALYSIS OF **LARGE-SCALE SURVEYS**.

50,233

WOMEN AND ADOLESCENT GIRLS RECEIVED **CRITICAL SUPPORT** DURING EMERGENCIES.



SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

INCREASING CHOICE FOR FAMILY PLANNING

Access to critical family planning choices continued to widen in 2024 with UNFPA support. On a policy level the government delivered on its commitment to increase national budgetary allocations as part of the compact agreement with UNFPA.

Family planning commodities were supplied through the UNFPA Global Supplies Partnership Programme to health centres and mobile clinics. These included 97,000 implants, 738,000 vials for injectables, 922,320 oral contraceptive pills, 2,000 intrauterine contraceptive devices and 1,800 emergency contraceptives. A further 12.7 million condoms were supplied that are available free to users.

The increase in the availability of Sayana Press to 20 districts across all seven provinces of Nepal was a major milestone in 2024, widening choice for women and their families and how they plan their families. Within a 12-month period, 80,000 vials were administered, benefiting over 38,000 new users.

At the demand-side level, programmes to reduce the social and cultural barriers to family planning and maternal healthcare-seeking behaviour have demonstrated good levels of attitudinal change in men in piloting phases.

In 2024 a community conversation model of outreach called 'guftagu' was introduced to encourage men to more actively engage in sexual and reproductive health and rights. The attitudes of participants in this scheme towards family planning and maternal health issues showed marked improvement following participation in the sessions, with a 19 percent rise in willingness to use family planning services, a 34 percent increase in support for cervical cancer checks, and a 44 percent rise in HPV vaccination support. Practices improved too, with a 14 percent increase in family planning use.

SAFER BIRTHS

A nationwide assessment of 115 hospitals offering comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care facilities was completed in 2024.

With technical assistance from UNFPA, the Ministry of Health and Population has adopted a standard light assessment tool for assessing the capacity of emergency obstetric and newborn care services and the efficiency in the allocation of resources.

Using the assessment's findings, UNFPA facilitated the first prioritization and optimization exercise using GIS/AccessMod in Gandaki province, which identified inefficiencies in the current maternal health service delivery system. The evidence-based prioritization exercise revealed that the emergency obstetric and newborn needs of the province could be met by 29 facilities, which is far fewer than the existing 52 hospitals that provide these services.



This initiative, which will be expanded nationwide, provides the foundation for expanding the light assessment tool and prioritization nationally for improved decision-making and future planning for quality maternal health services and more efficient use of resources allocated to safer births.

Essential equipment was also provided to 76 health facilities in 16 municipalities to bridge critical gaps and enhance sexual and reproductive health and rights, especially in emergency obstetric care, integrated family planning services, and the management of reproductive morbidities including cervical cancer.

OBSTETRIC FISTULA AND PELVIC ORGAN PROLAPSE

During UNFPA-supported mobile camps, 4,604 women were screened for pelvic organ prolapse, which resulted in the identification of 565 cases requiring treatment. These women were all referred for treatment. In 2024, 80 had completed surgery, 166 ring pessaries were inserted, 162 received thermocoagulation treatment and the remaining 157 women were referred for surgery.

An obstetric fistula door-to-door campaign that was conducted by 239 female community health volunteers was also conducted this year with UNFPA support. A total of 22,244 households were visited that facilitated the screening of 43,167 women aged 15 and above. A total of 115 suspected cases of stool and urine leakage were identified. Following further examination, three confirmed fistula cases were discovered, which resulted in surgical repairs.

CANCER SCREENING SERVICES

In 2024, to further improve the availability of cancer screening, a number of outreach and training initiatives were supported. In the targeted areas there is an increase in both the numbers of women being screened and the detection of cancer.

In partnership with national training centres, cervical cancer screening and prevention training was conducted for 40 healthcare professionals. Orientation classes were organized for 567 female community health volunteers in screening and referrals. Following the sessions, these reached 14,000 women in home visits and community group meetings with critical information and advice.

