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United Nations Development Programme

PROJECT DOCUMENT

Country: Nepal

Project Title: **Renewable Energy for Resilient Agri-Food Systems (RERAS)**

Project Number: 01001010

Implementing Partner: UNDP

Start Date (IP): 01 July 2023 **End Date (IP):** 31 December 2024
Start Date (Full Project): 01 January 2025 **End Date (Full Project):** 30 June 2027 **LPAC Meeting date: 7 October 2024**

Brief Description

The Constitution of Nepal has defined food security, right to food and food sovereignty as fundamental rights of the citizens, for which the government is made responsible. In the Global Hunger Report, 2022, Nepal ranks 73rd out of 117 food-importing nations in terms of food security, with approximately 45 out of 77 districts being food insufficient. Food and nutrition security relates to several SDGs, particularly those focusing on poverty reduction, zero hunger, gender equality and energy access, for which working on energy-agriculture-food and nutrition nexus is critical.

Access to energy, finance and modern technology tailored to local needs are vital for agricultural productivity, value chain development and establishment of sustainable food systems. There is limited use of renewable energy technology in agriculture value chain development due to poor energy infrastructure and knowledge about application of energy-based technical solutions. Production of local and diverse farm produce in home gardens, commercialization of local products and creating awareness among stakeholders about the use of locally produced food for household consumption and school feeding contribute to food and nutrition security. Access to finance is another challenge in commercialization of agriculture for smallholder farmers as farmers cannot afford use of modern technology.

The project aims to increase agricultural productivity and food and nutrition security by enhancing the use of reliable and affordable energy solutions for production, irrigation, processing, storing, packaging, and marketing of locally grown farm products. The project will support establishing dedicated funds at local level to support the farmers for use of modern technology in production and processing. The project will work with local and provincial governments, cooperatives, traders, and service providers to enhance their knowledge on use of modern technology for food production and sustainable food system management through capacity building and provisions for climate information, policies, finance, and farm research. Extensive use of energy-based and climate smart technology will help reduce the cost of production and increase local food supply. This will also support economic empowerment of women and marginalized groups through job creation and contribute to environment.

In addition, post-Jajarkot earthquake in 2023, UNDP has been on the frontline to support the government on relief and recovery package immediate after the earthquake. Thus, giving continuity of our work in-line with the objective of RERAS, a small component under Resilient Recovery post-Jajarkot earthquake has been integrated to support the operationalization of renewable energy systems for productive end use, technical and agri-advisory support to local communities as well as support local governments on strengthening in localization of environmental governance along with improved policy coherence across three tiers of governments.

The project will be implemented by UNDP in 20 local governments of Sudurpashchim, Karnali, Bagmati and Madhesh provinces (10 in Karnali and 7 in Sudurpashchim, 2 in Bagmati and 1 in Madhesh) in close collaboration with the local governments and in partnership with ICIMOD, WFP, AEPC, LIBIRD and other national institutions.

Contributing Outcome (UNSDCF, CPD, RPD):

UNSDCF (2023-2027) Outcome 3: *By 2027, more people, especially women, youth, children, and the most marginalized and poor, increasingly benefit from and contribute to building an inclusive, sustainable, climate-resilient and green society and reduced impacts of disasters at federal, provincial, and local levels*

Indicative Outputs with Gender Marker:

Total resources required:	**US$ 10,877,942 (including IP budget of US$ 4,359,561)**	
Total resources allocated:		US$ 10.9 million
	Royal Norwegian Embassy (RNE)	(US$ 9,500,942 including 1% levy) (NOK 103,123,221 including 1% levy)
	UNDP:	US$ 1,377,000

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*Output 1.1: Increased demand for indigenous crop varieties from community (Dietary Diversity) – **GEN2*** *Output 1.2: Production and Productivity of selected local varieties of food crops increased (Productivity)- **GEN2*** *Output 1.3: Enhanced supply of diverse and local food produced in the market (Market access)- **GEN2*** *Output 2.1: Energy-based solutions and applications ascertained for selected value chain (Energy solutions)- **GEN2*** *Output 2.2: Reliable supply of renewable energy services ensured by energy service providers (capacity)- **GEN2*** *Output 2.3: Inclusive Financing Mechanism established for sustainable operation of energy systems and enterprises (access to finance) **- GEN2*** *Output 3.1: Gender Responsive knowledge products about policy, institution, technology, and finance developed **- GEN3*** *Output 3.2: Sustainable and resilient agri-production system strengthened at the local level - **GEN2*** *Output 3.3: Value chain actors capacitated on production, processing, post-harvest and market linkages- **GEN2*** *Output 3.4: Enhanced capacities of local governments on environment friendly local governance- **GEN1***			

Agreed by (signatures):

UNDP	
Julien Chevillard, Officer-in-Charge, Deputy Resident Representative	DocuSigned by: 2B6D826A661446B...
Date: 28-11-2024	

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List of Abbreviation

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AEPC	Alternative Energy Promotion Center
AKC	Agriculture Knowledge Center
ASDP	Agriculture Sector Development Program
CBS	Center Bureau of Statistics
CREF	Central Renewable Energy Fund
DIM	Direct Implementation Modality
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GII	Gender Inequality Index
GRAPE	Green Resilient Agricultural Productive Ecosystems
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting
HHs	Households
HDR	Human Development Report
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
ICT	Information Communication Technology
KWh	Kilowatt Hours
LGs	Local Governments
LI-BIRD	Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development
MDG's	Millennium Development Goals
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MSNP	Multisectoral Nutrition Program
NARC	Nepal Agriculture Research Council
NeKSAP	Nepal Food Security Monitoring System
NGO	Non-Government Organization
PMAMP	Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization Program
PGs	Provincial Governments
PSs	Private Sectors
RERL	Renewable Energy for Rural Livelihood
SASEC	South Asia Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SWOT	Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats
ToC	Theory of Change
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
VC	Value Chain
WFP	World Food Programme
WBG	World Bank Group

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I. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

Situation Analysis

The Constitution of Nepal, 2015 outlines right to food, food sovereignty and safety as the fundamental right[1] of the citizens and makes the state responsible for *sustainable production, supplies, storage, security, and effective distribution of food by encouraging food production and enhancing investment in agriculture.* The Constitution under Schedule 8 gives mandates to the local governments for institutionalizing mechanisms to enhance agricultural productivity, nutrition security and supply of inputs, such as seeds, technologies, and extension services.

Food Insecurity

Nepal is identified as a 'low-income food deficit country'[2] and ranks 73rd in terms of food security out of 117 food-importing nations. Out of 77 districts of Nepal, 45 are estimated to be food insufficient from their own production.[3] Between 2004-2021, the prevalence of undernourishment in Nepal decreased from 17 percent to 5.5 percent. However, in the same period, prevalence of severe food insecurity increased from 10.4 percent to 13.6 percent, and prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity from 29.5 percent to 38 percent. Consequently, in 2021, approximately 1.6 million Nepalis were undernourished, and an additional 11 million moderately or severely food insecure. Similarly, in 2020, 83 percent of the population (almost 24.5 million people) was estimated to be unable to afford a healthy diet.

Significant variations exist between provinces, as stunting rates range from 22.6 percent in Gandaki Province to 48 and 41 percent in Karnali and Sudurpashchim province respectively.[4] According to a survey conducted by MoALD in 2020 as part of Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP), nearly 7 percent of households in Karnali Province was found to be severely food insecure.[5] Similarly, another study conducted by WFP in 2022 found Karnali and Sudurpashchim Provinces having higher incidences of poor or borderline food consumption (15.3% and 14.5%) than other provinces when compared to the national average (13.2%).[6] Mountain districts in the two provinces, including Dolpa, Jumla, Mugu, Bajura, and Humla, are more adversely affected.[7]

Women constitutes 51 percent of Nepal's total population[8] and 32 percent of households are headed by women. The percentage of women headed households is higher in Karnali (35%) partly due to large-scale out-migration of young men. Approximately 80 percent of Nepali women work in agriculture sector under challenging work conditions, mainly because most of the women work either as subsistence farmers or small-scale producers.[9] Despite a significant number of women engaged in agriculture, only 9.7 percent of women legally own land, and their contribution to formal economy is undervalued. This limited ownership not only affects their economic empowerment but also poses barriers to achieving equitable access to resources, services, and opportunities. Addressing the systemic challenges of women's land ownership and promoting joint ownership are critical to ensuring women's full economic participation and their rights to food security.

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[1] *Constitution of Nepal (2015), Article 36 (1, 2, 3)*
[2] *FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, WHO (2022), The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World: Repurposing Food and Agricultural Policies to Make Healthy Diets More Affordable, The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022 (fao.org)*
[3] *Gyawali Gokarna Prasad.P.hD. and Pradhan Prajwal Man, (2022). Food Crisis in Nepal https://www.nepjol.info/index.php/njdrs/article/view/51912*
[4] *Klaus von Grebmer, Jill Bernstein, Miriam Wiemers, Laura Reiner, Marilena Bachmeier, Asja Hanano, Olive Towey, Réiseal Ní Chéilleachair, Connell Foley, Seth Gitter, Grace Larocque, and Heidi Fritschel, 2022, Global Hunger Index, Food Systems Transformation and Local Governance, Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide, Bonn / Dublin, October 2022*
[5] *WFP (2020). The impact of covid-19 on households in Nepal, Second round of mVAM Household Livelihoods, Food Security and Vulnerability Survey. Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development*
[6] *World Food Programme (2022), Impact of Current Shocks on Household Food Security in Nepal: Sixth Round of vMAM Household Livelihoods, Food Security and Vulnerability Survey*
[7] *National Planning Commission (2019), The Food Security Atlas of Nepal, Food_Security_Atlas_2019.pdf (npc.gov.np)*
[8] *CBS, NPC, Government of Nepal, 2023*
[9] *Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (2019), Country gender assessment of agriculture and the rural sector in Nepal*

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Moreover, rural women are often denied access to services, resources, information, and opportunities, which prevents them from taking ownership of production, resources and technologies throughout the value chain development, utilizing their full economic potentials, and enjoying their rights to food security.

