

NDRI



NEPAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH INSTITUTE

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2021/22



NDRI

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FOREWORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The continual growth of NDRI with service of excellence in the capacity of think tank / research institute for 19 years portrays that it is running as envisioned. Nonetheless, we are reviewing its past mileage on the auspicious occasion of its 19th Annual General Meeting (AGM) with the view to identifying the pathways for the future. The annual report published each year during AGM is a blueprint to reflect what the institute is doing at this moment. Remarkably, NDRI is running smoothly with more activities than ever before, even during the COVID, post COVID and post Dengue era, in its all attributes: research, events and publications.



The connectivity of NDRI has been sizably increased during the fiscal year, both nationally and internationally. In the fiscal year, NDRI got chance to work with new collaborators: International Development Research Centre (IDRC)-Canada, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)-Japan, Met Office-UK and Habitat for Humanity-Nepal. NDRI also started its collaboration meetings with different embassies present in Nepal: namely Israel and Qatar Embassies. NDRI signed an MOU with Center for Diplomacy and Development (CDD) in the fiscal year and has initiated a study on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Nepal under this collaboration. Networking with NDRI Alumni was also initiated in the fiscal year with the launch of NDRI Alumni Research Presentation Series where NDRI Alumni presented their research for lively discussion. The keynote presentation by Dr. Bindu N. Lohani entitled “Fifty Years of Asia’s Development Experience: Relevance to Setting Development Priorities in Nepal” during the auspicious occasion of 19th Annual Day of NDRI was also an important event in the fiscal year which was participated and acknowledged by high level delegates from embassies, government agencies, bilateral and multilateral agencies, research institutes, academic institutes and media.

Though there are plenty of avenues for improvement in publications, the fiscal year was also good in terms of research publications: some journal papers, conference papers and several project reports have been published whereas, few papers are being reviewed in renowned international journals and conferences and are expected to be published in the next fiscal year. One of the highlights was Rt. Honorable Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba unveiling the NDRI Report on “Health Impact of Tobacco in Nepal”. Similarly, the fostering of corporate social responsibilities was greatly enhanced. NDRI in coordination with Resources Himalaya Foundation has been running a popular scientific discourse series in a wide range of intellectual forum named Covid-19 Support Network Group, which is running on its 159th episode. Similarly, NDRI Talk Series has been continued with presentations by relevant experts on contemporary issues followed by fruitful discussions.

In this moment, I take the opportunity to acknowledge the researchers and management staff for their hard work, all the members for their persistence guidance and encouragement, all the associated experts for their professional contribution, and all the collaborators for their kind support. Last but not the least, special thanks to the Government of Nepal for creating a congenial environment. I hope for the continuous support, collaboration, and encouragement from all key stakeholders to make the coming fiscal year more fruitful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shankar'.

Shankar Shrestha, Ph.D.
Executive Director

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank Institute	MEDPA	Micro Enterprise Development Programme for Poverty Alleviation
AMN	Annapurna Media Network	MOEST	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics	MOICS	Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies
ARRCC	Asia Regional Resilience to a changing Climate	MOFAGA	Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration
CAPI	Computer Assisted Personal Interview	MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
CATI	Computer Assisted Telephone Interview	MSWEP	Multi-Source Weighted Ensemble Precipitation
CRT	Cluster Randomized Trial	NDRI	Nepal Development Research Institute
CSIM5	Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 5	NDRRMA	National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority
DFS	Digital Financial Services	NHEICC	National Health Education, Information and Communication Centre
DHM	Department of Hydrology and Meteorology	NMA	Nepal Medical Association
DNF	Digital Nepal Framework	NRB	Nepal Rastra Bank
ECD	Early Childhood Education	NCRS	Nepal Red Cross Society
EDCD	Epidemiology and Disease Control Division	PDMS	Post Distribution Monitoring Survey
EDI	Equity, Diversity and Inclusion	RCP	Representative Concentration Pathways
EdTECH	Education Technologies	RHF	Resources Himalaya Foundation
ETRI	EdTech Readiness Index	RM	Rural Municipality
FGD	Focus Group Discussion	SLTC	Sri Lanka Technological Campus
FLT	Financial Literacy Training	SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
FY	Fiscal Year	SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health Rights
GCM	Global Circulation Models	STI	Science, Technology and Innovation
GCRF	Global Challenges Research Fund	SUN	Start-Up Nepal
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	TaRL	Teaching at the Right Level
GER	Gender Equity and Human Rights	TCP	Tobacco Control Programme
GoN	Government of Nepal	UKRI	UK Research and Innovation
GPM	Global Precipitation Measurement	VDC	Village Development Committee
ICT	Information and Communication Technology	WBG	World Bank Group
IDRC	International Development Research Center	WHO	World Health organization
IMERG	Integrated Multi-satellite Retrievals for GPM	YSEF	Youth and Small Entrepreneurs Self Employment Fund
IRC	International Research Conference		
ISP	Innovation Support Programs		

NDRI AT-A-GLANCE

Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) was established in 2004 by an interdisciplinary team of experts, with the highest academic degrees and a wide range of experiences. NDRI aims to address the current and emerging policy challenges and offer practical and credible recommendations for the benefit of policy makers and the general public.

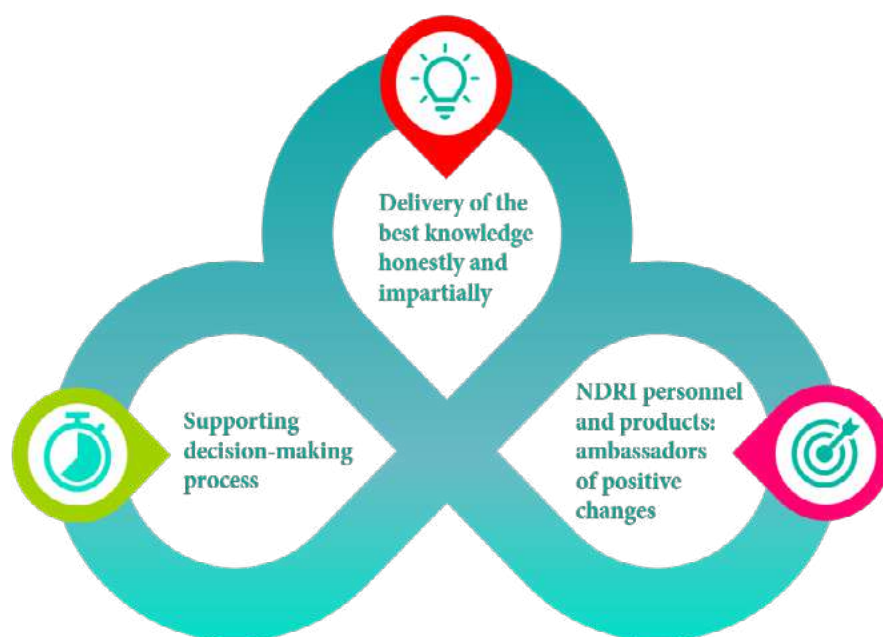
Since its establishment, NDRI has been continuously working to create opportunities for research, dialogue and collaboration to strengthen the communication and partnership between policymakers, academia and pool of experts.

The focal working areas of NDRI are: policy analysis on the nation's economy, infrastructure policy and planning, poverty reduction, sustainable livelihoods and climate change, agriculture and natural resources.

The outcomes achieved by NDRI so far have clearly demonstrated the potential of NDRI to evolve as the leading public policy think tank in Nepal. The experience of NDRI in identifying a niche of research on policy processes in Nepal, creating a cross-disciplinary intellectual community across national boundaries,

developing externally-funded research projects on a partnership basis, capacity building of young researchers, and disseminating research results provides a solid foundation for strengthening the institute even further.

We believe that NDRI will be an important hub for long-term knowledge generation in research and academic activities on issues related to economic development and social advancement, and become a Centre of Excellence for quality research, education and development.



Core Values

MISSION

Provide evidence-based analytical inputs for policy making in regional, national and local level on contemporary issues through rigorous research.

VISION

To become a center of excellence for policy research, education and development.

OBJECTIVES

Carry out research and academic activities on contemporary issues related to economic development.

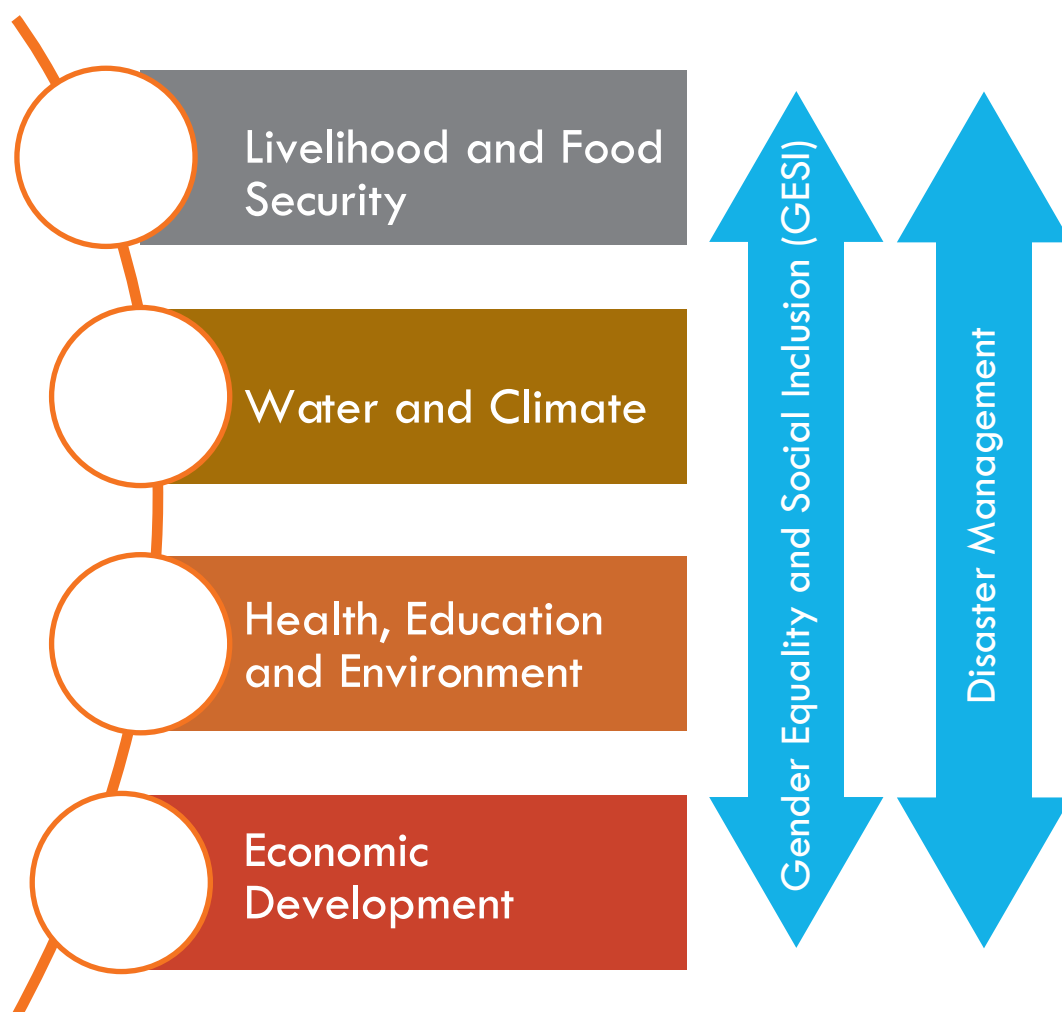
Contribute to rational opinion building by disseminating information.