Three municipalities also conducted visual inspections with acetic acid camps that 413 women attended. Of the total, 4.8 percent of these women were subsequently referred to the provincial hospital for further investigation following results suggesting signs of cancer. Eight doctors were also trained on colposcopy and loop electrosurgical excision procedures that have improved service quality and expanded access to essential cervical cancer care.

KEY RESULTS

729,718

COUPLE-YEARS OF **PROTECTION** FROM USERS OF ALL MODERN FAMILY PLANNING METHODS.

602

MATERNAL AND CHILD DEATHS **AVERTED**.

122,455

UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES **PREVENTED**.

70,500

UNSAFE ABORTIONS **AVERTED**.

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE RESPONSE AND PREVENTION

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE RESPONSE SERVICES

In 2024 gender-based violence survivors were able to access a range of critical services through our support to survivor-centred services in four provinces.

A total of 5,080 gender-based violence survivors received critical support at 18 one-stop crisis management centres. Supported by UNFPA, the case workers in the centres provided survivor-centred case management and psychosocial counselling services and referrals for survivors to access a comprehensive set of support services in the referral pathway.

In 17 shelter homes and safe houses, 2,313 gender-based violence survivors received specialized support. Secure accommodation for 1,348 vulnerable women was also provided that included a wide range of support services.

These services were supported by a pool of 169 community psychosocial workers who are mandated to make home visits and engage communities to identify vulnerable women and girls, counsel survivors and advise on referrals. During the year they directly engaged with 8,649 gender-based violence survivors, providing psychosocial first aid and referrals to support services.

PREVENTION AND OUTREACH

These community psychosocial workers also reached 172,901 people in their community awareness campaigns going door-to-door and holding regular sessions with communities with a focus on high-risk groups.

To encourage closer community and family understanding of gender-based violence, a number of outreach schemes reached out to communities in 2024.



A total of 440 couples and 2,133 family members participated in gender-transformative couple discussions or family dialogue sessions to promote gender-equitable norms and understanding. These aim to prevent gender-based violence by fostering mutual understanding and shared responsibilities between partners and empathy within families. 4,814 individuals also participated in intergenerational dialogues to foster positive behavioural change across generations by engaging both men and boys, as well as women and girls, in meaningful discussions on gender roles, rights, and responsibilities.

At the leadership level, training for 109 leaders and public officials to strengthen gender-responsive planning and budgeting ensured the inclusion of gender-based violence prevention and responses, as well as sexual and reproductive health services in regular budgeting processes. 640 key leaders and civil society organizations also participated in gender-transformative discussions to increase understanding of gender-based violence and referral systems.

INCREASING LOCAL AUTHORITY OWNERSHIP

Local government authorities are increasingly taking over full responsibility for the sustainability and financing of these services provided to gender-based violence survivors. Supported by UNFPA advocacy and coordination efforts in 2024, key outputs are increasingly being transferred to local authority ownership.

Gender-responsive budgeting allocations in the 19 municipalities targeted in Koshi and Sudurpaschim demonstrated significant increases from 51 percent in the fiscal year ending 2023 to 63 percent in 2024.

As part of this increased commitment to funding a percent of the costs of case managers in one-stop crisis management centres, local authorities have increased their budget for these resources, from 25 percent in 2022 to 43 percent in 2024.

Of the 169 community psychosocial workers deployed as part of outreach to vulnerable households, 15 percent are fully funded by local authorities. The costs of a further 85 percent are now being shared. Overall, local authorities are now contributing 37 percent of the budget for these key workers, an increase from 21 percent in 2022.



KEY RESULTS

5,080

SURVIVORS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE WERE SUPPORTED TO ACCESS HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL **SUPPORT SERVICES** AT 18 ONE-STOP CRISIS MANAGEMENT CENTRES.