Nepal is among the most vulnerable countries to climate change given its topographic fragility and high dependence of majority of its population on agriculture-based livelihood, which is highly climate-sensitive. Around 70 percent of Nepal's population is engaged in subsistence or small-scale farming with very limited adaptive capacity. Increase in frequency and magnitude of extreme climatic events due to climate change has become a serious threat to food and nutritional security.[10] Climatic hazards, such as floods and heavy rains, often damage cultivated crops and reduce food production, which results in food insecurity and malnutrition of children and other vulnerable and marginalized groups such as smallholder farmers, pregnant and lactating women, women-headed households, and elderly population.

The food security situation in Sudurpashchim and Karnali provinces is a particular concern due to high climate change impacts, higher poverty rate and underdeveloped infrastructure. The people living in these two provinces face numerous challenges related to food production and access. At the same time, the two provinces have consistently been hit by natural hazards such as floods and landslides, which led to loss of agriculture land, crop damage and disruption of food supplies. In October 2022, due to untimely heavy monsoon rains and ensuing flood disaster, at least 35 people died, and a total of 2,889 families across Karnali province were displaced. As a result of the unusual heavy rains, more than 90 landslides descended on the Surkhet-Jumla section, and an additional 73 on the Kalikot section of the Karnali Highway, the lifeline of Karnali Province. Similarly, the Karnali corridor which passes through five local governments of Kalikot, connecting the Kolti area of Bajura and the western parts of Mugu and Humla districts, was also disrupted.[11]

Studies and analysis have shown that the national Midday meals programme has made noteworthy achievements on education, health, nutrition, and social security over the past four decades by implementing the programme in parts of country that suffer from food insecurity and poverty.

Challenges remain with regards to planning and delivering nutritious meals in schools. The introduction of locally available, affordable, safe, and nutrient-rich neglected crops that can be supplied by local farmers is possible provided issues around coordination, operational modalities, and more importantly the diversity and adequacy of school meals are addressed.

Productive use of energy

Almost 770 million people globally lack access to electricity, which impedes their efforts to reduce poverty and achieve human development. Approximately 2.5 billion people lack access to clean cooking methods, meaning nearly one-third of the global population still depends on firewood and charcoal for cooking meals. In Nepal, the major source of energy used for cooking is firewood (57 percent nationwide), with even higher shares in Karnali (90%) and Sudurpashchim (80%). Nepal's constitution emphasizes on ensuring reliable and affordable supply of energy and making proper use of energy for fulfilment of basic needs of the citizen.[12] [13]

Electricity access to rural population in Nepal is mostly through off-grid renewable energy sources for domestic lighting and run micro-enterprises. Despite energy is a key enabler to improve agriculture productivity and enhance value chain through improvements in irrigation, transportation, processing, storage, and product diversification, it has not been optimally used for commercialization of agriculture

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[10] Neupane N, Paudel S, Sapkota R, Joshi YP, Rijal Y and Chalise A (2022) Enhancing the resilience of food production systems for food and nutritional security under climate change in Nepal. Front. Sustain. Food Syst. 6:968998. doi: 10.3389/fsufs.2022.968998

[11] https://kathmandupost.com/karnali-province/2022/10/13/35-dead-20-missing-in-karnali-floods-and-landslides

12 Constitution of Nepal (2015), Article 50 (h) (12)

13 Constitution of Nepal (2015), Article 50 (g) (3)

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sector. Reliable energy technology from off-grid sources such as micro-hydro, solar photovoltaics, solar thermal or through on-grid or distributed generation must be integrated with agriculture and food system.

A rapid assessment commissioned by UNDP in three districts of Karnali and Sudurpashchim Provinces, namely, Jumla, Mugu, and Bajura with highest food insecurity and lowest human development, identified five major barriers in food security as: a) lack of market, transportation, storage and soil testing facilities, b) limited access to finance and information about use of modern technology which result into high upfront cost of production, c) limited energy infrastructure to support for storage and irrigation facilities, d) lack of knowledge to the farmers about local food and its nutrition value, e) lack of policy incentives and institutional capacity to promote modern energy for food and nutrition security and f) lack of climate information and weather forecast and their impacts on crop production.

Nepal's current policy context is relatively favourable to support overall development and improvement of food systems for enhanced food and nutrition security. There are ample opportunities to work with the federal, provincial, and local governments to make use of energy-based technology to mechanize food system.[14] The three-tier government, with support of development partners, has been working to address the key barriers related to policy, financing and technology that collectively contribute to food insecurity in Karnali and Sudurpashchim provinces. However, much more still needs to be done to address the underlying causes of food insecurity through an integrated energy-agriculture-food security nexus approach.

Resilient Recovery

On 3 November 2023, a 6.4 magnitude earthquake struck Jajarkot and West Rukum districts of the Karnali province with epi-center identified near Ramindanda of Jajarkot district, Karnali province. The initial seismic event followed by several aftershocks, including seven aftershocks of magnitudes over 4 on the Richter scale[15], have brought devastating impacts. The most severely affected districts include Jajarkot with 105 deaths and 81 injuries, and West Rukum, with 52 deaths and 78 injuries. Based on initial assessments, seven MHPs with a total capacity of 329kW have been severely damaged by the earthquake and are non-operational, while another six MHPs with a total capacity of 254kW have been damaged but are still generating electricity with many difficulties.

Moreover, the energy need is particularly urgent for communities that are residing in temporary shelters and for small and medium size that support the informal economy. Thus, rehabilitation and restoration of such energy systems and support for informal economy and SMEs are crucial to support early recovery to victims that are residing on temporary shelters. Besides, taking stock of the potential opportunities and local needs, the project will work with the local governments, community groups, farmers and relevant agriculture value chain actors to support in the resilient recovery of the impacted communities through food-energy-water nexus.

As a Resilient Recovery package, UNDP is prioritizing developing a package programme with other possible engagement development partners for reconstruction and recovery work in municipalities heavily impacted by the EQ. In line with our objective in Jumla, the support will emphasize on i). promotion of productive-end use of energy solutions and ii). enhancing capacity of local governments for improved agro-technological services for resilient agriculture systems. The recovery interventions are aligned with the existing outputs of the RERAS Project.

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[14] Some of the major policies at the federal level are: Provincial at Sudur Paschim (Provincial Agriculture Development Strategy 2079/80 to 2093/94; Agriculture and Livestock Business Promotion Regulation, 2079; Agriculture Research Extension and Education Programme Procedure, 2078) and Karnali are (Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act 2079; Agriculture Business Promotion Act, 2079; Provincial Agriculture Development Strategy, 2079

[15] https://seismonepal.gov.np/earthquakes

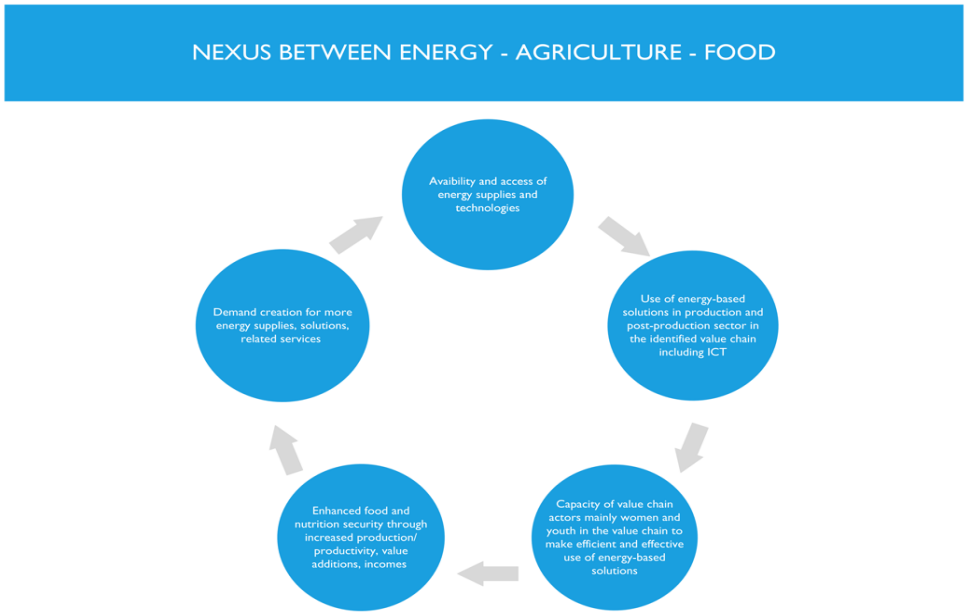
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II. STRATEGY

Nexus Approach: Energy-Food Systems

A joint report of IRENA and FAO identified the role of integrated food-energy systems to promote both energy and food security essential to meet current and future demand for food and energy in an inclusive and environmentally sustainable manner, while contributing to employment creation, gender equality, and climate resilience and adaptation.[16] In Nepal, where the agriculture sector contributes to 24 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)[17] and engages around two thirds of the population, promoting more integrated, sustainable, resilient, and productive food-energy systems is crucial for food security.

Fig 1: Energy-Agriculture-Food Security Nexus Approach



With persisting food insecurity in Nepal due to lack of finance, technology, and energy, amid growing impacts of climate change on agriculture, urgent actions are required for transformation towards a productive and sustainable agriculture and food system. The project therefore plans to follow an integrated energy-agriculture-food security nexus approach to make this transformation happen, under which focus will be given to enhancing access to reliable and affordable renewable energy services and expanding use of energy-based technology in agriculture.