Exchange resources, technology and information with both national and international institutions.

Contribute to capacity building of young professionals and local communities.

Provide professional services to the clients as per their demands.

THEMATIC AREAS





PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY 2021/22

ANTI-TOBACCO COMMITMENT

A serious attention of Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) has been drawn into the rising cancer patients caused by tobacco all over the world including Nepal. NDRI being a Policy Think Tank Research Institute, we hereby express our commitment to support in policy research and advocacy in all kinds of anti-tobacco initiatives around the world and in South Asian Countries starting from Nepal. The commitment encompasses the following:

- ✓ NDRI offices (Head office and all branches) and their premises are tobacco free zone.
- ✓ All the members and associates (General Members, Board Members, Researchers, staff) will not directly and indirectly promote any tobacco promotional activities, declare not bound to any kind of merchandise of tobacco related business, should not be involved in investment, purchase-sale tobacco or related corporate shares.
- ✓ NDRI plays instrumental role in all kinds of anti-tobacco movement particularly in research and advocacy.
- ✓ Those associates in NDRI shall be asked clarification in case of breaches in the above mentioned three clauses.



Verified by:.....

Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung
Program Coordinator
Tobacco Control Programme
31 March, 2019



Verified by:.....

Dr. Shankar Shrestha
Executive Director
NDRI
November, 2022



SECTION : 1

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENT

TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAMME PHASE II

Study Team

Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung
Mr. Kamal Chaulagain
Ms. Anjana Lamichhane

Client:



Collaborator:



Synergy Partners: Nepal Cancer Relief Society, Annapurna Media Network, Nepal Medical Association, and YUWA

BACKGROUND

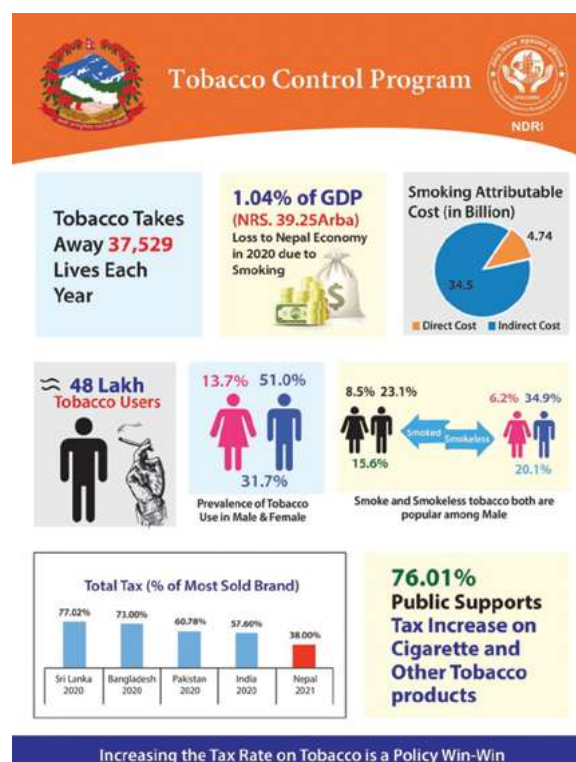
The TCP-II (2021-2024) is a Cancer Research UK-funded initiative that works to prevent and control tobacco use in Nepal. This project focuses primarily on policy advocacy and salience raising for tobacco control. Additionally, it is politically informed, with a policy advocacy strategy that acknowledges how little importance tobacco control has in Nepal.

The TCP-I (2019-2021) focused on generating shreds of evidence for policy advocacy and lobbying. After achieving this, it is now using a coalition-based strategy to influence policy. An alliance of many interest groups, organizations, and people will put pressure on policymakers to raise tobacco taxes further, with NDRI leading this coalition.

OBJECTIVE

The general objective of the program is to achieve policy influence by substantially expanding and intensifying efforts on public and political salience rising through a “coalition-based” approach to policy influencing. And, the specific objectives are:

- Further increase the supply of quality policy-relevant, politically-informed research outputs.
- Further deepening NDRI's networks with powerful government officials and politicians.
- Developing effective and context-appropriate policy influencing coalitions of influential partners.
- Capacity building for NDRI and other “coalition partners”.



Tobacco Factsheet

METHODOLOGY

To generate evidence for policy advocacy, the research team has used and will continue to use primary and secondary research data on tobacco. The coalition-based approach to policy influencing has been adopted and coalition partners are on-boarded. Recently, primary research has been completed to determine the extent of illicit cigarette trade in Nepal, and secondary review reports on the health impact of tobacco have been released by the Honorable Prime Minister.



Major Achievement

NDRI, as a center of excellence, has been working on a new policy issue. The research conducted by NDRI has generated evidence for policy change and bridged gaps in knowledge.

NDRI has been successful in bringing the policy impact. The FY 2021-22 Budget included the highest rise in tobacco taxation over a decade, a 25% increase in cigarette excise rates, and the FY 2022-23 Budget included a 20% rise in excise duty. This has been possible because of evidence-informed policy advocacy activities conducted by NDRI.

Another achievement includes the formation of a coalition with local CSOs, government organizations, and politicians to support more effective tobacco control strategies. NDRI has been leading this coalition for policy advocacy and change.

GENDER, EQUITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOCUSED ASSESSMENT ON THE HEALTH SECTOR PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE FOR COVID-19 DURING 2020-21

Study Team

Dr. Rabita Shrestha Mulmi
Dr. Baburam Marasini
Mr. Bhim Prasad Shrestha
Mr. Rajendra Khatri
Ms. Kabita Yadav

Client:



BACKGROUND

NDRI, in association with WHO, has been undertaking "Gender, equity and human rights focused assessment on the health sector preparedness and response for COVID-19 during 2020-21" since January, 2022. COVID-19 has affected millions of people across the globe including Nepal. The social and economic impacts of COVID-19 are disproportionately felt by those experiencing pre-existing inequities, those living in situations of vulnerability and those who experience discrimination, which are compounded by institutional barriers and

cultural norms that limited gender-responsive, equity-enhancing and human rights-promoting outcomes during the pandemic. The main objective of the project was to understand how and to what extent gender, equity, inclusion and human rights perspectives are incorporated in COVID-19 response and recovery initiatives/ programs and to identify recommendations for addressing the gaps in future planning and program responses for the COVID-19 pandemic in Nepal.

OBJECTIVES

- 1 To analyze the government's measures and responses to COVID-19 (clinical and public health) from a gender, equity and human rights perspective and identify the gaps and opportunities.
- 2 To identify the challenges that women and girls, especially from vulnerable groups and communities, the LGBTQI community, older people, those living with disabilities, and those from other socioeconomically disadvantaged groups have faced in complying with the public health and social measures and in accessing COVID-related health services during the COVID-19 pandemic
- 3 To assess GER concerns in community engagement practices, risk communication, laboratories and vaccination, data integration and management, essential health services and system management, health workforce, and clinical care.
- 4 To identify concerns of women health workers working in COVID-19 pandemic situation.
- 5 To review good practices promoting gender-responsive, equity-enhancing, inclusive and human rights-based approaches in response to COVID-19, in both clinical and public health aspects.
- 6 To recommend the action points/recommendations (short and long-term) based on the analysis and findings and inform WHO, government and development partners for interventions.

METHODOLOGY

The study entailed mixed method approach using both quantitative and qualitative method of data collection techniques. For quantitative data, articles were reviewed using the website of MoHP of Nepal, the WHO and Google to gather the information on the number of deaths, cured, and confirmed cases of COVID-19 and reports describing the approach taken by the government from GER perspective to contain COVID-19 in Nepal.

Similarly, for qualitative data, diverse groups of participants were included in the study ranging from national policy makers to beneficiaries' levels. Policy-level officials in Federal level, Province level and program managers and planners at local level, Health incharge and female health care workers at health



FGD with beneficiaries, Salyan

facilities, communities and beneficiaries were interviewed. Purposive sampling technique were applied for national and provincial level data collection.

FINDINGS

- ❑ The pandemic had impacted community's access to basic and other services such as food, health services including psychosocial counselling and sexual reproductive health services, WASH, income and livelihoods, along with right to information and awareness. In contrast to the first wave, many communities, especially from marginalized and vulnerable backgrounds were deprived of access to health services due to loss of jobs and income as well as scarcity of resources respectively.
- ❑ Loss of livelihood and income has affected the most marginalized population dependent on daily wages, the hardest hit among them being PwD. It has increased the vulnerability of community members to access risky and informal sources of loans with exorbitant interest rates.
- ❑ Given the complex interplay between gender inequality and COVID-19 in humanitarian settings, national preparedness and response plans that are devoid of critical gender considerations have dire consequences: failure to safeguard the rights and health of women, girls, and PwD neglecting to address gendered chains of transmission, thereby incubating COVID-19 on a bedrock of structural gender inequity.

CONCLUSION

This study suggests that there is a need for adequate public health preparedness and response plans that not only address community transmission but integrate the rights, needs, and health of women, girls, and gender minorities in humanitarian settings.