1,348

SURVIVORS WERE PROVIDED WITH SECURE ACCOMMODATION AT **SAFE AND SHELTER HOMES**.

172,901

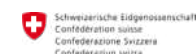
SURVIVORS WERE IDENTIFIED BY COMMUNITY-BASED PSYCHOSOCIAL WORKERS AND PROVIDED WITH PSYCHOSOCIAL FIRST AID AND REFERRALS TO **RESPONSE SERVICES**.

7,827

INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATED IN **SOCIAL CHANGE DIALOGUES**.

GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING ALLOCATIONS **INCREASED** FROM

51% TO 63%
IN 2023 IN 2024.







ENGAGING YOUTH

EMPOWERING ADOLESCENTS

In 2024, 10,296 adolescents, including 7,758 girls participated in the UNFPA supported 'Rupantaran' life skills programmes empowering them to make informed decisions about education, health, and marriage while fostering a gender-supportive environment.

The 260 UNFPA trained facilitators led sessions that provided a safe environment for girls to participate in a range of extra curriculum activities targeting the gender-based violence and harmful practices they are exposed to including child marriage and underage pregnancy. Further support to the network was added with the training of 77 additional facilitators to deliver training packages. Awareness training was also introduced to equip 161 facilitators with increased understanding of mental health issues.

To strengthen wider community support for young people 2,587 parents were involved in parenting packages, enhancing their awareness and commitment to delaying child marriage and supporting adolescent development. Intergenerational dialogues with 510 participants also acted to bridge traditional and modern perspectives, effectively challenging harmful gender norms.

Five ending child marriage strategies were endorsed by municipal authorities to prevent and work to eliminate child marriage providing for long-term sustainability through increased commitment at local level. To strengthen this, 446 local government officials, attended orientation sessions on these strategies, increasing their understanding of the root causes and consequences of harmful practices.

COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION

A total of 25,378 adolescents accessed comprehensive sexuality education and their sexual and reproductive health and rights in adolescent friendly spaces in one of the 64 community schools supported by UNFPA. A further 72,580 school students received integrated sexual and reproductive health and family planning advice in UNFPA supported adolescent friendly health centres.

To strengthen teaching practices 341 teachers and 150 peer educators participated in comprehensive sexuality education capacity-building training programmes. A total of 83 health service providers from five districts also completed a five-day training on adolescent-friendly services using modern learning methods to improve access to services at healthcare facility level for young people.

Outreach schemes promoting awareness of sexual and reproductive health and rights reached 12,142 adolescent girls and boys in 2024. This included programmes to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, and harmful practices.



KEY RESULTS

10,296 ADOLESCENTS, INCLUDING
7,758 GIRLS PARTICIPATED IN
LIFE SKILLS PROGRAMMES.

25,378
PUPILS LEARNT FROM MODERN COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY
EDUCATION MATERIAL AVAILABLE IN THE ADOLESCENT-FRIENDLY
SPACES IN SUPPORTED SCHOOLS.

72,580
ADOLESCENTS RECEIVED SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
INCLUDING FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES FROM UNFPA CERTIFIED
ADOLESCENT-FRIENDLY HEALTH CENTRES.