Working on integrated energy-agriculture-food security approach will not only help increase labour productivity and income and reduce cost of production; but also enhance market competitiveness of local farm products and minimize climate impacts at different stages of agriculture value chain such as production, processing, storage, and transportation. This will in turn support ensuring efficient use of water for irrigation and empowerment of women and disadvantaged groups to grow diverse farm produce that will fulfil their daily dietary needs and ensure food and nutrition security and community resilience to shocks.

The proposed integrated energy-agriculture-food security nexus approach is built on the analysis of existing agriculture production and food systems of Karnali and Sudurpashchim provinces and to respond to the

[16] International Renewable Energy Agency and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (2021), Renewable energy for agri-food systems – Towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, Renewable energy for agri-food systems – Towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris agreement (irena.org)

[17] Nepal Rastra Bank Economic Research Department, Baluwatar, Kathmandu Current Macroeconomic and Financial Situation of Nepal (Based on Annual Data of 2021/22)

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barriers identified in “food and nutrition security” as explained under “development challenge” by addressing several gaps identified in mechanization of agriculture sector as mentioned below:

- Mostly labor-intensive agriculture largely suffers from shortage of agriculture labor due to out-migration of youth resulting in insufficient production and poor yield.
- No incentives for youth to retain in village for agriculture work and increased drudgery for women in absence of use of technology in agriculture value chain.
- Weak electricity infrastructure and limited use of energy-based solutions to improve production reduce post-harvest loss and increase market competitiveness.
- Increased vulnerability to impacts of climate change and no mechanism to provide climate responsive solutions for food production
- Lack of reliable energy supply for irrigation, processing and storage leading to low productivity.
- Lack of knowledge about food diversification and its role in nutrition security and lack of finance to adopt climate smart technology for mechanization of agriculture.
- High in-door pollution and increased drudgery for women due to massive use of biomass as cooking energy
- Lack of awareness about indigenous crop varieties with high nutrient value and resilient agricultural practices and sustainable production patterns.

Given poor capacity of the local governments and farmer groups in Karnali and Sudurpashchim provinces for adoption of modern technology that support mechanization of agriculture and sustainable agriculture production, future strategies for food and nutrition security must prioritize building capacities of the farmers and stakeholders with special focus on women and youth and improving policies to support introduction of new technology and ensure equal access to technology by all. Under this broader strategic framework of policy and capacity building support by the project, specific strategies will include:

- Ensuring collaboration with provincial and local governments, private sector, women entrepreneurs, producers, value chain actors, development partners and other projects under implementation.
- Emphasizing commercialization of indigenous crops (Finger Millet, Foxtail Millet, Proso Millet, Barley, Buckwheat, Marsi, Beans) which are locally adaptive, nutritious with high value in the market.
- Capacity building of all value chain actors on agriculture, food, nutrition, business creation and renewable energy service providers; and
- Supporting provincial and local governments to create specific policy instruments (incentives and financing tools) to promote energy-based technology for commercialization of agriculture.
- Engaging local actors and institutions as much as possible for technology transfer, farm research, capacity and knowledge exchange
- Promoting use of local diversified food products with high nutrition value in the national Mid-day Meal programme as per dietary requirements of the students

The findings of the rapid assessment of the project sites conducted by UNDP (outlined below) indicate that there is a high chance of success of the proposed energy-agriculture-food system nexus approach, if a set of interventions on policy, technology, finance, and capacity building are applied simultaneously.

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- High level of willingness exists among the local governments and farmers to support transformation of agriculture from subsistence to commercialized agriculture through mechanization.
- There is a strong correlation between reliable energy supply and increase in agricultural productivity, which has the potential to ensure food and nutritional security.
- Building and strengthening off-grid energy infrastructure for micro-hydro and solar power plants is critical to ensure access to affordable, reliable and clean energy services.
- Appropriate incentives in terms of policy, technology and capacities will enhance productive use of energy, which is important for mechanization of agriculture and value chain development.
- Access to tailored energy-based solutions will increase work efficiency, reduce cost of production and drudgery for women and marginalized groups.
- Awareness among stakeholders about the use of locally grown food for local consumption; its linkage to the national Mid-day Meal programme will increase demand for diverse food crops in the market.
- Farm research and evidence-based advocacy will help adopt climate-responsive agriculture and minimize the impacts of climate on local food products.
- Use of locally produced agricultural commodities in the Mid-day Meal programme can improve dietary diversity.

Project Objective

The overarching objective of the project is to increase food and nutrition security of the target communities of Jumla, Bajura and Mugu districts through mechanization of agriculture and food systems utilizing renewable energy-based solutions.

The project aims to achieve this objective through the following three outcomes:

1. Women and socio-economically poor households have enhanced access to food to meet their daily dietary needs.
2. Renewable energy solutions utilized for improved agriculture value chain functions.
3. Enabling environment improved for resilient agri-food systems and environmental governance.

Theory of Change

Decentralised, cost-effective grid-based and non-grid-based energy options, such as solar and hydro mini-grids, have the potential to provide reliable and affordable energy services required for the commercialization of agriculture while also reducing the cost of production. Adoption of renewable energy-based technology in agriculture such as solar-powered irrigation systems can help farmers enhance agricultural productivity and contribute to livelihood improvements and food and nutrition security.[18] Such solutions, when tailored to local context, are able to meet the needs of value chain development for indigenous crops, fresh vegetables, fruits, herbs, and other high value crops in a sustainable and climate resilient manner.[19] At the same time, enhanced knowledge and awareness about significance of local food

[18] *Power for all factsheet: Powering Agriculture eBooklet A Knowledge Resource for the Productive Use of Renewable Energy in Food Systems, Nov 2020, powerforall.org*

[19] *Shrestha J.N., 2020. Increasing food security through renewable energy supported development in agriculture sector, Center for Energy Studies, IOE, TU*

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and food diversification in maintaining health and nutrition of the population and will increase the demand of such food for household consumption, as well as for use in social protection programmes like the national Mid-day Meal programme. Thus, enhanced productivity and crop diversification and sustainable supply of such food will contribute to meet local dietary needs of the population and school children.

For the long-term sustainability of food systems and ensure nutrition security, it is important to include dietary diversity in local food system at the household level[20] including through a home-grown approach to the Mid-day Meal programme. The proposed project sites are known for having local indigenous crops with high nutrient value and potential for commercialization. To address the issue of hunger and nutritional deficiencies among the population, the project will promote 'composite food basket' following FAO Guidelines to ensure nutritional diversity[21] and 'home gardens' to produce a range of indigenous crops. The children, women and senior citizens will particularly benefit from enhanced access to healthy food. WFP's experience on the home-grown approach to school feeding will be used to promote local and diversified food crops to meet the dietary needs of the students.

Access to renewable energy services plays a vital role in reducing food loss and increasing shelf life of perishable products during post-harvest processing, storage, and transportation, which can be useful for individual households as well as farmers groups, cooperatives, and small businesses along the entire food supply chain. Expanded use of tailored energy-based solutions in production and post-harvest processing can trigger new economic opportunities for the community. Likewise, sustainable, and reliable supply of energy can support production of compost from bio-degradable farm and household waste, which can reduce reliance on (imported) chemical fertilizers thus enhancing sustainability.[22]

Increased household demands for locally produced indigenous crops will encourage the farmers to increase production and commercialization of products using energy-based technology. More and better energy services available for irrigation, cold storage and driers will encourage the marginalized groups and women-headed households to be the part of value chain system. Decentralised energy system and use of renewable energy services will help households save money, increase agricultural productivity and food supply; and empower women with technology uptake to set up enterprises, create employment and widen the economic base.[23]

Based on the analysis of key barriers in commercialization of agriculture and potential solution pathway, the Theory of Change (ToC) is shown in Figure 2.