AN ASSESSMENT OF COMMUNITY LEVEL FACILITATORS AND BARRIERS FOR SRHR AMONG ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

Study Team

Mr. Bhim Prasad Shrestha
Mr. Rajendra Khatri
Ms. Kabita Yadav

Client:



BACKGROUND

NDRI, in association with Plan International, has been undertaking “Assessment of Community Level Facilitators and Barriers for SRHR among Adolescents and Young People in the context of COVID-19” since February, 2022. Adolescence is a challenging phase of life, within which the individual attains physical, sexual and social maturity. Adolescent reproductive health problems are a great threat to adolescent’s welfare.

COVID-19 has been affecting millions of people across the globe including Nepal. This had caused decrement in the service utilization by adolescents and young people that includes contraceptives, safe abortion, safe motherhood, SRH related counseling services etc. The main source of adolescents’ reproductive health problem is inadequate knowledge on sexual reproductive health. The main objective of the project was to assess community level facilitators and barriers for enjoyment of SRHR by adolescent and young people to guide future programming and innovations in the backdrop of COVID 19 pandemic.



Field researcher conducting survey

OBJECTIVES

- 1 To assess the impact of COVID-19 on SRHR KAP among adolescents and young people in the project district.
- 2 To assess the situation of SRHR service accessibility, availability, affordability, demand, utilization and quality of care among adolescents and young people in the context of COVID.
- 3 To identify viable alternate modus operandi for delivering SRHR interventions in the context of COVID 19 restrictions, with focus on determining the feasibility of digital or remote approach in plan catchment areas.

METHODOLOGY

The study entailed mixed-method approach combining quantitative and qualitative data to gain deeper understanding of needs, experiences, challenges, and issues of young people in assessing SRH information and services during COVID-19 crisis. This study was conducted in Plan International working eight districts: Sunsari, Dhanusa, Sindhuli, Makwanpur, Banke, Bardiya, Jumla and Kalikot. From each study district, two municipalities and two wards were randomly selected. A total of 685 samples were selected from the study districts using multistage random sampling technique. Interview with adolescents and young people were carried out using a structured questionnaire. Similarly, qualitative data were collected through focus group discussion and key informant interviews to obtain the information about SRH services and its quality/availability.



Field researcher conducting FGD

FINDINGS

- 1 COVID-19 and the lockdown have had an unprecedented impact on adolescents and young people's need for SRH services. Services like access to sanitary pad, routine SRHR checkups, access to contraceptives, abortion services, and pregnancy-related services for young adults were challenging during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2 This study found that the COVID-19 pandemic had acted as an external factor to highlight the weaknesses of the recently reformed health care system of Nepal, particularly how it is affecting the sexual reproductive health services utilization.
- 3 SRH services utilization was found to be affected by characteristics of population inherent in predisposing factors (such as age, sex, education, occupation, and residence), enabling factors (availability, accessibility, and affordability of health services), and perceptions towards health services and the current pandemic (attitudes, values, knowledge, and understanding).
- 4 COVID-19 had affected existing dynamics of health services utilization including its stakeholders such as changes in the behavior of health workers, the politicization of health services, and consequent adversities.

CONCLUSION

This study suggests that the need of SRH services for adolescent and young people should be heightened at the time of crisis, and ensure uninterrupted availability and access of SRH services at crisis situations such as COVID-19.

THE COGNITIVE AND NON-COGNITIVE IMPACT OF AN EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION

Study Team

Dr. Rabita Shrestha Mulmi
Mr. Ram Prasad Devkota
Mr. Manoj Karki

Client:



BACKGROUND

Early childhood is a very important period for the cognitive, social, emotional, physical, and language development of children. Since this stage is critical for a child's development, there is a lot of interest in understanding how early childhood education (ECE) can be improved so that children can reach their development potential. As a part of this study, NDRI collaborated with the World Bank in conducting a baseline survey with one of the parents of 4,000 children enrolled in these ECE centers (20 children per ECE center) of 200 randomly selected ECE centers in 15 municipalities in Jhapa.

OBJECTIVES

- ❑ To understand the knowledge and perception towards physical, emotional, cognitive, linguistic, social development of a child, health of child, financial status and priorities of the parents.
- ❑ To assess the overall development and early learning of the young children.



Field researcher conducting survey of parents in Shivasatakshi Municipality, Jhapa

METHODOLOGY

This survey was carried out in 15 municipalities of Jhapa, Nepal. A Cluster Randomized Trail (CRT) design was used to select 200 public schools having ECE centers (at least 20 students were selected from each ECE center) among 367 public schools. Quantitative method of data collection was used in the survey with structured questionnaire. Considering the COVID-19 pandemic, first phase of the survey (survey of Head Teachers & ECD Teachers in all sample schools) was conducted remotely through phone based interview. The second phase of the survey was in-person survey, with the primary caregiver of the selected student.

Study Team

Mr. Rajendra Khatri
Mr. Ram Prasad Devkota
Mr. Manoj Karki

Client:



BACKGROUND

The EdTech Readiness Index (ETRI) is a multi-dimensional tool that is designed to help guide frameworks and inform good practices in Education Technology (EdTech) policies. It provides information on the extent to which education technologies and actors are integrated into the broader education system policies and practices. In this way, it goes beyond the commonly considered first-order infrastructure-related indicators and better captures the key elements of the larger education ecosystems. There are 6 pillars to the index, which are believed to play a role in the education ecosystem: School Management, Teachers, Students, Devices, Connectivity and Digital Resources.

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the ETRI is to create a tool that provides information on the extent to which education technologies are integrated into the broader education system and practices in Nepal. The tool is designed to help guide countries' efforts on using EdTech to alleviate learning disparities, using data collected about (i) practices and (ii) policies across six pillars in the education system: school management, teachers, students, devices, connectivity and digital resources.

The overarching objective of this assignment was to collect one round of data by carrying out a school survey remotely with the principals and/or class/computer teachers of targeted 340 schools from across all provinces of Nepal, and deliver the clean dataset.



Major activities carried out:

- ☐ Translation of survey instruments provided by the World Bank to Nepali language.
- ☐ Preparation of detailed survey manual including standard call protocol.
- ☐ Provide support for all the procurement and logistical arrangement.
- ☐ Recruitment of supervisors and call-agents/enumerators for data collection.
- ☐ Provide training to field team on survey instruments, phone interview techniques, quality control mechanism and ethical considerations.
- ☐ Pilot of survey instruments
- ☐ Data collection using Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI).
- ☐ Data cleaning and submission of cleaned datasets including audio recordings.

Study Team

Mr. Ram Prasad Devkota
Mr. Manoj Karki

Client:



BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST), some local governments, and the World Bank are collaborating to implement 'Teaching at the Right Level' (TaRL) low-cost, low-technology as well as in-person interventions to mitigate against learning losses as the schools re-opened after COVID-19 pandemic. TaRL is an adaptable, holistic and an evidence-backed approach that helps education systems focus on basics and improve learning for all. The approach involves composition of several components that will contribute to improve learning outcomes. These interventions will involve in-person teaching learning, SMS messages and phone calls to support foundational skills on math and language among primary school students of grades 4-5.

OBJECTIVES

The overall objectives of this assessment are to evaluate the fundamental math and language skills of children, and confirm that whether child of the sampled households is eligible for the study, and interested to participate in the program or not.

METHODOLOGY

The quantitative survey method was used to conduct the 'Phone-based Endline Assessment Survey' with 1400 households having the children studying in grades 4-5 in public schools from Ganeshman Charnath Municipality (Dhanusha); Tripurasundari Rural Municipality (Dhading); and Siddhakamukh Rural Municipality (Salyan). The Baseline Assessment of this study has been already conducted by NDRI in September 2021 which was achieved in collaboration with the World Bank. The Endline Assessment has two approach for data collection; phone-based and in-person based. A total of 1400 students' sample was selected for the assessment and a 40-minute phone-based assessment of students on math and



Field researcher conducting assessment of student in Ganeshman Charnath Municipality, Dhanusha

language with a few additional questions was implemented. Moreover, the same students were also assessed in-person on the field by the survey team.

Based on the findings of the children's assessment on fundamental math and language skills, low-cost, low-technology as well as in-person interventions will be implemented.

TEACHER PHONE SURVEY ON COVID RESPONSES

Study Team

Mr. Ram Prasad Devkota
Mr. Manoj Karki

Client:



BACKGROUND

NDRI carried out “Teacher Phone Survey on COVID Responses” in collaboration with the World Bank. The project has been supported by the MoEST and being implemented in coordination with some local governments to pilot Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) low-cost, low-technology as well as in-person interventions to mitigate against learning losses caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The World Bank has conducted a survey with the participating teachers on the program parallel to the project. The study focus on to center teachers’ realities and preferences in the mainstream policy discourse.

OBJECTIVES

- Eliciting teachers’ views and priorities for recovering COVID-related learning losses in schools
- Understanding teachers’ perceptions on various policy options to aid the recovery
- Evaluating the impacts of delivering scientific evidence on the effectiveness of the global guidance on learning loss recovery.

METHODOLOGY

The study mainly focused on the primary data collection through remote phone survey. A quantitative survey method was used to conduct the ‘Phone-based Teacher’s Survey’ with sampled teachers. There were 200 teachers who were already trained on Math and Nepali language teaching in grades 4-5 in public schools of the sample districts - Salyan, Dhading and Dhanusha. The survey was implemented using CATI system to ensure the privacy and security of the data.



SECTION : 2

WATER AND CLIMATE

EVENT-BASED MODELLING AND FLOOD FREQUENCY ANALYSIS – DUDHKOSHI BASIN

Study Team

Dr. Divas B. Basnyat
Dr. Shankar Shrestha
Mr. Dibesh Shrestha
Ms. Rojina Haiju
Ms. Divya Laxmi Subedi

Collaborators:



OBJECTIVE

The main objective of this study was to assess the future changes in extreme events (floods) with future climate change projections to better understand the impact on hydropower sector in Nepal.

NDRI collaborated with UK Met Office and ICIMOD for the study on “extreme rainfall in a changing climate, and its applications in the hydropower sector and other relevant sectors in Nepal”, which is a part of a work package of Asia Regional Resilience to a Changing Climate (ARRCC).

METHODOLOGY

Our methodology consists of historical rainfall analysis, future climate projections, frequency analysis, transforming extreme rainfall into floods (event based modelling using HEC-HMS) and guidance to design flood for hydropower projects.

spatial and temporal distribution of weather events are important drivers of maximum flood events. The spatial and temporal distribution of weather events need to be analysed at sub daily level for many catchments, including Dudhkoshi. To overcome the unavailability of sub daily data from Department of Hydrology and Meteorology(DHM), we have used Multi-Source Weighted Ensemble Precipitation (MSWEP) v 2.8 of spatial resolution $0.1^{\circ} \times 0.1^{\circ}$.