POPULATION DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT

POPULATION DATA AND ANALYSIS

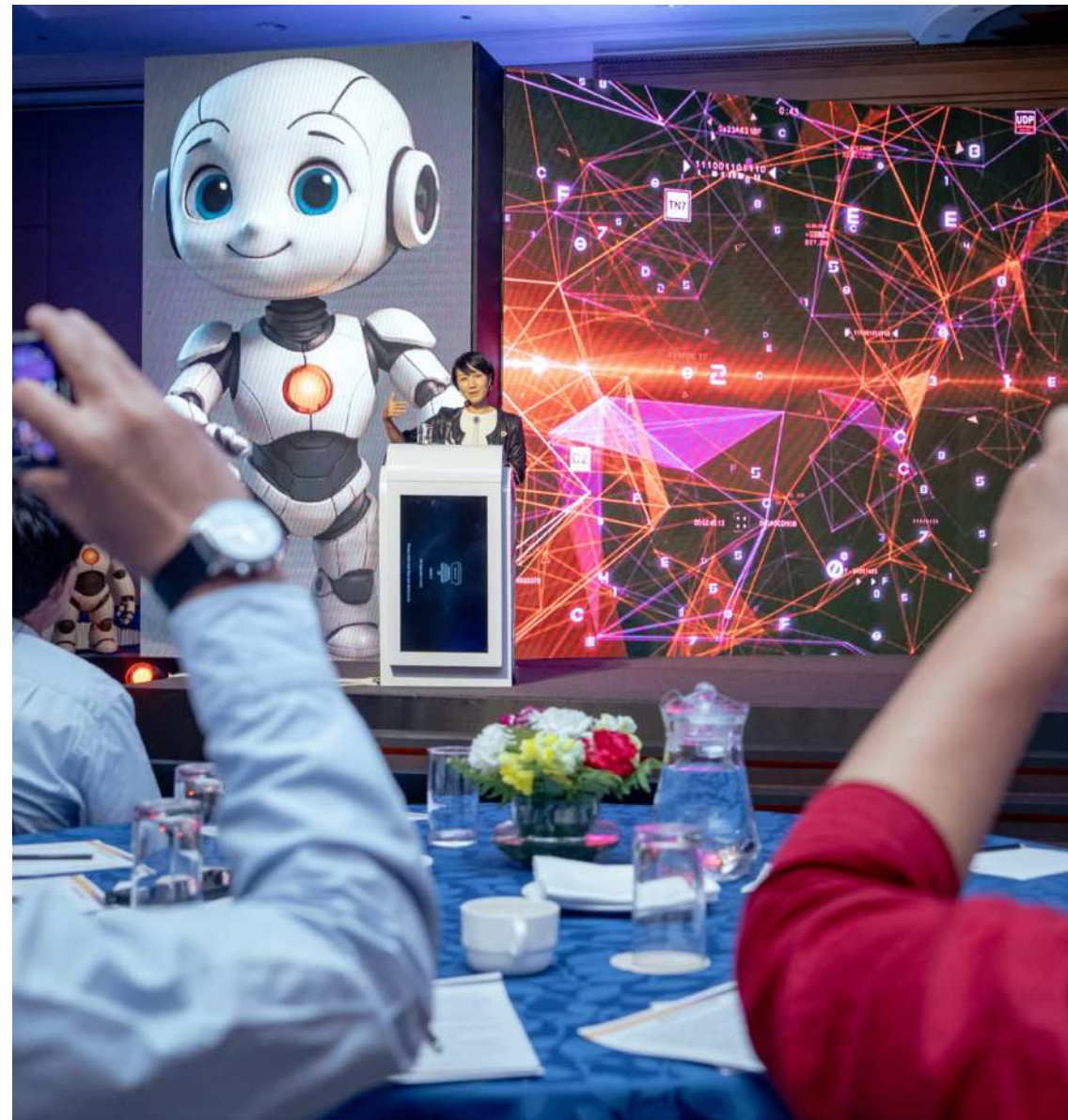
Thematic analysis of the 2021 population and housing census data was completed in 2024 with the technical assistance of UNFPA. This year, four of the key thematic reports were published, and a further 12 are completed and awaiting publication. This year's reports covered crucial issues for Nepal, including household dynamics and rapid urbanization providing planners and policymakers crucial evidence to base decision-making upon.

An analysis and review of further analyzes of the demographic health survey was carried out focused on determinants of gender-based violence and harmful practices and trends and determinants of adolescent marriage, childbirth, and unmet need for family planning.