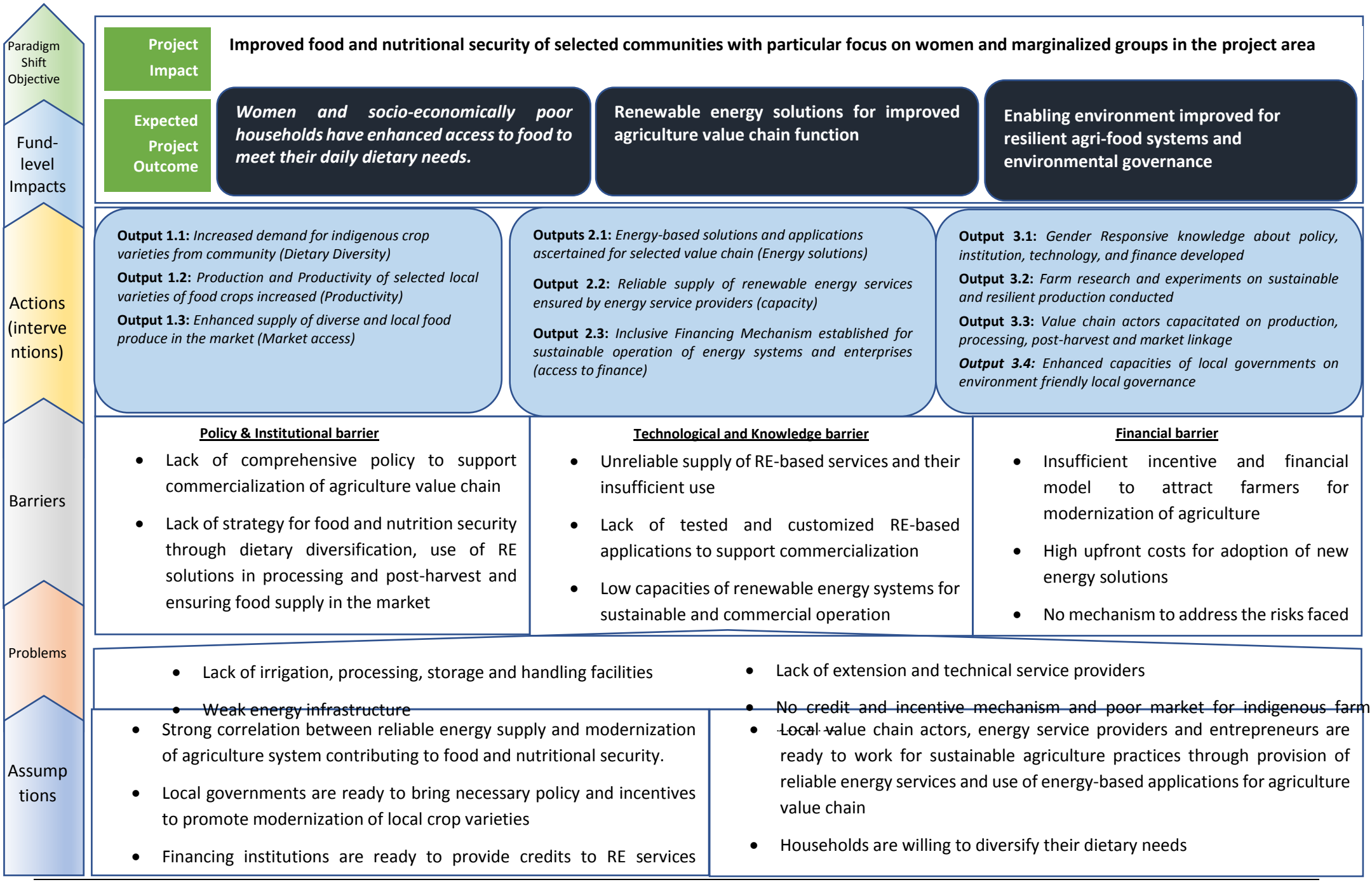
[20] *Dietary diversity is a qualitative measure of food consumption that reflects household access to a variety of foods, and is also a proxy for nutrient adequacy of the diet of individuals. The dietary diversity questionnaire represents a rapid, user-friendly and easily administered low-cost assessment tool (FAO)*

[21] *10 types of food as identified by FAO: 1. Grains, white roots and tubers, and plantains 2. Pulses (beans, peas and lentils) 3. Nuts and seeds 4. Dairy 5. Meat, poultry and fish, 6. Eggs 7. Dark green leafy vegetables 8. Other vitamin A-rich fruits and vegetables 9. Other vegetables 10. Other fruits (FAO, MINIMUM DIETARY DIVERSITY FOR WOMEN An updated guide for measurement: from collection to action, 2021)*

[22] WFP: Energy for Food Security, Enhancing people's food security with improved energy services

[23] The Energy Access Dividend Compendium: Key Facts on Energy Access and the SDGs

Fig 2: Theory of Change



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Contribution to global and national development frameworks

Contribution to SDGs, UNDP Strategic Plan, UN Nepal Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, and UNDP Nepal Country Programme Document

The Government of Nepal is fully committed to achieving the SDGs. Through the integrated energy-agriculture-food security approach, the project will provide important contributions to national targets of SDG 1 (Poverty Reduction), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 17 (Partnerships).

UNDP's global Strategic Plan, 2022-2025,[24] identifies UNDP's global priorities as:

- Supporting countries towards three directions of change: structural transformation, leaving no one behind and resilience,
- Through six signature solutions: poverty and inequality, governance, resilience, environment, energy and gender equality,
- Enhanced by three enablers: strategic innovation, digitalization and development financing.

In the context of Nepal, the project will directly contribute to two directions of change (LNOB and resilience building), and five of the six signature solutions (poverty and inequality, resilience, environment, energy, and gender equality). The project will also utilize two of the strategic enablers (strategic innovation and digitalization) to achieve its outcomes and outputs. By doing so, the project will contribute to two of UNDP's global 'moonshot targets' for the 2022-2025 period: helping 100 million people to escape multidimensional poverty, and support 500 million people to gain access to clean energy.

At the national level, the Project contributes directly to the UN Nepal Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), 2023-2027, and UNDP Nepal's Country Programme Document (CPD), 2023-2027. The Project contributes directly to Outcome 3 of the UNSDCF and CPD: "By 2027, more people, especially women, youth, and the most marginalized and poor, increasingly benefit from and contribute to building an inclusive, sustainable, climate-resilient and green society and reduced impacts of disasters at federal, provincial and local levels." The project outcomes will also contribute to UNSDCF and CPD Outcome 1: "By 2027, more people, especially women, youth, the most marginalized and poor, increasingly benefit from and contribute to inclusive, resilient, and sustainable socioeconomic transformation at federal, provincial and local levels."

More specifically, the project will contribute to the following UNDP CPD outputs:

- Output 3.1: Innovative resilience-building solutions introduced at all levels to reduce risks from disasters and climate change.
- Output 3.2: Environmental governance strengthened at all three levels for climate-change adaptation and mitigation, sustainable watershed, ecosystem, and biodiversity management.
- Output 3.3: Reliable, affordable, and efficient clean energy solutions promoted.
- Output 1.2: Expanded access to sustainable livelihoods and income for women, youth, poor and other marginalized groups.

The project results are aligned with and contributes to the UNDP Strategic Plan intervention areas, several SDGs, the Nepal UNSDCF and UNDP Nepal CPD through three dedicated outcomes, and ten outputs. Assumptions, approaches, baselines, and targets have been reviewed, revised, and validated in close collaboration with key stakeholders.

[24] https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2022-07/UNDP%20Strategic%20Plan%202022-2025.pdf

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III. RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Expected Results

The project aims to contribute to the *"improved food and nutrition security of the communities in targeted municipalities of Sudurpashchim and Karnali provinces by promoting indigenous crop varieties through mechanization of agriculture using renewable energy-based technology."* The result chain for the project, presented below, is derived from the ***"Theory of Change"*** considering energy-agriculture-food security nexus approach.

OUTCOME 1: Women and Socio-economically poor households have enhanced access to food to meet their daily dietary needs

This outcome focuses on promoting dietary diversification and increasing production of indigenous crops at the local level through home gardens.[25] it also emphasizes on developing market linkages of the selected local products through value chain development. The emphasis is given to enhance production of diverse indigenous crop varieties and ensure availability of sufficient food in the market that meet daily dietary needs of the population. Towards this end, generating awareness about dietary diversity and nutritional value of local indigenous food, effective management of home gardens and subsistence farming practices, will be prioritized.

The value chain of selected food crops will be developed in collaboration with the local governments, agriculture knowledge centers, and other local partners, including community-based organizations. The outcome is also expected to contribute to livelihood improvement of the small holder farmers, many of whom are women, by building their capacities to use new set of knowledge and modern technology for sustainable farming. The outputs and activities under this Outcome are detailed out below:

Output 1.1: Increased demand for indigenous crop varieties from community (Dietary Diversity)- GEN 2

Under this output, the project will support enhancing knowledge of the farmers and the community about daily dietary needs of the population at individual level – women, children, elderly people – and household level that meets their nutritional requirements for living a healthy life. This will be done through creating awareness about dietary diversity and significance of indigenous crops to maintain the diversity and fulfill the nutritional requirements. The majority of farmers draw their livelihood from subsistence farming based on rudimentary farming practices with limited use of innovations and technologies at production and post-harvest processing phase. It is therefore important to build confidence of the farmers, especially of women and marginalized groups, to invest on growing indigenous crop varieties by improving their skills and abilities for value addition to existing production and processing practices through use of energy-based applications and increasing demand in the market of locally produced food items. The Project will support for capacity building of the farmers, especially of women and marginalized groups, through awareness, training, and demonstration of energy-based technology and introducing incentive models of financing in collaboration with the local governments to ensure easy uptake of technology by the farmers.

To increase the demand of locally produced food from diverse and indigenous crop varieties grown by the farmers, the project will support for increasing consumption of such food at household level and schools by rolling out customized midday meal menus. The Project will promote farmer's home gardens to increase production of indigenous crops and empower farmers, especially women and marginalized groups, to expand their family food baskets to include local indigenous food that meets their dietary diversity needs. The project will collaborate with NARC and ICIMOD and the partners of ASDP and GRAPE programmes to learn about their experience and best practices of promoting indigenous crops.

[25] Home gardens are mainly managed and in control of women which promotes their access, choice and decision what to cook, what to feed and eat at hhs level and sell surpluses for extra incomes.

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WFP will continue to support local governments to implement home grown school feeding approach through facilitating linkages small holder women farmers producing local indigenous crops to the schools under the national midday meal programme. The support package is aimed at improving the capacity of local governments in Jumla.

Activities contributing to this output include:

- Activity 1.1.1: Prepare a firm baseline to take stock of indigenous crops varieties, agriculture practices and project boundary
- Activity 1.1.2: Enhance understanding about indigenous crops to enhance production and local consumption
- Activity 1.1.3: Enhance capacities of local governments, farmer groups and local value chain actors in pocket area development and adoption of energy-based technologies for pre- and post-production

Output 1.2: Production and Productivity of selected local varieties of food crops increased (Productivity) - GEN 2

This output will contribute to enhancing productivity of the selected agriculture crop varieties with a focus on increasing crop yield. To increase crop yield and reduce women's time poverty, drudgery, farmers in the pocket areas will be supported for soil testing, seed selection and treatment, pest and disease control, organic composting, nursery techniques and crop and water management. Use of energy-based technology such as agro-mechanization during pre-production and production phase, for example, greenhouse technology for growing seedlings, drip irrigation, safe seed storage to increase seed viability and post-harvest processing and storage, will be promoted through on-site demonstration and hands-on-training. This will help farmers to fetch better prices of locally grown products and reduce post-harvest loss.