RESULT AND CONCLUSION

Using Global Circulation Models (GCMs) as recommended by UKMet Office, this study shows that future 1 in 100 flood in Dudhkoshi basin at Rabuwabazar with consideration of climate change is projected to increase by up to 65% and 25% for RCP 4.5 and RP 8.5 respectively (RCP- Representative Concentration Pathways, future greenhouse gas emissions and concentrations scenario. RCP4.5: low to moderate future emissions, RCP8.5: very high future emissions). Additionally, it also suggests that the historical 100-year flood can occur every 25 or 30 years in the future.

This study sheds an important light on how



Water and Climate team with Rosie Oakes, Katy Richardson and Hamish Steptoe from UKMet Office

RAINFALL EXTREMES, URBAN FLOOD RISK AND FUTURE CLIMATE PROJECTIONS

Study Team

Dr. Divas B. Basnyat
Dr. Shankar Shrestha
Mr. Dibesh Shrestha
Ms. Divya Laxmi Subedi
Ms. Rojina Haiju

Collaborator:



**Practical
ACTION**



BACKGROUND

An increase in rainfall events is expected to cause severe urban flooding in major cities across the globe with adverse socio-economic consequences, and Kathmandu is no exception. Extreme rainfall events are projected to become more intense and frequent in a warm and wet future, and such events pose major challenges to sustainable development and ultimately sustainable future.

Tomorrow's Cities is the UK Research Innovation (UKRI) Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) Urban Disaster Risk Hub- a five-year (2019-2024) global interdisciplinary research hub. The aim of this hub is to catalyze the transition from crisis management to multi-hazard risk-informed planning and decision-making, that strengthens the voice and capacity of the urban poor. The activities are aimed to bring together

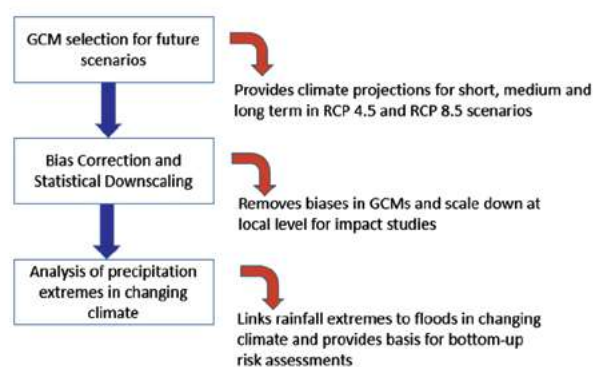
communities at risk, community leaders, city authorities, and researchers to support momentum toward inclusive, sustainable, and resilient urban futures.

NDRI in collaboration with the University of Edinburgh(Scotland), the Institute of Engineering (Nepal), Practical Action (Nepal), the National Society for Earthquake Technology (Nepal), Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (Nepal) worked as part of Kathmandu Hub for this project. Under the Work Package 2 Flood Modeling and Monitoring team, NDRI contributed to A) Climate Change Analysis and Impacts on Flood Hazards/Risks in the Kathmandu Valley B) Extreme rainfall analysis of historical and future climate projections to support flood hazard/risk analysis.

OBJECTIVE

The main objective of this study was to analyze and use the temporal and spatial variations of high-impact precipitation events of the past to define the extreme precipitation under climate change and assess future flood-induced impacts in Kathmandu.

METHODOLOGY



The approach for the study first started with the diagnostic analysis of high-impact historical extreme precipitation and flood events to analyze the climate drivers, extreme precipitation indices, and patterns of urban flooding. The specific context-based information was used for bias correction and downscaling the GCM projections of the extreme precipitation (one-day maximum annual rainfall RX1day) to the

required spatial-temporal scale necessary for flood modeling in Kathmandu. The motivation for the methodology used in this study was based on the realization that future climate patterns will change from the past, however, the information on historical extreme precipitation and flood events are in a way useful in addressing some of the limitations of future climate projections.

RESULT/CONCLUSION

The results of this study suggested that rainfall extremes for the Kathmandu Valley are projected in the future across a range of various scenarios. Also, flood intensity and frequency are expected to increase. Despite the high uncertainty among different climate projections in terms of future magnitude and frequency of rainfall intensity, the results also suggested that future flood hazards will



Nepal Partners meet to plan for next phase

increase in the Kathmandu Valley across a range of scenarios. Furthermore, the study suggests that future rainfall projections should be included when designing the landscape of the rapidly expanding urban catchment. This study quantified changes in the rainfall extremes in the future for Kathmandu valley establishing that the statistical property of the rainfall will change. The main focus of the study was on the analysis and projections of the 24-hour maximum rainfall.

The study drew the conclusion as follows:

1. The 24-hour maximum rainfall is projected to increase from 6% to 50% depending on the future period and scenarios. Therefore, the increase in rainfall has a direct relation to the extent and magnitude of flood events.
2. The spatial variation is very important and should be considered in flood modeling because historical data shows the concentration of rainfall maxima and the area covered by those events. Also, due to the time of concentration of the catchment being less than 6 hours, sub-daily data was needed to study the event-based modeling which could influence the peak and duration of flood events. Kathmandu had sparsely distributed automatic stations therefore, GPM IMERG data was used.
3. The present 100 –year return period rainfall magnitude will be equivalent to 1 in 20 years of 1 in 15 years return period value in the future. It is projected that the rainfall value could increase by 64% in a 100-year return period and 36% in a 25-year return period.
4. The present 100-year return period for floods will correspond to a 25-year period for the future flood. Similarly, it is likely to increase by 26% in 25 year return period and 37% in 100 years.

The results from the study represent an important consideration while designing future urban space for flood resilience, emphasizing the need to account for future rainfall projections in all flood hazard modeling of the Kathmandu Valley.

IMPACT OF FLOOD EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS IN NEPAL

Study Team

Mr. Rajendra Khatri
Ms. Divya Laxmi Subedi

Collaborator:

**Practical
ACTION**

BACKGROUND

Practical Action has been working to develop Early Warning System in Nepal as part of Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance since 2013. NDRI carried out “Impact of Flood Early Warning System (FEWS) in Nepal” Project from March to June 2022 with the support of Practical Action Nepal. The main objective of this evaluation was to understand how Practical Action’s work on EWS has contributed to changes in people’s lives and changes in the system-either successfully or unsuccessfully. The project mainly covered five municipalities of Karnali River Basin- Janaki RM and Tikapur M (Kailali),

and Rajapur M, Geruwa RM and Madhuvan M (Bardiya). The inclusive approach was adopted for the study. The technical part was led by the consultant team from UK while NDRI performed as a national partner and conducted the survey locally. Similarly, for comparison and potential replicable projects in Mahakali, KII with relevant stakeholders and FGD with Mahakali River flood victim’s communities were conducted. This helped to understand the FEWS activities of Mahakali River Basin for which Dodhara Chandani and Bhimdutta municipalities of Kanchanpur District were selected.

METHODOLOGY

The study comprised of both qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques. A total of 384 households were surveyed using Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI). Three tiers of governments along with the local communities were involved in the study. In particular, KII was carried out with representative of Federal and provincial level governments mainly Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MOFAGA), National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM), DHM’s Gauge station in Chisapani, Local governments and other relevant stakeholders.



Chisapani Gauge station (Karnali)

Some of the major activities carried out are:

- Recruitment of 8 enumerators and 5 field researchers.
- Two days training to field team on questionnaire, checklists and Kobo tool box application
- Robust quality control mechanism including daily discussion, audio check, spot check
- Transcribing and translation in English version
- Data cleaning and editing
- Field Report Preparation
- Submission of Clean data set to lead team in UK



Field researchers conducting household survey in Geruwa Rural Municipality

Study Team

Mr. Rajendra Khatri
Ms. Shreya Bajimaya
Mr. Ram Prasad Devkota

Client:



BACKGROUND

Nepal faces floods and landslides due to extreme rainfall normally from June till September every year. Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) has been playing a critical role in providing quick response to the disaster affected population in the affected districts. In response to the rainfall induced disaster in August and October 2021, NRCS deployed 486 trained volunteers on the ground to provide various immediate response in 13 districts (*Darchula, Kanchanpur, Rupandehi, Nawarparasi East, Nawalparasi West, Kaski, Parbat, Myagdi, Sindhuli, Mahottari, Kalikot, Ilam and Panchthar*), search and rescue, first aid, evacuation and immediate relief as needed. NRCS delivered and distributed relief assistance (in-kind and cash) in the disaster affected populations.

OBJECTIVES

After completion of relief activities, NDRI carried out Post Distribution Monitoring Survey (PDMS) to provide key lessons learned, mainly in terms of relevance/quality, timeliness, effectiveness of the relief operations carried out by NRCS and recommendations for future relief operations in Nepal and elsewhere.

METHODOLOGY

The study entailed mixed-method approach i.e. both quantitative and qualitative approach for conducting the study. For the quantitative data collection, household survey was conducted with 379 beneficiaries of the relief services. For the qualitative survey, Focus Group Discussion, Key Informant Interview and Timeline analysis were done.

KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall, the beneficiaries are satisfied with the relief service provided by NRCS during disaster in terms of relevance, quality and quantity of the relief materials, timeliness, and location of relief material distribution. However, some of the key recommendations are made based on community and key informant's perception:



Timeline workshop at Parbat

- Community consultation is very critical to have a universal coverage of disaster affected areas. Although NRCS alone cannot fulfill all the needs of disaster affected people, the strength of NRCS lies in coordination and network with different government as well as non-governmental organization. The consultation should be done not only after disaster but also well ahead in anticipation of potential disaster.
- Clear communication about beneficiary selection criteria to the communities is very essential in order to maintain transparency, accountability and positive perception of NRCS's work to the community.
- The relief materials should be reviewed and the package should be updated in the changing context.
- The grievances handling mechanism should be strengthened as, although the system for complaints and grievances exist, people are unaware of such mechanisms. Community awareness of such mechanisms should be largely promoted and community interaction programs after relief distribution should be rapidly carried out to understand the perception and need of the beneficiaries.
- The hotline number of NRCS is highly underutilized. This should be largely promoted at community level.
- There could be pivotal role of NRCS in initiating disaster preparedness program such as initiating dialog and discussion with relevant governmental and non-governmental bodies for preparedness (embankment), long term solution and recovery activities such as skill building for income generation.