A census visualization platform specifically designed to showcase data from the census was upgraded in 2024 with a wider range of data and functions, including a cross-tabulation module, local-level demographic profiles, population projections and an e-learning module introduced. The platform now has more than 325,000 users, with more than 100,000 repeat users.

STRENGTHENING THE STATISTICAL ENVIRONMENT

To support evidence-based planning and government resource allocations, for the first time in Nepal, population projections until 2051 were developed, offering detailed annual estimates by age and sex at the ward level with technical assistance from UNFPA.



High-resolution small-area population estimates were created using small-area techniques, offering data by age and sex at a detailed 100m x 100m resolution. Municipality-level estimates for key indicators like family planning and domestic violence were also developed.

To improve understanding of how population dynamics influence wider trends including economic growth and public finances, a system of National Transfer Accounts was also introduced for the first time in Nepal, analyzing resource consumption, production, and sharing across age groups to inform age-responsive policies amid demographic change.

INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DATA

In 2024 UNFPA in Nepal and partners developed an artificial intelligence-powered system called 'SITA' to pilot test the potential for the acceleration of data analysis of big data surveys. The team developed a domain-aware artificial intelligence system that understands and interprets natural language queries using natural language processing and machine learning classifiers that instantly produce analytical outputs and reports from complex datasets.

To pilot the tool, data and analysis of the Nepal Demographic and Health Survey, which was conducted in 2022, was selected for the test with access granted to the database and the published analytical report. This allowed the pilot to assess the reproducibility of the artificial intelligence and analysis and the human-coded analysis. The results demonstrated wide-ranging cost and efficiency savings and 100 percent accurate reproducibility of human-coded analysis in tests.

The SITA has the potential to significantly reduce timelines in Nepal for data analysis and reporting for large-scale population surveys. Although still in its early stages of development, the integration of SITA into national platforms, research centres and the private sector can lead to sustainable and long-term efficiencies in translating data into actionable decision-making.

KEY RESULTS

THE NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE PUBLISHED FOUR ANALYTICAL REPORTS BASED ON THE CENSUS DATA AND COMPLETED THE **12** REMAINING REPORTS.

SMALL-AREA ESTIMATION TECHNIQUES PRODUCED MUNICIPALITY-LEVEL ESTIMATES FOR KEY INDICATORS INFORMING **LOCAL PLANNING ACROSS ALL WARDS.**

100%
REPRODUCIBILITY OF HUMAN-CODED ANALYSIS IN OUR AI PILOT TEST FOR ANALYSIS OF LARGE-SCALE SURVEYS **SAVING TIME AND COSTS.**

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSES

DISASTERS INCREASINGLY IMPACTING ON NEPAL

During 2024 areas of Nepal have witnessed severe impacts of earthquakes and river flooding as well as localized fires throughout the year.

The most significant of these events occurred in Karnali province. In this remote area, a 6.4 magnitude earthquake impacted an area of 1.3 million people, with 10,000s displaced and 250,000 vulnerable people directly impacted with major damage to infrastructure, services and buildings.

A second major disaster occurred in the low-lying areas of the Terai. As a result of heavy rain, riverbanks burst, causing extensive loss of life and damage across 21 districts of Nepal.

SECURING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

Partners together with UNFPA responded to these disasters as part of a joint response for humanitarian action to secure the rights of women and girls by providing support to essential sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence response services in the areas most impacted.

Emergency responses included the rapid distribution of 7,850 winter kits and 17,144 dignity kits to women and girls in the most affected municipalities to ensure they were able to maintain hygiene and dignity.

Essential inter-agency emergency health kits were also dispatched to 26 health centres. These included vital commodities for safe births, miscarriage management, post-rape care, and family planning, reaching an estimated 106,284 women and adolescents of reproductive age.

To reach remote communities 28 mobile sexual and reproductive health camps were established with UNFPA support to provide critical services for 10,957 women. Cash assistance also supported 1,367 pregnant and postnatal women, improving timely access to safe delivery and health facilities and averting potential harm to mothers and newborns.