In the high mountain communities, the practice of mono-cropping is dominant, factored by the lack of labour force and gender responsive agro mechanization. This has resulted in the decline of soil productivity and a greater shift towards exotic high-density apples. During consultations with local governments and farmers, continuous decline of production of rice and beans in these pocket areas due to poor soil quality, lack of labour force, women's time poverty and increasing demand for apple saplings for conversion of traditional farming systems was highlighted. Thus, emphasis on livestock and manure management, crop management practices and commercialization of such crops are key areas where additional resources will need to be mobilized. As a priority effort, improvement of cattle sheds (150) will be prioritized that aims for improved health condition of cattle, nutrient content of manure, and reduce the wastage of manure.[26] Collection of cattle urine for application as 'Jhol Mol'[27] and bio-pesticide to control insect pests will be promoted. These simplified and tested climate smart agriculture practices ultimately reduce the work burden and labour intensity on women through efficient management of cattle sheds, better compost for the field as well as low-cost solutions for bio-pesticides.

The conservation farming mainly focusses on cover crops, minimum tillage and crop diversification. But the RERAS interventions will be more of resilient farming practices than conservation farming- it includes crop diversification, crop improvement, soil and fertility management, integrated pest management, agro-forestry based farming systems and agriculture advisory services which will be extended to 250 additional farmers, mostly focusing on women and marginalized group, in Jumla, Bajura and Jajarkot.

[26] https://libird.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Animal-shed-Improvement-English.pdf

[27] https://www.icimod.org/solutions/improved-cattleshed-for-urine-collection/

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Under the resilient recovery, the additional livelihoods support to earthquake victims in Jajarkot and West Rukum has been outlined under this output. The activities will prioritizes working with local governments to provide agro-support services and support cooperatives and farmers' groups for improved agricultural production and value chain linkages, agro-support services and support to better utilize renewable energy for agro- and non-agro-enterprises, all aiming to create additional short and long-term employment opportunities for rapid economic recovery in the affected areas with the GESI perspective.

With the rehabilitation of MHPs, the project will aim to promote productive end-use will also be supported including agri or non-agri based enterprises with more than 70% beneficiaries including women, youths and marginalized groups. The project will map all enterprises active in the project site and prioritizes support for existing cooperatives to align support on priority crops or agro-technological services in line with the priorities of the municipalities.

RERL/AEPC has developed a capacity enhancement package for promotion of productive uses of energy (PUE) which includes training on Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB), potential entrepreneurs, with the priority for women and marginalized groups, will be supported to identify business, prepare business plan, entrepreneurship development, establishment of enterprises, operation and management, market linkages, etc.

Activities contributing to this output include:

- **Activity 1.2.1:** Conduct assessment to take stock of soil organic matter, seeds quality, crop management practices and post-harvest losses in select commodities
- **Activity 1.2.2:** Provide technical assistance and input support for enhanced production and productivity of the selected agriculture crops
- **Activity 1.2.3:** Scale-up agro-mechanization, agro-processing and storage systems
- **Activity 1.2.4:** Strengthen agriculture value chain with modern technology solutions

Output 1.3: Enhanced supply of diverse and local food produced in the market (Market access)- GEN 2

Limited market access for selected value chain products in Project sites is a major concern in availability of local food for the households, except in Jumla where some level of commercialization of local food products has started. Project will support for developing market outlets and build capacities of traders, cooperatives, and farmer groups, especially of women and marginalized groups, for sale of products through these outlets. To establish market links of local food products and strengthen supply chain, the project will support for start-ups, access to finance, enterprise development and small infrastructure services based on the analysis of value chain actors and market research Use of digital technology such as digital display of prices at the regional market centres, and use of community FM radio in disseminating market information will be promoted.

At the post-production level, the project interventions are targeted to maintain quality of harvests through proper grading and sorting of products. Support for combined production and collection facilities and integrated small-scale storage and value processing services will be ensured to increase both shelf-life and financial returns of the products. Product marketing will be supported through branding to assure product quality. Activities contributing to this output include:

- **Activity 1.3.1:** Technical support towards understanding the value chain of select commodities and capacity of user groups to scale up processing
- **Activity 1.3.2:** Provide access to finance- and subsidy mechanisms to strengthen enhanced market access and digitization of market connectivity

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OUTCOME 2: Renewable energy solutions for improved agriculture value chain[28] function

The outcome is focused on ensuring sustainability of energy systems for necessary value chain support that helps improve productivity and quality of local indigenous crops and maintain food security. Provision of reliable energy solutions is expected to address the needs of the farmers for increased production, reduced post-harvest loss and better quality of food with high demand in the market. At the same time, energy solutions can also help farmers rely on consumption of local food to meet their dietary requirements through improved supply chain and reduced food waste.

The project will support existing distributed energy systems run by the communities and the cooperatives and interventions are targeted to support them to ensure supply of reliable energy services required for operation of agriculture enterprises. The project will support to build capacities of energy service providers, farmers and end-users including women, for optimum utilization of energy-based solutions by agriculture enterprises. To ensure sustainable supply of reliable energy services and promotion of energy-based technology in agriculture, the Project will support for design of financing instruments through Central Renewable Energy Fund (CREF) of AEPC to ease access to finance needed to meet the cost of regular maintenance of energy systems, purchase of energy-based applications for agriculture and operation of agri-enterprises.

During the inception phase, the project has developed financial instruments and guidelines to enhance access to finance by the farmers, including women. The project will also support for design of agriculture insurance system and replicate models of WFP[29] supported market-based sustainable energy approaches that provides better means of cooking and increases resilience. This in turn is expected to generate further demand for additional energy systems and make multi-functional use of available energy services.

Output 2.1: Energy-based solutions and applications ascertained for selected value chain (Energy solutions)- GEN 2

Reliable renewable energy solutions play an important role in agriculture value chains from farms to markets through influence on inputs, production, processing, distribution, utilization, and marketing of farm products. Access to reliable energy is a key enabler for enhancing agricultural productivity, product diversification and marketing with profound effects on commercialization of agriculture. At the same time, a systematic and coordinated value chain approach with clearly identified steps contributes to sustainability of energy systems.

Poorly developed energy infrastructure in the project area is unable to supply reliable energy services needed for commercial operation of agro-based enterprises, which minimizes the opportunity for food diversification and increased household consumption of local food. The Project will support identifying actual energy needs for smooth and commercial operation of agro-enterprises and design interventions to promote productive end-use of electricity for sustainable agriculture value chain development.

Traditional cooking has consequences on the environment (deforestation), socio-economic development (fuel collection time or purchasing cost), and public health (respiratory diseases). WFP is introducing improved, clean and modern cooking solutions to schools, enhancing the link of WFP's Home –grown school feeding programme to clean, appropriate energy solutions for more planet-friendly school meals. Selected schools in Jumla will be provided access to clean energy solutions. WFP will continue its collaboration with RERL to link the selected schools to the existing micro-hydro systems in the area, enabling improved access

[28] *Improvement of value efficiency*
[29] https://www.wfp.org/energy-for-food-security

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to renewable energy systems, and facilitating the introduction of electric cooking options from the localized grid systems.

The proposed interventions include support to schools for clean or e-cooking options, and line extension. Priority will be given to the extension of distribution lines from rehabilitated MHPs. If the cost of line extension is much higher than the cost of installing a solar PV system, then the latter will be considered as an alternative.

Activities contributing to this output include:

- **Activity 2.1.1:** Identify and map energy needs and demands, technological options and energy-based enterprises to strengthen value chain products
- **Activity 2.1.2:** Promotion of productive end use of electricity to support agro-based productive use, value chain and, school feeding

Output 2.2: Reliable supply of renewable energy services ensured by energy service providers (capacity) - GEN 2

There are several factors related to the reliable supply of energy services in the project area. First, due to poor utilization of energy generated from decentralized micro-hydro systems, most of the systems run under low plant factors and are unable to meet the cost of operation of the system, which demotivates the plant operators to continue supply of energy services in the long run. Second, opportunities for use of energy-based technology by the farmers and agro-based enterprises are limited as most of the energy-based applications are not tailored to the local context. For example, women are heavily engaged in agriculture value chain, largely due to seasonal migration of men, but the technologies available for are not women friendly. Even the women lack capacities for proper use, operation, and maintenance of the technology. Third, many of the hydro-power plants in the project area, funded under DB(ADB)/SASEC programme, are unable to generate sufficient power required for agriculture value chain development on sustainable basis. Most of these plants are either not under full operation yet or are behind schedule of completion or confronted with the issue of climatic disasters and grid interconnectivity. For example, 19 existing micro-hydro plants in the area with a total capacity of 2.98 MW of electricity have immense potential to generate enough energy for the mechanization of agriculture.

The project will support to strengthen capacities of energy cooperatives and management committees of community managed power plants to supply more reliable energy services, through improvement management and regular maintenance, proper tariff regime and load management. The project's capacity development support will be targeted to ensure participation of women in the management and operation of mini-hydro systems, agro-based enterprise operations and school management and get direct benefits from new cooking technology such as electric stoves that will increase consumption of renewable energy and reduce use of fossil fuels. Access to these systems and new technology will thus reduce the drudgery of women and indoor air pollution and enhance their access to entrepreneurship opportunities.