Timeline workshop at Myagdi



SECTION : 3

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ENSURING BUSINESS INNOVATION FUNDAMENTALS: EXPLORING EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN IMPACT DELIVERY OF INNOVATION SUPPORT PROGRAMS ACROSS MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSMEs) IN NEPAL

Study Team

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Dr. Rabita Shrestha Mulmi Mr. Santosh Kumar Mahato
Dr. Shankar Shrestha Ms. Nirmita Shrestha
Mr. Rajendra Khatri

Collaborator:



BACKGROUND

NDRI, in collaboration with International Development Research Center (IDRC), has conducted first stage survey research with the aim of examining government-initiated innovation support programs (ISPs) for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Nepal. The research focuses on the Micro Enterprise Development Programme for Poverty Alleviation (MEDPA), managed by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies (MOICS) and the Youth and Small Entrepreneurs Self Employment Fund (YSEF) managed by the YSEF Secretariat of the Government of Nepal (GoN). This research assesses the impact of these programs and identifies the challenges and gaps in continuation and growth of enterprises especially supported and not supported by the ISPs.



Beneficiaries, YSEF Kailali

OBJECTIVE

The main aim of the stage one research is to understand the current status of ISPs designed to support MSMEs in Nepal. The specific objectives of the study are:

- Assess the performance of the ISPs for MSMEs in terms of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) perspective, industrial attractiveness, value addition, employment generation.
- Analyze the existing EDI initiatives and strategies in the ISPs and identify their socio-economic impact.
- Assess the distributional impact and sustainability of the ISPs for MSMEs.
- Identify the challenges and constraints that impede the growth of MSMEs.

METHODOLOGY

The study used both quantitative and qualitative methods for data collection. A questionnaire survey was carried out in 7 provinces and 11 districts, with the beneficiaries of MEDPA and YSEF programs and the entrepreneurs not supported by the two programs. Key Informant Interviews were conducted with the key stakeholders of the MoICS and YSEF Secretariat, Cooperatives, federal, provincial and local level government authorities, government officials, and sector experts. In addition, relevant national policies and plans, industrial policy, guidelines of the innovation support programs, annual reports and mid-term evaluation reports were also reviewed before administering the primary data collection and field visit.



MEDPA beneficiary, Hetauda

KEY FINDINGS

The study revealed that the support from the government initiated support programs are insufficient to sustain and scale up the business. The government initiated enterprise development programs have created entrepreneurs at the grassroots however the implementation of support services and programs to promote business were more limited to training and capacity building programs for the entrepreneurs. Majority of the program beneficiary expressed training as the most effective support services provided by the government, followed by access to credit and collateral-free loans. While, the provision of marketing and promotional support services and business counselling services by the ISPs were limited. Data further revealed that the technological-support services provided by the government were mostly provided to promote traditional/indigenous technology and resources. The study identified key challenges of MSMEs as access to finance, limited market linkages, access to appropriate technology, and marketing.

SURVEY ON USE OF ICT BY HOUSEHOLDS AND SMEs IN NEPAL

Study Team

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Dr. Rudra Suwal
Ms. Shreya Bajimaya
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Mr. Rajendra Khatri
Mr. Ram Prasad Devkota
Ms. Manisha Rayamajhi

Client:



BACKGROUND

Given the great potential of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in overall development of the country, Nepal has accorded high level of policy emphasis for the development of ICT sector. Designing and implementing ICT policies such as the Digital Nepal Framework (DNF) and strategies require proper knowledge of the state of ICT in a country and its use by organizations and individuals. The WBG Digital Development practice is working with the Government of Nepal (GoN) to support in implementing its DNF. In supporting the GoN to operationalize the DNF, the World Bank Group (WBG) identified a gap of necessary data. For this purpose, NDRI carried out a nationwide survey of randomly selected households and firms (micro, small and medium enterprises) in both urban and rural areas across the country.

OBJECTIVES

The overarching objective of the survey was to understand the adoption and use of ICT by the households and the firms, as well as to get a deeper understanding of issues related to the use of technologies.



METHODOLOGY

Multi-stage sampling technique was used to select households for the survey. The household survey was carried out with 2004 households- split between rural and urban areas- from across all geographic regions of the nation while the firms' survey was carried out with 518 MSMEs. Gender ratio of at least 40% was maintained. The data was collected electronically using android based data collection application - Kobo toolbox.

KEY FINDINGS

It was noted that 96.06% of the respondents have access to internet at home in Nepal. Out of those not having access to internet, 75% are from rural areas. Overall, 93.36% of the respondents used the internet within the last 3 months. Out of the respondents who reported never using the internet, 66.28% were female. Majority of the respondents i.e. more than 65% use internet for making calls, participating in social networks and for instant messaging. Only 21.81% of the respondents use internet for learning activities such as for educational, professional or private purposes.



Out of the 518 MSMEs surveyed, 92.3% enterprises use computers and almost 98.3% enterprises have internet access. Comparatively, more proportion of medium enterprises use computers and have access to internet than micro enterprises. Almost all types of enterprises have social media presence, however only 13.4% enterprises mentioned doing online sales in 2021.

Overall, the trend of using internet and other ICT has increased in Nepal for both households and firms, however the use is often limited to participating in social networks and communication, while other uses in terms of e-governance, e-commerce, e-skills and digital security are considerably low.

COVID-19 BUSINESS PULSE SURVEY FOR MSMEs IN NEPAL

Study Team

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Mr. Rajendra Khatri Ms. Manisha Rayamajhi

Client:



BACKGROUND

NDRI carried out the third phase of the COVID-19 Business Pulse Survey for MSMEs in Nepal in May-July 2022. The objective of this survey was to capture the impacts of the COVID-19 shock on MSMEs and is a follow-up survey from the COVID-19 Business Pulse Survey conducted in May/June 2020 (Phase 1) and May/June 2021 (Phase 2). It also aimed to capture and provide insights into the evolution of the effects on MSMEs' operations, financial health, and effectiveness of policy actions taken by the government to support MSMEs.



Field researcher conducting survey with respondent



Field researcher conducting survey with respondent

Some of the major activities performed as part of this project are:

- Translation and back-translation of the questionnaire provided by the World Bank Group.
- Recruitment of qualified supervisors and enumerators for carrying out the survey.
- Ensured data quality at each step of survey via strong data quality assurance protocol.
- Provided comprehensive training to enumerators and supervisors of survey questionnaire.
- Carried out survey using Survey CTO .
- Performed data quality checks including back-checks and spot-checks.
- Submitted cleaned and complete datasets and survey report.

METHODOLOGY

The survey was carried out through in-person interviews by means of CAPI tool based on the questionnaire provided by the World Bank Group. In total, 1506 MSMEs were surveyed from across seven provinces. These MSMEs represented diverse sectors including agriculture, accommodation and food services, manufacturing, wholesale and retail, and other services.

FINANCIAL INCLUSION FOR MARGINALIZED WOMEN IN NEPAL – MIDTERM EVALUATION

Study Team

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Ms. Shreya Bajimaya

Ms. Nirmita Shrestha
Mr. Rajendra Khatri
Mr. Ram Prasad Devkota

Client:



BACKGROUND

Habitat Nepal and Sahara Nepal have been implementing a four-year project- “Financial inclusion for marginalized women in Nepal” with an overall goal of having improved financial security and safer housing through improved access to financial services for low-income women in Nepal. The project is being carried out in eastern Nepal, mainly in Jhapa, Morang, Saptari and Udayapur districts.

The mid-term evaluation was carried out to conduct an independent review of the status, and performance the project, to identify the progress made so far and to help improve project performance by highlighting key observation. The project was evaluated in terms of the evaluation criteria- relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, impact, partnership and coordination, and quality standards.

METHODOLOGY

The evaluation was carried out using qualitative methods for data collection- Focus Group Discussion with project beneficiaries, Key Informant Interview with Project team of Habitat Nepal and Sahara Nepal, Micro-finance Institution’s (MFI) executives, Local government authorities, Frontline workers/ Volunteers and Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB); and case studies with project beneficiaries.



FGD with project beneficiaries

KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The project targeted low-income women and women from marginalized communities who have limited say in household financial decision making and are dependent on male family members for the livelihood. Most of the low-income families living in the target project areas live in homes that do not meet basic conditions of safe and decent housing.



KII with local government representative

The project has been able to impart detailed knowledge of financial literacy to the target beneficiaries through intensive Financial Literacy Training (FLT). However, Digital Financial Services (DFS) has not been much effective for majority of the target beneficiaries as most of them either do not own mobile phones or some are not literate.

The awareness raising programs have also been able to generate awareness about financial literacy components to the community people, to some extent. Out of different types of awareness raising programs, public interaction program was more effective however awareness raising programs such as rally, miking and FM

radio could be made more effective through improvisation and follow-up activities.

The effective coordination and partnership among implementing and field level partners, and mobilization of local volunteers have contributed to achieving project outcomes.

Some key recommendations are made based on the suggestions from the beneficiaries:

- FLT classes should be complemented with interactive and game-based learning activities to help the participants learn faster and engage them actively in the training.
- FLT package could be made for two levels of beneficiaries- basic and advanced in line with the Nepal Rastra Bank's Financial Literacy Framework. Considering the low adoption of DFS by the beneficiaries, the session on DFS could be included in advanced level.
- A market study in the project locations about available market opportunities for small-scale business and addition of skill development training for income generation designed on the basis of market study would contribute to sustenance of the financial empowerment of low-income women that this project has envisaged.
- The FLT and awareness programs need follow-up activities or refresher programs for the project benefits to sustain. Single-time activity was not found to be effective.



SECTION : 4

LIVELIHOOD AND FOOD SECURITY

MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY OUTCOMES OF INDIGENOUS GROUPS IN NEPAL.

Study Team

Mr. Rajendra Khatri
Ms. Shreya Bajimaya
Mr. Santosh Kumar Mahato
Mr. Ram Prasad Devkota

Client:



BACKGROUND

NDRI has been carrying out the “Multidimensional Poverty outcomes of Indigenous Groups in Nepal” Project from September 2022 with the support of Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Japan. The study focuses on the poverty outcomes of Sherpa, Chepang and Tharu indigenous communities. The study has covered all 3 ecological regions - Mountain, Hill and Terai encompassing 6 districts of Nepal. In total 1200 households were surveyed - 300 Sherpas from Okhadhunga and Solukhumbu, 300 Chepangs from Chitwan and Makwanpur and 300 Tharus from Bardiya and Kanchanpur were selected. In addition to this, 300 households of “so called” upper castes like Brahmin/Chhetri, and other castes like Dalit were surveyed in the same communities for comparison purpose.