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SURVIVOR RESPONSE SERVICES

To ensure gender-based violence survivors continued to have access to critical support services UNFPA supported two one-stop crisis management centres, seven women-friendly spaces and two safe houses during emergency and post-disaster periods, providing survivor-centred case management, psychosocial support, and referrals. A total of 14,083 women were supported by these services in 2024, with 43 accessing safe houses.

Community outreach included 157 community awareness sessions and 692 door-to-door visits that provided information and services to 8,277 vulnerable individuals. 281 female community health volunteers and specialist counsellors also reached out to 3,781 women. Key awareness messages were supported by public service announcements which were broadcast across six local radio stations highlighting key protection messages.



KEY RESULTS

25,193

WOMEN AND ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN DISASTER AFFECTED COMMUNITIES RECEIVED DIGNITY, KISHORI AND WINTER KITS.

10,957

WOMEN RECEIVED VITAL SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES THROUGH THE SUPPORT TO CONTINUITY OF SERVICES DURING EMERGENCIES.

14, 083

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SURVIVORS RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM SAFE SPACES AND SHELTERS DURING EMERGENCIES.

MANAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

RESOURCE DELIVERY



SOURCE OF FUND	2024 USD (BUDGET)	2024 USD (EXPENDITURE)
UNFPA Core	3,484,518	3,425,784
Non-Core/Donor	10,578,511	10,431,085
TOTAL	14,063,029	13,856,869

DONORS AND PARTNERSHIPS

UNFPA PROGRAMMES	DELIVERY 2024, USD	CORE	NON-CORE	FUNDING SOURCES/ DONORS IN 2024
Sexual and reproductive health and rights	5,330,243	1,101,372	4,228,871	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia, Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kathmandu, UNFPA Supplies, UNFPA Maternal and Newborn Health Thematic Fund, UNFPA.
Gender-based violence and youth	4,930,064	978,997	3,951,067	European Union, KOICA, Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kathmandu, NORAD (Norway), Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, UNFPA, UN.
Population data environment	1,297,542	550,686	746,857	Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom, Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation Foreign, UNFPA.
Humanitarian response	1,932,601	428,311	1,504,290	UN CERF, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia, Republic of Korea, UNFPA.
Programme coordination and support	366,419	366,419	-	UNFPA.

KEY PARTNERS

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Canada, European Union, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia, Republic of Korea, KOICA, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, UNFPA Maternal and Newborn Health Fund, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom, UN agencies and UN CERF.

STATE INSTITUTIONS

Federal Level: Ministry of Health and Population, Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, National Statistics Office, National Planning Commission, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority, National Youth Council, National Human Rights Commission, National Women Commission, at provincial level Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Sports and Education, municipality and ward level offices.

NON-STATE ACTORS

Aasaman Nepal, ADRA Nepal, Adventist Development and Relief Agency Nepal, Center for Mental Health and Counselling Nepal, Family Planning Association of Nepal, Plan International, Good Neighbours International, Google, IPAS Nepal, JURI Nepal, Kapilvastu Integrated Development Services, Midwifery Society of Nepal, Nepal Fertility Care Centre, Nepal Red Cross Society, Peacewin, Saathi, SOSEC Nepal, Sunaulo Parivar Nepal, Voluntary Service Overseas, Women's Rehabilitation Centre.Rehabilitation Centre.



THE WAY FORWARD

KEY PRIORITIES AHEAD IN 2025

In 2025 UNFPA in Nepal will continue to accelerate our results in a number of our thematic pillars to strengthen efforts to accelerate towards the SDG and ICPD goals.

As Nepal graduates as a middle-income country in 2026, we will strengthen our key technical assistance, supported by data that will be crucial for the successful transitions we are witnessing. We will focus our technical expertise to support and strengthen the systems for sustainable and equitable quality service provision of government at all levels. Financing for development will be one of the key areas UNFPA will also assist Nepal to adapt to in a rapidly changing global development financing landscape.