In addition, post-Jajarkot earthquake, more than 4,000 households have completely lost access to electricity and 2,800 households only have partial access to electricity through barely operational MHPs. It has been further witnessed that most of the damage in MHPs were in civil structures such as canals, settling basins, forebays, powerhouses, and machine foundations. Further, electro-mechanical components such as generators, control panels, turbines and ballast tanks were also found to be damaged to varying extents in individual projects. Thus, the Project will select 7 MHPs will be selected using the following criteria i.e. TA cost package, cost of rehabilitation, cost per kW, number of HHs benefitted, equity contributions by community, local governance and management etc. This will directly contribute to Activity 2.2.1.

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In addition, additional resources will also be mobilized under Activity 2.2.2 for the purpose of meeting the energy demand of Kolti Bazar, a rapidly growing market center in the northern Bajura. There is a high demand of electricity in Kolti but the supply is limited to a few micro-hydropower plants and solar systems. On the other hand, Baddigad II, 100 kW and Juddi Khola I & II MHP, 2x100 kW, located in adjoining Jagannath Rural Municipality have surplus power that could be exported to Kolti Bazar. Moreover, Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) is constructing a 33/11kV substation in Martadi and extending 11kV line from Martadi to Pillichaur, Bajura, located on the Karnali Corridor highway.

Thus, surplus power from Juddi Khola I & II MHPs and Baddigad II MHP could be evacuated to Kolti Bazar after synchronizing the 2 generators of Juddi Khola I & II MHPs, which are in the same powerhouse, and then interconnecting the synchronized system and Baddigad II MHP with NEA's 11kV line near Pillichaur. To interconnect Juddi Khola I & II MHPs with the grid, 5 kilometers 11kV line needs to be erected from Swamikartik RM to Pillichaur. (Activity 2.2.2)

Activities contributing to this output include:

- **Activity 2.2.1:** Technical support for strengthening electricity infrastructure
- **Activity 2.2.2:** Strengthen capacities on sustainable operation and management of energy systems and promotion of energy services & systems

Output 2.3: Inclusive Financing Mechanism established for sustainable operation of energy systems and enterprises (access to finance)-GEN 2

Among the key constraints in enhancing use of renewable energy-based technologies at the local level by farmers, farmer groups, cooperatives, and small enterprises, especially affecting women and marginalized groups, is not having access to finance. The project will support the development of financial instruments and insurance mechanism to support uptake of the technology by value chain actors either through establishment of dedicated fund at the local level together targeted for the farmers and community groups or a mechanism through CREF targeted to energy cooperatives. These instruments, together with operational guidelines, will be designed to support results-based financing, encourage market competitiveness, and effective use of energy services and energy-based applications. The funding mechanism and financing instruments will further guide leveraging resources from local and provincial governments to work on energy-agriculture-food security nexus in the long term and meet the cost of maintenance and rehabilitation of small-scale agriculture infrastructure in short-term.

In remote locations, the fund can support the local governments to introduce transportation subsidies and the operation of agriculture ambulances for identified products. The fund mechanism and financing instrument will be tested during the initial years of implementation.

Activities contributing to this output include:

- **Activity 2.3.1:** Identify and promote financing instruments to strengthen capacity and access by local communities
- **Activity 2.3.2:** Technical support to leverage financing for value chain actors on agriculture technology and result-based financing for farmer groups, women groups, and youths to enhance commercialization of indigenous crops

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OUTCOME 3: Enabling environment improved for resilient agri- food systems and environmental governance[30] Gen 2

As per the constitutional mandates, the local governments have the responsibility to develop necessary policies, regulations, and incentive mechanisms to support sustainable agriculture practices through research, innovation, finance and technology to ensure food and nutrition security of the most poor and vulnerable men and women. Under this outcome, the project will support the local governments to create an enabling policy and institutional environment to support resilient agriculture value chain development of indigenous crops using renewable energy-based technology. The interventions under the outcome will support the local governments to build their capacities to devise GESI responsive policies, strategies and tools based on enhanced understanding of linkages between energy systems, agriculture, and food security. The outcome will also support building knowledge of the farmers, cooperatives, local governments, traders, and service providers in the food value chain system related to energy-agriculture and food system nexus and fulfil this knowledge gap.

Under this outcome, the project will work with the agriculture sections of the local governments, the farmer groups and the cooperatives, especially of women and marginalized groups, to ensure coordination among various programmes to avoid duplications and build synergy at implementation. Project will support awareness programmes and knowledge sharing initiatives through farmer field schools, on-site demonstrations and exchange visits organized at national, provincial, and local levels for value chain actors.

Output 3.1: Gender Responsive knowledge products about policy, institution, technology, and finance developed- GEN 3

Policy frameworks of local governments are fragmented and institutional mechanisms to support the technology and financing for energy and food systems are weak. The project will support for consolidating knowledge about existing policy and institutional environment, followed by development of a roadmap for making periodic improvements in policy and institutional regime at the local level. The future policy frameworks must focus on promoting use of renewable energy technology in agricultural value chains with emphasis on women-led enterprises and adaptive technologies. Gender responsive knowledge gap assessment across value-chain actors about technology and finance will inform development of capacity building plan and knowledge products, which will be used as future tools for further replications and promote inter-governmental cooperation among the three tiers of governments and the stakeholders. Activities contributing to this output includes:

- **Activity 3.1.1:** Undertake need assessment to identify barriers, map capacities of actors towards strengthening capacities of value chain actors and food systems
- **Activity 3.1.2:** Technical support for institutional arrangement and strengthening capacities of local governments and value chain actors
- **Activity 3.1.3:** Design and develop knowledge products on promotion and awareness on best practices

Output 3.2: Sustainable and resilient agri-production system strengthened at the local level- GEN 2

Farm research and experiments are essential to develop sustainable and resilient value chains contributing to livelihood enhancement and food security. Farm research based on soil testing and mapping will help

[30] *Institutionalization for the purpose of this project refers to set of provisions: i) policies and plans e.g. Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act, Women specific programme operation guidelines ; ii) institutional mechanisms e.g. Food council/ Food coordination committee; iii) capacity e.g. access to machines and its operations; iv) resources allocated for (financial and human resources) formulated/endorsed by the local government, published in local gazette and operationalized; and v). improved capacity and policies measures to address environmental governance. In terms of environmental governance, institutionalization refers to the EFLG framework adopted by 5 selected local government.*

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understand the impacts of climate change on productivity and accordingly design interventions for effective soil management, integrated pest management, climate resilient agriculture, crop diversification, and identification of appropriate crop varieties. Farmer field schools will be linked to farm research to demonstrate smart climate technologies and build knowledge about resilient value chain development in the pocket areas. Pilot research activities will be implemented in collaboration with the farmers. Activities contributing to this output include:

- ***Activity 3.2.1*** *Undertake on-farm research to enhance food productivity, storage, and hands-on learning of local farmers*

Output 3.3: Value chain actors capacitated on production, processing, post-harvest and market linkages – GEN 2

Capacities of value chain actors, with the priority for women and marginalized groups, will be strengthened to improve skills and knowledge about enhancing crop productivity and quality to compete in the market. The project will support the implementation of a range of activities, including capacity needs assessments for various value chain actors, organizing knowledge exchange platforms and pilots. Climate smart agriculture practices will be promoted through use resilient crop-varieties, conservation agriculture practices, and piloting of protected agriculture[31] systems, all with potential replicability effects to support increased production and reduce women farmers' time poverty and drudgery. Capacity building support will be provided to provincial and local governments to formulate gender responsive, inclusive agriculture policies, guidelines, and procedures to enable efficient use of technology and finance in energy and food systems, all in line with federal policies and programmes.

Local governments will also be supported to develop comprehensive monitoring and evaluation frameworks during this process. Support will be provided to enhance local government capacities to engage in consultations with all stakeholders at the local level, determine capacity and institutional needs, promote nutritional awareness and education, as well as energy security, and support to local budgetary allocation. The local governments will be supported to establish Management Information Systems (MIS) for better data management of energy and food systems to measure results and improve information availability. Activities contributing to this output include:

- **Activity 3.3.1:** Organize shared knowledge and dialogues opportunities for value chain actors and document best practices and IP knowledge
- **Activity 3.3.2:** Technical support to Local Governments for climate resilient agriculture value chain

Output 3.4: Enhanced capacities of local governments on environment friendly local governance- GEN 1

The project will be working closely with Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MOFAGA) on the localization of the Environment Friendly Local Governance (EFLG) which was recently approved by the government. UNDP will coordinate with MoFAGA towards streamlining efforts in strengthening capacities of local governments in the institutionalization of environment friendly local governance. Synergy will also sought to prioritizes actions in municipalities that have already approved Local Adaptation Plans for Action (LAPA) particularly around climate change adaptation, environment conservation, waste management, and biodiversity. Efforts will also be made towards designing key actions for upscaling of institutionalization of environmental governance at local level. A governance advisor/institutional expert will be mobilized in each local government to better coordination and support the local government on institutionalization efforts, policy, and capacity support while a national coordinator will work closely with

[31] Protected agriculture – the cultivation of high-value vegetables and other horticultural crops in greenhouses – allows farmers to grow cash crops on small plots in marginal, water-deficient areas where traditional cropping is not viable.