ADBI Japan and National team involved in consultation meeting with Chepang Community

The study has covered following aspects.

- Demographics.
- Economic outcomes (income, consumption, employment, livelihoods).
- Health outcomes (health conditions, nutrition adequacy, access to health facilities).
- Education outcomes (school participation, mathematics and reading comprehension, early childhood development, child development, parental involvement, and access to education facilities)

- Access to government's social programs (anti-poverty programs, active labor market programs, social health insurance) .
- Sanitation (access to clean water, access to safe latrines).
- Access to natural resources.
- Shocks and climate change
- Social capital and subjective well-being.
- Infrastructure.
- Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic .



Conducting Household interview in Chepang Community

METHODOLOGY

A quantitative data collection technique was adopted for the study. The survey was done using CAPI technique. In each selected district, three (former) VDCs were chosen randomly where the corresponding indigenous communities reside. The survey households were selected randomly in each selected VDCs. Informed consent was obtained from the respondents before starting the survey indicating long duration of the survey (3-4 hours). The survey was also visited and observed by the ADBI team from Japan, in Solukhumbu and Makwanpur districts during field execution period.

Major activities carried out:

- Support in tool contextualization and translation.
- Tool digitization.
- Sampling strategy.
- Conducting Survey in 6 districts.
- Recruitment (3 supervisors and 30 enumerators).
- Supervision and Monitoring in the field.
- Logistics arrangement.
- Training and Orientation.



Taking Measurement of child



SECTION : 5

NDRI INITIATIVES

INTRODUCTION

NDRI made an official visit to the Embassy of Israel in Nepal on August 9 to learn and collaborate to find ways in which we can replicate the progress made by Israel in areas such as educational curriculum and high-tech. Inspired by the start-up scene in Israel following the visit, Start-Up Nepal (SUN) was initiated in mid-August 2022.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this program are to create, analyse and disseminate the ideas and strategies related to entrepreneurship, innovation, and fast-growing businesses. It also helps the students and graduates to plan, design, and implement the course of action related to start-up ventures. One of our goals is to translate the book 'Start-Up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle' from English to Nepali to learn about entrepreneurship culture and high-tech start-ups.

METHODOLOGY

Connecting professional and aspiring entrepreneurs, SUN holds interactive programs to exchange invaluable knowledge, including the SUN Talk series on weekends, where successful entrepreneurs share their stories and secrets about start-ups. Interacting with its members, we generate ideas and skills required for entrepreneurship from Nepali translation, creating CVs, creating an online presence to using online tools.

Major Achievement

- Four episodes of the SUN Talk Series with entrepreneur.
- Participation in the Nepal Youth Entrepreneurship Summit 2022.
- Presentation on developing a career in engineering at Tri-Chandra College.
- Visited a college for venture capital awareness made available by Mahalaxmasthan Municipality.
- Various presentations on entrepreneurship from members.
- Various skill-building activities for aspiring entrepreneurs.

Research: Errors and Solutions

On September 9, 2022 Prof. Dr. Lekhnath Kafle, Associate Professor, Department of Tropical Agriculture and International Cooperation, National Pingtung University of Science & Technology, Taiwan presented on the topic “Research: Errors and Solutions”. During the talk program, he presented about research ethics and also mentioned about common errors while preparing research papers/manuscripts, and solutions to minimize the errors.

Challenges and Prospects of Civil/Geotechnical Engineering Career

On 11th October, 2022 a seminar entitled “Challenges and Prospects of Civil/Geotechnical Engineering Career” was organized in NDRI. The key speaker of the event was Dr. Krishna Neupane, Technical Director of AECOM (UK), a leading engineering firm. In the presentation, Dr. Neupane shared his experience over the last 30 years in executing large-scale civil engineering projects. He emphasized on the conceptual knowledge and skills required while executing such projects. A group of graduate students, practitioners, and NDRI executives attended the seminar.

Phonetics and Phonology in Western Tamang

On August 16, 2022, NDRI hosted Alumni talk show on ‘Phonetics and Phonology in Western Tamang’ by NDRI Alumnus Ms. Pratigya Regmi, currently a PhD student at the Memorial University, Canada. She gave a brief presentation on her plan to conduct the Experimental analysis of phonological and phonetic aspects of Western Tamang as spoken in the Namsa village, Khaniyabās Rural Municipality of Dhading. She is also planning to compare her work with other varieties, mainly Eastern Tamang.



ANTI-TOBACCO PLEDGE SIGNING

The former Prime Minister & Chair of the Communist Party Nepal (Centre) Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda) signed in the Anti-Tobacco Pledge being campaigned by NDRI. In the signing ceremony, former Prime Minister Dahal expressed his solidarity with the initiative taken by NDRI. Minister Dahal took a brief account of the tobacco issue in Nepal and research endeavors being done and achievements so far. In the meeting, the report prepared by NDRI "Health Impact of Tobacco in Nepal" released by Rt. Honorable Prime Minister Sher B. Deuba was also handed over to Mr. Dahal by Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung, Team Leader Tobacco Control Program-Phase.

Pushpa Kamal Dahal is the candidate for the Federal Member of Parliament from Constituency No 2, Gorkha District. Similarly, Former Health Minister Mr. Gagan Thapa, candidate from Nepali Congress, Federal Member of Parliament, including Pampha Bhusal, Dr. Toshima Karki and other several candidates also signed in the Anti-tobacco pledge.



COVID-19 SUPPORT NETWORK GROUP

BACKGROUND

Nepal Government announced a country-wide lockdown on March 24, 2020. In the pandemic situation, depending and relying only upon the Nepal government was not enough. Therefore, in coordination with Hon'ble Er. Ganesh Shah, Former Minister of Environmental Science and Technology, NDRI and Resources Himalaya Foundation (RHF) formed a committee named "Control COVID-19 Support Network Group (CSNG)". This initiation commenced on March 27, 2020 where high-level intellectuals were requested to contribute in their capacity.



OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the group is to provide support to the Nepal Government to fight against COVID-19 through continuous and rigorous discussion and talk series from the Scientific Community and to find the way forward in the post-COVID-19 situation. The whole initiation was purely voluntary by all the members, presenters and key speakers.

HIGHLIGHT

With the success of 149 episodes of CSNG, a grand episode was organized on August 19, 2022 as a celebration episode in which Ms. Sheila Ghimire (RHF) presented the brief summary report of all episodes conducted till date. Similarly, a survey has also been conducted to evaluate the impact of CSNG and to get feedback from the participants. In addition to this, an overview and feedback session was also included where the active listeners of CSNG presented their brief reflection and way forward for the future episodes of CSNG.



SECTION : 6

NDRI EVENTS

CELEBRATION OF 19TH ANNIVERSARY OF NDRI



On the special occasion of completing 19 years and opening into the 20th with great hope and also with some challenges, NDRI celebrated its 19th Annual Day on April 13, 2022 (Chaitra 30, 2078) with a wonderful gathering of diplomats, researchers, academia, development professionals, and government officials at Hotel Himalaya.

The program commenced with the dignitary's call on Dias placed by Dr. Jyoti Giri and with the welcome remarks by Dr. Shankar Shrestha, Executive Director of NDRI. The inaugural address for this special event was by the Chief Guest Prof. Dr. Suresh Raj Sharma through the virtual platform and the session was chaired by Prof. Dr. Ram Mannohar Shrestha. NDRI celebrates its Annual Day every year and since last year it has started to organize annual lecture series. This year the inaugural annual lecture was delivered by Dr. Bindu N. Lohani, Former Vice-President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development at the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and Distinguished Fellow of the Emerging Markets Forum, Washington, DC. The title of his lecture was "Fifty Years of Asia's Development Experience: Relevance to Setting Development Priorities in Nepal". He shared his learning from Asian experience: past, present, and future, and he mentioned the five lessons from Asia's Development Trends. He concluded his words with a remark about identifying a longer-term development model for Nepal.

Finally, Dr. Nawa Raj Khatriwada, President of NDRI concluded the event with his vote of thanks to all the participants. He expressed his sincere thanks to distinguished guests from various organizations for their gracious presence at the event.



PRESS CONFERENCE TO UNVEIL REPORT AND RECOMMEND TAX INCREASE

Considering the scenario of Fiscal Budget Preparation for the FY 2022/23, on 25th April, Monday, NDRI organized a press conference to release a press statement focused on Tobacco Tax Raise in the fiscal budget. The report entitled, 'Report on Extent of Illegal Cigarette Trade in Nepal' was also unveiled by Dr. Baburam Marasini, former director of EDCCD. This report unfolds the reality of the illicit cigarette trade in Nepal and proves the tobacco industry's tactics of claiming high illegal trade are wrong. The program was successfully completed with very fruitful discussion and the presence of key media representatives from Nagarik News, Gorkhapatra Dainik, Ratopati, Online Khabar, etc. There were a total of 15 media representatives and the news was covered by 18 different media.



POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO TOBACCO TAX INCREMENT

Seizing the opportunity of election preparation for the local election that was held on 13 May 2022 and financial budget preparation for the FY 2022/23, a half-day workshop entitled "Commitment for Tobacco Tax Increment in local level government Election Manifesto" was organized by Nepal Cancer Relief Society in association with NDRI at Hotel Akama on 30 March 2022, Thursday.

The major objective of this event was to gather political commitment from major political parties of Nepal to include tobacco taxation in their manifestos for the upcoming election. The event was organized to sensitize the political parties about the harms caused by tobacco use and the urgent actions needed to control the tobacco epidemic in Nepal. The attendees were from diverse backgrounds i.e. political parties of Nepal, medical professionals, civil societies, etc.



TOBACCO: AN ONGOING CRISIS AND TAX AS A PROMINENT MITIGATION

To create awareness and sensitize the public on the harmful effects of tobacco, the Annapurna Media Network (AMN) on April 27 launched the 'No Tobacco Campaign for Healthy Nepal' in collaboration with NDRI and other relevant stakeholders. A panel discussion on 'Tobacco: an ongoing crisis and taxation as a prominent mitigation' was held on the occasion of the campaign launch. The main objectives of the session were to discuss tobacco issues and provide the way forward for tobacco taxation. Two instructive presentations were given by prominent activists working in the field of tobacco control. Dr. Bishnu Dutta Poudel, Executive Director of Bhaktapur Cancer Hospital presented the health impacts of tobacco use.

Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung, General Secretary of NDRI presented on the topic, "Tobacco: an ongoing crisis and taxation as a prominent mitigation". Along with that panel discussions were held and there were five panelists from different backgrounds; Dr. Lonim Prasai Dixit (WHO Nepal), Dr. Bhakta Bahadur K.C (NHEICC), Dr. Devi Prasad Prasai (Health Economist), Dr. Lochan Karki (President, NMA) and Mr. Dinesh Gautam (Senior Journalist, AMN).



SCHOOL-BASED TOBACCO AWARENESS PROGRAM



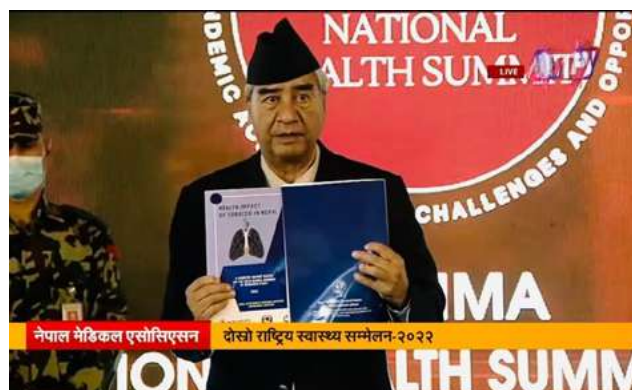
The Tobacco Control Program team organized a school-based tobacco awareness program on 28 June 2022. The program was carried out at Nightingale International Secondary School at Kupondole, Lalitpur. More than one hundred students participated in the event. The Chairperson of the program was the Honorable Member of Parliament, Mr. Teju Lal Chaudhary, also a Founding Director of that school. The sessions were moderated by Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung and Mr. Kamal Chaulagain, Research Associate, who presented about tobacco issues, health impacts, and ways to overcome tobacco addiction.

Mr. Steve Berthram from Oxford Policy Management also took part as a guest. Lastly, the students who committed to influencing their parents not to use tobacco were provided a special gift. NDRI's initiative was well-appreciated by the head of the school, for organizing such programs at the school level and influencing adolescent boys and girls to adopt healthier lifestyles.

PRIME MINISTER UNVEILS THE REPORT “HEALTH IMPACT OF TOBACCO IN NEPAL”

The 2nd National Health Summit, organized by Nepal Medical Association, was held on 20 and 21 September 2022 at Karki Banquet, Thapathali. The event was inaugurated by Rt. Honorable Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba and its theme was Post-Pandemic Achievements, Challenges, and Opportunities. On the first day of the summit, Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba unveiled the report entitled “Health Impact of Tobacco in Nepal” prepared by the Tobacco Control Program (TCP) research team of the NDRI.

At the same event, the NDRI TCP team led a dedicated session on the Impact of Tobacco on Health and the Health System of Nepal. The session was chaired by Mr. Ganesh Shah (Former Minister) and the panelists were Dr. Lonim Dixit (WHO), Dr. Gisupnikha Prasiko (Senior Consultant, Nepal Cancer Hospital), Ms. Rita Bhandari Joshi (Director, NTC) and Ms. Babita Pariyar (President, Tokha Municipal Child Club).



The session was moderated by Ms. Rupa Khadka, a prominent news reporter. The summit was concluded by issuing an 11-point declaration. Dr. Lochan Karki, President of Nepal Medical Association (NMA), informed that NMA has issued an 11-point manifesto including special attention on tobacco prevention and control by the government. The declaration emphasized drawing the government's attention toward raising the tobacco tax and withdrawing the decision to restart government-owned cigarette factories.

MARKING THE WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY

On the special occasion of World No Tobacco Day 2022, NDRI along with the Nepal Cancer Relief Society conducted an event with the objective of highlighting the theme of the day “Tobacco: Threat to our environment” to raise awareness among the public about the negative environmental impacts of tobacco – from cultivation, production, distribution, and waste and to review the recently increased tobacco excise tax in the fiscal budget 2022/23.



The program was chaired by the Honorable State Minister for Health, Bhawani Pd. Khapung. Representatives from various political parties, development sectors, media, and civil society organizations were present in the program. Similarly, on the same day, the NCRS Lalitpur district chapter organized school-based awareness programs targeting school adolescents. The TCP team presented the adverse effects of tobacco on human health and the benefits of quitting tobacco. Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung announced the ambassadors for tobacco control based on the commitment from students that they will convince their families to quit tobacco.

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP ON AFLATOXIN COMMUNICATION PLAN

A two days strategic planning workshop on the Aflatoxin communication plan was conducted at Hotel Himalaya on June 2-3, 2022. The program was funded by MARS Inc. and facilitated by Prof. John Leslie, Prof. Jaggar Harvey, and Prof. Jeff Morris from Kansas State University. The facilitators virtually conducted their sessions and various guest presenters were also present. Thirty-two participants representing different stakeholder organizations actively participated in the workshop to develop communication plans for Aflatoxin-related information.

The participants were divided into five nominal groups of at least five members. Each group consisted of a producer/trader/distributor, educators/trainers/researchers, health professionals, consumers, and policymakers and regulators so that they can serve their perspectives on the questions and issues raised. Participants on the first day focused on identifying the key issues to them and developed relevant strategies on the subsequent day.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD SECURITY IN SOUTH ASIA

An international conference on “Climate Change and Food Security in South Asia (CCFS); took place from May 18-20, 2022 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. This conference was mainly focused on the climate change effects on Agriculture and Food Security in three countries, Bangladesh, India, and Nepal. Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung attended the conference representing NDRI and Nepal. His presentation contents included i) Climate Change in Nepal with some existing evidence, ii) Climate Change Projections, iii) Impacts of Climate Change in Agriculture, iv) Food Security Situation and Vulnerability, v) Climate Change Adaptation practices. This conference was also an opportunity for regional cooperation between the three countries in terms of data sharing and climate analysis.

EXTENDED ABSTRACT PRESENTATION AT INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2022, SRI LANKA

On 29th and 30th September, 2022, the Evidence for Innovation (IDRC) research project team of NDRI participated in the International Research Conference (IRC) 2022, Sri Lanka organized by the Sri Lanka Technological Campus (SLTC), Research University. The conference was held in a hybrid format and the research team participated and attended virtually. On 30th September, Prof. Dr. Raj Kumar Bhattarai presented a virtual video presentation of an extended abstract paper entitled “Transforming Indigenous Knowledge and Skills for Achieving Sustainable Business: Evidence from MSMEs in Nepal”, which was selected under innovative education theme of the IRC. This paper aimed to identify the factors responsible for the sustainability of the enterprise based on indigenous knowledge, skills and resources.



UKMET, ICIMOD AND NDRI WORKSHOP

On the 12th and 13th of July, UKMET and ICIMOD organized a workshop on “Increasing the resilience of hydropower sector in Nepal to climate extremes”, of which NDRI was an integral part. This workshop was targeted at professionals from the hydropower sector in Nepal and focused on sharing information about how climate change is likely to impact the hydropower sector in Nepal. Through its interactive sessions, there was a good understanding of the challenges that the hydropower sector face, their expectations from the workshop, and available climate information for Nepal. The workshop was attended by representatives from government institutions, associations, universities, private organizations, and international organizations. NDRI’s Executive Director delivered an opening remarks on Day 1 and NDRI’s Water and Climate team delivered a presentation on “Event-based modeling and flood frequency analysis focused on Dudh Koshi” on Day 2. The presentation was well acknowledged by all the participants with encouraging comments and curiosity.

10TH NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY

On 16th September, 2022 on the occasion of 10th National Science Day, UNESCO in collaboration with Mid-West University, Resources Himalayan Foundation (RHF), and NDRI conducted a panel discussion session to talk about how international collaboration can encourage investments in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI). The conversations entailed understanding of the possibilities, challenges, and gaps in international collaboration in STI investment in Nepal. The main objective of the webinar was to advance and promote science in the interests of peace, sustainable development, and human security and well-being.

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Knowledge Products

- ❑ **Transforming Indigenous Knowledge and Skills for Achieving Sustainable Business: Evidence from Nepal, International Research Conference 2022, SLTC Research University, Meepe, Padukka 10500, Sri Lanka.**
- ❑ **Value addition on user interface and sanitation governance through Nudge Instruments, Accepted for presentation at the 13th International Symposium on Southeast Asian Water Environment (SEAW2022), Bangkok, Thailand, December 13–15, 2022.**
- ❑ **Use of Nudging in Solid Waste Management as an Effective Policy Instrument, accepted for full paper submission at the 8th International Conference on Integrated Solid Waste & Faecal Sludge Management, to be held on next 25 to 26 February 2023 organized by Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (KUET), Khulna, Bangladesh; Bauhaus University Weimar (BUW), Germany; University of Padova, Italy; International Waste Working Group (IWWG).**
- ❑ **Understanding the Situation and Effectiveness of Adolescent Focused Tobacco Control Policies in Nepal: A Qualitative Study, Journal of Nepal Health Research Council.**
- ❑ **Evidence – Based and Participatory Policymaking in BIMSTEC Countries.**



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Nawa Raj Khatriwada, Ph.D.
Environmental Engineering & Management (President)



Prof. Gopal Bahadur K.C., Ph.D.
Crop Production & Plant Protection (Vice President)



Jaya Kumar Gurung, Ph.D.
Environmental Engineering & Management (General Secretary)



Manjeshwori Singh, Ph.D.
Gender and Livelihood (Secretary)



Rabita Shrestha Mulmi, Ph.D.
Gender and Livelihood (Treasurer)



Krishna Pahari, Ph.D.
Geo-informatics & Natural Resources (Member)



Shanmukesh Chandra Amatya M.Sc.
Disaster Management (Member)



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Prof. Punya Prasad Regmi, Ph.D.
Policy Studies



Prof. Tara Nidhi Bhattarai, Ph.D.
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Basu Dev Pandey, Ph.D.
Public Health & Hygiene



Sunil Babu Shrestha, Ph.D.
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Manoj Karki
Information Technology