Innovation, including digital technology, will be a crucial catalyst in attaining the SDG targets, and investments will be made across our priorities to support the adoption of new technologies that can bring life-changing innovations.

These strategies have informed a number of new pipeline projects are expected to be agreed or start implementation in the coming year as our investments in evolving new programming ideas start to be realized.

The first of these priorities will be strengthening maternal health services, especially in pockets of the country that are lagging behind national trends related to the targets of SDG 3.1 and lack adequate emergency obstetric and newborn care. In our response we plan to roll out a comprehensive maternal healthcare programme in Madhesh province, where the maternal mortality ratio is 140 per 100,000, with large differences compared to somewhere like Kathmandu, where it is 98 per 100,000.

A major focus of this initiative will be strengthening the availability of quality maternal and newborn services with a focus on basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care and referrals. We will also work to improve prevention, screening and management of key maternal morbidities and target increased community engagement.

The second programme that will commence implementation in 2025 will be anchored in our youth empowerment approach and target harmful practices and gender-based violence experienced by adolescent girls and young women in three provinces of Nepal where levels of gender-based violence and harmful practices are high.

Our approach is to empower young women and adolescent girls in safe spaces to build their support networks that promote knowledge and skills. Through learning, mentoring, and peer-based discussions in physical and digital spaces, these girls will be equipped with the social capital to make independent decisions about their lives, including their sexual and reproductive health and rights. These will also create digital platforms for young adolescent girls and vulnerable communities supporting them to participate in meaningful ways in the public sphere that shapes their futures.

In the next year we will also scale up our initiative to support artificial intelligence and data analysis. Building on our experience, we will expand artificial intelligence into new areas where it can be employed to strengthen existing data systems and analysis for the benefit of policymakers and planners.

Finally, supporting SDG 13 in 2025, a new partnership will strengthen the adaptive capacity of maternal healthcare services to manage climate-related and natural disaster shocks. Facilities in two districts most exposed to disasters will be equipped to absorb these shocks and ensure continuity of care of maternal health services during emergencies and crises.



LESSONS LEARNT

- There is a key infrastructure that was developed with support by existing programmes, including gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health and rights, that is increasingly integrated into the public healthcare and public administration structures.

There remains, however, a lack of integration between these services and irregular budgetary contributions from local government that can lead to competition between different areas for budget allocations that can impact negatively on services. Strengthening the implementation of these two areas around integration and systems strengthening can provide cost efficiency and sustainability.

- Political will exists to support gender-based violence response services and sexual and reproductive health and rights at the local level, demonstrated by increasing financial contributions and improved policies from government authorities for services. The existing gaps need to be fully factored into programme approaches.

These include a lack of capacity and clear strategies at local and provincial levels that results in existing schemes, including funds, not being utilised to maximum impact. Leveraging those funds and strengthening private sector corporate social responsibility through the creation of partnerships provides a strong platform for new opportunities to respond to gender-based violence and provide employment pathways for gender-based violence survivors.

- The potential for artificial intelligence to accelerate key data processes related to large-scale population surveys and accurately reproduce human-coded analysis is significant. Whilst it is vital to support further investigation into this potential, it is equally important to invest in completing existing physical data systems, such as the civil register, to build permanent sources for data containing basic key life events so in future data can be generated from dynamic systems.



- One of the most significant challenges during the earthquake response in 2024 was accessing remote, disaster-affected areas because of the damage to transport infrastructure. UNFPA's ability to adapt by expanding mobile outreach and engaging local volunteers and healthcare professionals is essential to maintaining access as part of decentralized service delivery. Building adaptive capacity and state coping capacity for maternal health and sexual and reproductive health services is also now a crucial target for the future that requires more focus on preparedness.



UNFPA NEPAL

Annual Report 2024



Ensuring rights and choices for all **since 1969**


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