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MoFAGA, UNDP and sub-national counterparts on technical support and priorities for upscaling environmental governance. Some of the key results of the support includes;

- **Activity 3.4.1:** Strengthened capacity of local governments on environment friendly local governance and accountability;
- **Activity 3.4.2:** Facilitate effective coordination and policy discourse amongst inter-local government and provincial governments particularly with focus on municipal assemblies and provincial assemblies

Resources Required to Achieve the Expected Results

A Project Management Unit lead by the Project Manager (National, full-time) along with a technical team of Agri-business Specialist (full-time), Monitoring & Evaluation (full-time), GESI Expert (full-time) and Admin. and Finance Analyst (full-time) along with a team of support staffs. The Project will be working closely with a team of technical partners with collaborative advantage supported by a Partnership and Liaison Officer (IUNV). In addition, the Project will bring onboard 2 Cluster Coordinators for Bajura and Jumla clusters with varying technical background to coordinate with local government, partner agencies and supporting on technical backstopping of our work by partner agencies. Further, to support our recovery effort in Jajarkot a field coordination unit led by the Early Recovery Coordinator will be stationed in Surkhet along with a team of experts that will be mobilized in Jajarkot. Two vehicles will be procured to be used by field-staff and central-level staff. Additionally, UNDP staff time of UNDP Nepal Country Office will be required to support on quality assurance such as participation in Project Board meetings and Monitoring and Assurance missions to the project area to ensure project results are captured. The Project expects mobilization of resources through collaborative partners on conservation farming, renewable energy strengthening and integration into home-school feeding and scaling-up best practices and knowledge management. The resources will be mobilized under the UN-to-UN Agreement with WFP and under Letter of Agreement with ICIMOD and AEPC/CREF and Responsible Partner Agreement with Li-Bird.

The summary of resources to be mobilized is indicated below and the details are outlined in the activity-wise budget breakdown provided in the multi-year budget. This is subject to change on an annual basis to adjust the activity-wise breakdown during the annual planning process (refer to multi-year budget).

Table: Summary of resources

S.No	Budget Head	Description	TOTAL
1	Service Contract - Indv.	Project HR Costs for PMU and field based team	750,129
2	Consultancy Service - Firm	Consultancy firm for assessments, resilience plans preparation, procurement etc.	1,345,749
3	Consultancy Service – Indv.	Individual Consultant's cost for preparation	19,500
4	Partnership (LoA, UN-UN agreement, RPA)	Cost for community mobilization for WFP, ICIMOD, Li-Bird, AEPC/CREF	4,470,188
5	Trainings /Meetings/ Workshop	Includes cost to enhance capacity of national and sub-national governments	231,179
6	Travel & DSA	Travel cost for events during the project implementation.	154,271
7	Publication	Development, publication and dissemination of IEC materials of the project	35,609

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8	**Equipment & Furniture**	**Procurement of office equipment and goods for project management unit and field offices**	**43,000**
9	**Information Technology Equipment**	**Procurement of laptops, printers, backups**	**32,752**
10	**Communication**	**Communication cost at the field and project office**	**9,326**
11	**Monitoring Visit**	**Transportation cost for field mobility**	**54,352**
12	**Operational Cost – Building Rent /Repair & Maintenance, Supplies Misc etc.**	**Operational cost at the provinces, municipalities and national office**	**175,504**
13	**Vehicle**	**2 WD Field vehicle (2 Units); motorbikes (4)**	**126,270**
14	**Technical Support Cost (All partners)**	**Mobilization of technical experts on the implementation of the project.**	**1,558,779**
15	**General Management Cost**	**GMS 7%**	**696,797**
16	**Delivery Enabling Services to Projects**	**Project service cost incurred for services directed to the project. This cost relates to Technical and Quality Assurance Cost provided by UNDP**	**596,739**
17	**Grants**	**LVG and grants for CSOs and NGOs**	**483,731**
	Grand Total		**10,783,874**

Partnerships

In view of extensive work on food security in the region, the project will aim for a strategic partnership approach utilizing strengths of various organizations in the best possible way to achieve the project outputs. Collaboration and synergy will be prioritized with ongoing project interventions in the region, i.e., Green Resilient Agriculture Productive Ecosystems (GRAPE), Agriculture Sector Development Programme (ASDP), Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization Project (PMAMP), Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC), and other NGO-supported projects. Appropriate coordination mechanisms will be established or strengthened to ensure synergies throughout implementation.

A strategic partnership with ICIMOD will be prioritized. This partnership aims to align ongoing work of ICIMOD under GRAPE, which includes scaling up conservation farming. At the national and provincial level, the program will coordinate with LIBIRD and relevant UN agencies, including the World Food Programme (WFP) to promote farming of indigenous crops and increase consumption of local food in the national midday meals programme through Home-grown School Feeding approach. The school meals and energy components implemented by WFP under the RERAS project are fully funded until June 2025. USD 300,000 have been allocated for the following period. WFP indicated that additional resources would be required to further engage in the midday meal programme and the green schools component throughout the life of the project, thus contributing to the overall sustainability of the project.

It will also engage private sector service providers, suppliers of energy services and managers of agro-based enterprises to ensure sustainable supply of energy services and use of energy-based applications in agriculture value chain. Access to financial services to the farmers, women's groups and cooperatives will be ensured with appropriate funding mechanism established by the local governments and financing tools developed in collaboration with Central Renewable Energy Fund (CREF). The energy-related activities will be centrally coordinated through AEPC following national policy and guidelines for solar water pumping and

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rehabilitation of micro/mini hydro plants. Local traders, service providers, and private sector actors will be incentivized to supply equipment and provide after-sales services.

Partnerships with provincial and local governments aim to maximize project benefits, serving as an enabler to mobilize government resources. The project will coordinate and integrate its activities with the local government agriculture sections and the Agriculture Knowledge Centers (AKC). Project resources will be used to leverage synergies and mobilize resources available at the local governments to contribute to enhancing agricultural productivity and food security. Committees representing local governments, farmer groups, cooperatives, and other relevant stakeholders will be strengthened in coordination with ongoing similar projects. Technical agencies will also be engaged to facilitate technological innovations, conservation farming practices in the Far-western region for field level implementation.

Key partnerships have been further explored during the inception phase of the project implementation to understand the broader role and co-financing opportunities to help scale-up the project intervention. Some of the key identified entities includes;

Institutions / Ministry / Department	Themes	Key Expected Results/ Project Outcome/ Outputs
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development	Agriculture mechanization, Agriculture value chain, Food Security, School Feeding	• Member of the Project Board; • Provide policy support on agriculture value chain and agriculture mechanization; • Technical support and oversight on the implementation of the project activities and synergy across ongoing projects in the project provinces;
Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC)	Soil fertility management	• To promote sustainable soil health management through farmers and planners' intervention in project area • To enhance farmers soil health management options through digital approach
Provincial Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives	Agriculture mechanization, Agriculture value chain, Food Security, School Feeding	• Member of the Project Board; • Technical support on policy framing around strengthening agriculture value chain and synergy on climate resilient agriculture in Karnali and Sudurpachim Province • Support in monitoring and scale-up of climate resilient agriculture practices • Engaged in technical monitoring of the activities and synergy across ongoing projects
Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization Project (PM-AMP)	Agriculture mechanization, Agri. Value Chain,	• Support the farmers of climate vulnerable communities in Project Municipalities in Jumla, Bajura and Rara to promote commercial farming in the changed climate context introducing various

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		Agriculture Scheme- Block, Pocket, Zone and Super zone as per the agro-climatic conditions. • Synergy in supporting technology and production inputs, mechanization of agriculture production, agri-production and marketing
Local Government / Municipalities		• Support in coordination on strengthening agri-value chain • Support on preparation of Municipal Energy Plan • Co-financing on project interventions related to agriculture mechanization, entrepreneurship of targeted beneficiaries and financing mechanism • Scale-up on climate resilient planning and financing • Support on policy and strategies on school feeding programme and local market establishment
Alternative Energy Promotion Center	Renewable Energy, Energy solutions / Center for Renewable Energy Fund	• To be engaged as Co-Chair of the Project Board at the national level and provide technical support on the promotion of productive end use of energy • Support preparation of Municipal Energy Plans for Local Governments • Provide subsidy and leverage financing to local user groups/cooperatives
United Nations Development Programme	Technical support, Coordination	• Co-Chair the Project Board and the implementing entity for the project; • Technical oversight and quality of delivery; • Coordinate with multiple partners including UN agency and for programmatic synergy; • Provide technical support in implementation of the Project;
ICIMOD	Technical support/ Knowledge Manager/ Action Research	• Member of the Project Board • Provide technical support for technical components on energy solutions, climate resilient agriculture and agriculture-value chain • Piloting key actions for knowledge sharing and dissemination through its Learning Centers

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World Food Programme	Technical partner / Home-grown School Feeding national midday meals programme / Green schools	• Support promotion and enhanced consumption of nutritious indigenous crops at local schools under the national midday meals programme • Technical support linking local smallholder farmers to supply of locally produced commodities for the national midday meals programme • Support to local government on midday meal governance (policy, plan, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and reporting) • Construction of smoke free kitchens for preparation of midday meal, promoting the use of sustainable building materials for construction. • Enhance access to clean, modern energy in schools in project sites to support the national midday meals programme.
Private Sector / NGO	Financing mechanism / agro-business development	• Support in leveraging financing for farmer groups on energy and agriculture processing and handling systems • Support in establishment of service centers for agriculture processing systems • Identify and grow local enterprises and agro-businesses
Li-Bird	Technical partner for the implementation of Resilient agriculture	• Provide technical support in implementation of the technical component on agriculture value chain • Enhance capacity of the local farmer groups to adopt technology and financing options to scale-up agriculture • RPA agreement based on RFI call and comparative advantage; Micro assessment and PCAT completed
CSO/NGO	Resilient agriculture practices	• Provide local support in upscaling of resilient agriculture practices • Capacity development of local stakeholders and beneficiaries
Projects		
RERL	Technical support for Renewable Energy	• Provide technical support to AEPC on the delivery of the energy component; • Mobilize technical staffs on the ground to ensure quality of the deliverables of the energy components

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Risks and Assumptions

Political Risks: Since the adoption of the new Constitution in 2015, Nepal is going through a process of devolution of funds, functions, and functionaries from federal government to provincial and local governments in a new federal governance system. Despite the three tiers of governments have mandates to work on energy, agriculture, and food security, but unclarities remain related to specific roles and responsibilities. In several instances, parallel programmes and projects are implemented by different government entities, with limited coordination, collaboration, or joint monitoring. These continued uncertainties and unclarities constitute a political risk for the project, as future changes could impact planned delivery mechanisms and modalities. To mitigate this risk, UNDP will actively engage with government entities working in the selected areas at federal, provincial and local levels to ensure solid understanding and ownership of the project. Through its policy and capacity development support, the project will also aim to foster more effective coordination and a more collaborative approach among the relevant government entities across the three tiers, thus contributing to more effective federalized governance and strengthened institutional mechanisms in the energy, agriculture, and food security sector.