Santosh Kumar Mahato
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Kabita Yadhav
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Anjana Lamichhane
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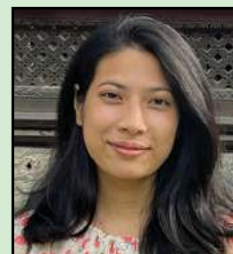
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Water and Climate



Rojina Haiju
Water and Climate



Nirmita Shrestha
Management



Sophiya Shrestha
Environmental Engineering



Arju Pokharel
Economics



Abish Shrestha
International Relation



Narendra Maharjan
Agriculture



Anish Lamichhane
Public Health

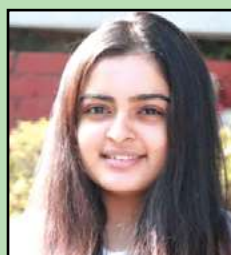
ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT



Manisha Rayamajhi
Senior Administration &
Finance Officer



Anjan Silwal
Senior Administration &
Finance Assistant



Shreejan Shah
Front Desk Officer

SUPPORT STAFF



Sarita Chaudhary



Kumar Kadel



Bishnu Kumar Baniya



NDRI is to provide that it always meets or exceeds quality objectives and customer requirements, based on the following precepts:

- ❑ Customer requirements are collected effectively to ensure that NDRI is capable of achieving their requirements.
- ❑ Interested parties' requirements are also clearly understood so that our products and services can be delivered in a timely and professional manner.
- ❑ All processes employed by NDRI to deliver services are determined, resourced appropriately documented, monitored and measured to ensure its objectives and any statutory and regulatory requirements.
- ❑ All NDRI employees are competent for their areas of work through academic achievements, training and experience where appropriate.
- ❑ The QMS is an integral part of our process management and NDRI has established a Quality Management System (QMS) in line with the requirements of the ISO 9001:2015 Standard.
- ❑ NDRI top management is dedicated to evaluate risks and opportunities throughout the process of service AND its continual improvement by evaluating, monitoring and measuring the performance of the QMS and customer satisfaction.

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Dr. Shankar Shrestha
Executive Director

Accounting System:

Nepal Development Research Institute has been following systematic accounting system and record keeping which has led the organization to achieve the desired output. The reliable system for collecting, recording and reporting financial transactions is followed by the organization. The accounting procedures therefore permit a direct reconciliation of the costs and revenue declared in respect to the work programme with the corresponding supporting documents.

This organization believes in producing outstanding result with proper accounting system. The accounting policies have been consistently applied by NDRI. The accounts of this institute have been kept on the current general principles in accordance with Nepal accounting standards. The membership fees as per institution rules and regulation are collected in time. Financial and administrative laws and by laws developed by the institute are in practice as per requirements.

Auditing of the Organization:

The internal audit of the organization is carried on timely basis to check the financial accuracy of the organization. This is done for the purpose of daily monitoring and evaluation activities on whether the income and expenditure statements managed for daily conduct of the Institution are related to the operation of the organization or not. Regular financial auditing is done by accredited firm that is endorsed by the General Assembly Meeting.

Process for International Standard ISO 9001:2015

Nepal Development Research Institute has also initiated the process for international standardization ISO 9001:2015 which is the most popular and most commonly used standard for quality management system. With this approach, the firm is trying to establish a system of quality control and quality management system designed to provide the firm and its personnel comply with professional standards and regulatory and legal requirements. It aims to enhance customer satisfaction through the effective application of the system, including processes for improvement of the system and the assurance of conformity to customer and applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

Financial Capacity:

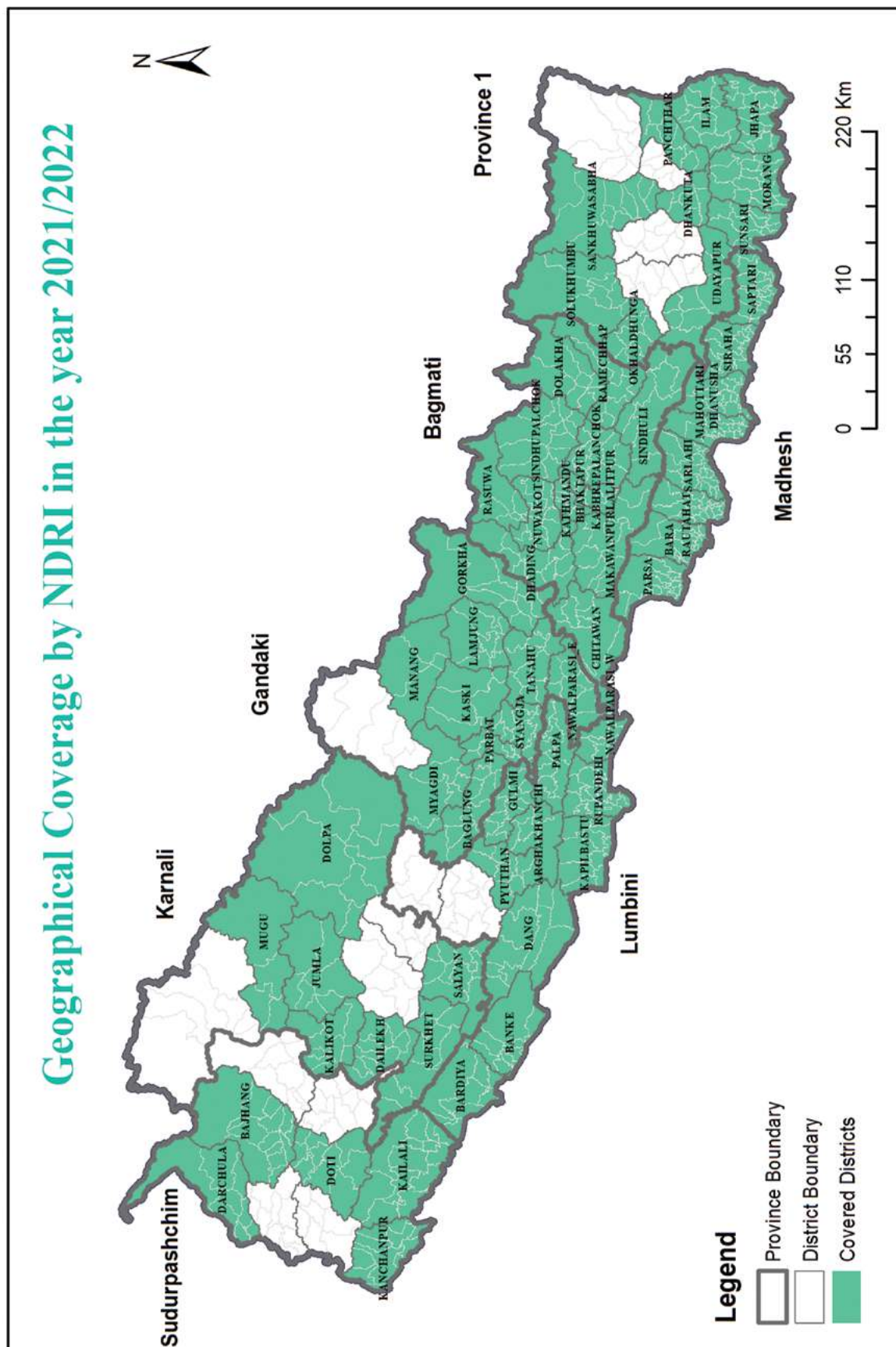
The Financial functions of the organization are performed by separate “Financial” department led by Senior Finance and Admin Officer with supporting administrative and finance assistants. The Senior Finance and Admin officer is responsible for the preparation of consolidated financial statements as well as managing daily financial and administrative functions. There is separate financial regulation for expenditure. The statement are checked by treasurer and finally approved by Executive Director. If there are any changes in the statement, it needs to be approved by the Board of Directors. The financial statements of the organization include Balance Sheet, Income Statement, Cash flow Statement, Statement of Changes in Equity and Notes to the Financial Statements. There is policy of formulating the annual plans and budget of the institute and implementing them transparently and effectively, and running its financial activities in pursuant to the prevailing laws.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Governmental Organizations	Lalitpur Metropolitan City (LMC)	National Health Research Council (NHRC)
Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPIC)	Ministry of Communication and Information Technology	National Planning Commission (NPC)
Agriculture Information and Communication Centre (AICC)	Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MOFALD)	Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST)
Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD)	Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC)
Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM)	Ministry of Finance (MOF)	Social Welfare Council (SWC)
Department of Agriculture (DOA)	Ministry of Population and Environment (MOPE)	Tribhuvan University (T.U.)
Karnali Province Planning Commission	Ministry of Social Development Karnali Province	

Non-Governmental Organizations / Academia / International Donors		
Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC)	Good Neighbors International	Project for Agricultural Commercialization & Trade Nepal (PACT)
	Green Climate Fund (GCF)	
Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)	Habitat for Humanity Nepal	PSI Nepal
		SAMARTH
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Helen Keller International (HKI)	Resources Himalaya Foundation
Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)	ICHARM	Save The Children
Cancer Research UK (CRUK)	Ipas Nepal	SOS Children's Villages Nepal
Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)	Street Child of Nepal
Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (CCSAP)	International Development Research Centre (IDRC)	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
Climate and Development Network (CDKN)	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	Swiss Contact Nepal
Cornell University	Institute for Global Environment Strategies (IGES)	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI)	International Labor Organization (ILO)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)	Kansas State University	United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)	Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
	Kivu International	
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO)	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	United Nations Resident Coordinator Office (UNRCO)
Department For International Development (DFID)	Mercy Corps Nepal	UN Women
	Mott MacDonald	UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)
Department of Human Ecology University	NDI Consulting	United States Agency for international Development (USAID)
Danish Hydraulic Institution (DHI)	Nepal Red Cross Society	United States Forest Service (USFS)
Department of Human Ecology (HUMECO), University of Tokyo	Nepal Open University	Vitti Research Foundation
	Norwegian Embassy	Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO)
Emergency Response and Disaster Management Plan (ERDMP)	OXFAM Nepal	The World Bank
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Plan Nepal	World Food Programme (WFP)
	Planete Enfants & Development (PE&D)	World Health Organization (WHO)
Frost and Sullivan (F&S)	Practical Action Nepal	WWF Nepal
Global Climate Adaptation Partnership (GCAP)	Prakriti Resources Centre (PRC)	Young 1ove
Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)		

Geographical Coverage by NDRI in the year 2021/2022





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