The project will, to a large extent, rely on agricultural cooperatives and farmers' groups for its implementation. This modality carries a risk of political capture at the community level. To mitigate this risk, UNDP and its implementing partners will engage closely with a wide range of stakeholders, including multiple community/farmers groups to ensure wide representation and engagement of stakeholders throughout project implementation.

The sustainability of the several key project components, such as enhancing use of indigenous nutritious foods in school feeding, necessitates political ownership and buy-in. To enhance likelihood of continuation beyond the project period, UNDP and other project stakeholders will engage closely with local governments to advocate for longer-term inclusion of such initiatives in local plans and budgets. Good practices and early results will also be utilized for political advocacy at the federal and provincial level.

Grid Connection: The Nation Electricity Authority (NEA) of Nepal has intensified the work of installation of transmission lines in Jumla region including the most recent expansion of 11-KV national transmission lines. With such expansion, there is a risk for the non-use and application of the rehabilitated micro/mini hydro systems in the project site. But, despite these positive steps, getting a reliable and cost-effective service might take time. More so, the Project will capture the opportunity for Mini/Micro Hydro if the national grid arrives in the vicinity area. Most of MHPs in Nepal has average utilization factor of 25%. Even with the agriculture intervention through MHP energy, the expected utilization factor may increase upto 80%. Thus, there would be an opportunity for MHP to sell the remaining power to national grid to make it 100% utilization. This will ensure increased revenue generation from MHP which will contribute to sustainability of MHP. The interconnection will also enhance the reliability and quality of electricity service in Karnali. The local power injection in the load center also reduces the transmission and distribution losses of the grid. Therefore, there are multi-dimensional benefits if there would be grid expansion in the MHP catchment area. So far, with the UNDP/RERL support, 7 MHPs of capacity 23kW to 500kW has been interconnected with the national grid.

If there would be any technical difficulties for grid interconnection (e.g. the grid voltage is out of acceptable range for grid interconnection, long transmission line from substation to MHP etc.), UNDP/RERL support MHP to find the dedicated anchor load (cold storage, distillation plant, heating system in commercial buildings such as hospital etc.) to utilize the bulk power of MHP.

As mitigative effort, UNDP in partnership with AEPC, through its ongoing RERL Project is technically and financially supporting developers for grid interconnection of off-grid power plants including in Jumla. Giri Khola MHP (200kW), Chukeni MHP (998kW), Thinke MHP (100kW) and Dillichaur MHP (30kW) in Jumla are

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expected to be interconnected in the national grid. Giri and Chukeni MHP have already signed the Net Metering Agreement with NEA. At the strategic policy level, AEPC and NEA have prepared an Interconnection Master Plan for Mini Grids to facilitate in the policy direction for grid interconnection which is still in the approval phase. Moreover, AEPC also allocates dedicated funds every year to provide financial support for grid interconnection of MHP which has been constructed through AEPC subsidy.

Operational Risks: The project will engage in several related areas of work, as well as with multiple partners, including regional institutions, non-governmental organizations, three tiers of government, cooperatives, and farmer's groups, among others. The diverse spread of project focus areas and partners could constitute an operational risk if not managed through an integrated and well-coordinated approach. To mitigate this risk, UNDP will engage with all key stakeholders during the project design and inception phase, ensuring a thorough understanding of overall project objectives, as well as clarity on roles and responsibilities of respective partners. This will be clarified through signing of agreements with project partners, by clearly identifying their respective scope of work, and finalizing the project workplans with articulation of project activities to be implemented by respective partners. During the inception, the project has also developed a Business Continuity Plan to prepare for any unforeseen scenarios during project implementation.

Market prices of agricultural produce are subject to change, based on external factors beyond the control of the project. Price volatility could lead to underpricing of produce and subsequent losses for farmers supported by the project, many of whom will be women small-scale or subsistence farmers. To mitigate this risk, the project will regularly analyze market intelligence and engage in dialogue with key stakeholders, including traders and suppliers. The project will also put in place measures to enhance competitiveness of local produce, and support development of local agriculture value chains and markets, to reduce dependency on external stakeholders and factors.

The geographical areas selected for implementation are prone to high out-migration, resulting in risks to sustainability of project interventions. While the project itself is unlikely to reverse migration trends in the region, concerted efforts will be made by UNDP and its partners to select project beneficiaries who demonstrate a long-term interest in remaining of the area. The project will also promote entrepreneurship development, job creation, value chain linkages, and sustainable farming practices, as well as related awareness raising, all contributing to availability of more sustainable and resilient local livelihoods.

Climate and Environmental Risks: The renewable energy plants with components of infrastructure development are vulnerable to disasters and shocks, including climate change induced. The same applies to the infrastructure built for agriculture value chain development and food security. Further, the geographic remoteness of the proposed project locations poses challenges and risks related to timely maintenance, repair, and other post-installation services, due to the project's reliance on road access for delivery of activities which can be limited and even cut-off during parts of the year due to seasonal changes, i.e. landslides blocking road access preventing delivery of goods and services. The installed/rehabilitated infrastructure will require regular operational and management support to ensure reliability. To mitigate these risks, the project will support regular on-site risk assessments of the plants and discuss the findings with the stakeholders for timely repair and maintenance. The project will provide technical support for disaster-resilient infrastructure design and rehabilitation work. As a key component, the project will also support the introduction of climate-resilient agricultural practices, including relevant technologies, and improved seed varieties. UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards will be adopted throughout project implementation.

Construction and/or rehabilitation of renewable energy and agriculture infrastructure components also carries risks of impacting the local environment. To mitigate this risk, UNDP will adopt its Social and Environmental Standards in all stages of project planning and implementation. Close engagement with a

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wide range of local stakeholders will also contribute to ensuring minimal environmental impacts of project activities.

Financial and Anti-Corruption Risk: Following UNDP's standard procedures, the project will provide financial support to the cooperatives and community groups through proposed funding mechanism to be set up at local government level, as well as financing tool to be deployed through CREF to support renewable energy infrastructure development. Accountability and sustainability of these funds needs to be ensured to achieve project results and reduce financial risks. The project will support developing regulations and operational manuals for disbursement of funds to mitigate fiduciary risks, in close collaboration with all concerned stakeholders. UNDP will disburse funds to the project partner organizations following formal agreement with them under conditions defined by micro-assessment done for each partner. UNDP will also put in place stringent audit and monitoring mechanisms to ensure appropriate use of funds.

Foreign Exchange Fluctuation: In the current global scenario, the foreign exchange gain and loss will remain a key challenge in the fluctuation of a project's investment costs. To minimize the loss risk, the Project has allocated resources under the Misc. budget to address the fees of bank charges and forex gain/loss. However, any significant increase or decrease in forex which can have significant impact on the investment costs will be discussed between UNDP and Royal Norwegian Embassy for appropriate action i.e. cost cutting measures, additional financing or re-programming.

Risks related to gender equality and women's rights, and human rights: Given the nature and focus of the project, to enhance agricultural production and food security in remote areas, the project interventions will to a large extent engage subsistence and small-scale farmers, many of whom are women and from marginalized groups. If project interventions are not designed in close collaboration with the intended direct beneficiaries, there are risks related to low levels of engagement, and support measures not being culturally or geographically appropriate. To mitigate these risks, the project will ensure engagement of women and marginalized groups across all stages of implementation to address their needs and interest. During the inception phase, the project has organized regular stakeholder engagement dialogues to inform the design of specific project activities. Measures will be put in place to support the active and meaningful participation of women and marginalized groups throughout this process. Additional Risk have been detailed in Annex document.

Stakeholder Engagement

The project will engage a range of stakeholders during implementation. Roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders will be clearly defined under the stakeholder engagement plan, with details elaborated in annual work plans and related agreements. Stakeholders will be engaged, considering their stake as relevant to the project objective, outcomes and outputs, in contributing to food and nutrition security, for a range of activities supported by the project from facilitation and awareness-raising, advocacy, knowledge about indigenous crop and farming practices, farm research and demonstration, adoption of new technology and access to finance. Recipient communities and local governments, the private sector and cooperatives will be fully engaged in project implementation from the inception phase to ensure ownership and promote sustainability.

During the project's inception phase, a comprehensive stakeholder mapping and engagement plan was developed, outlining stakeholder engagement at different stages of the project. The project will support farmers, farmer groups, traders, cooperatives, and energy management committees. This support will focus on enhancing awareness, capacities, skills, and technologies to ensure a reliable energy supply, enhance agriculture value chains, and improve food production and consumption at the local level. The project will prioritize consultations with local governments when selecting target areas for the interventions. These

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areas will be selected based on the specific needs identified by the stakeholders and their potential to contribute to the project's aim of enhancing food and nutrition security.

The provincial and local governments will benefit from the project through institutionalizing project modalities. This will involve reviewing and formulating policies and strategies in the intervention areas. Additionally, funds established within the local governments will help leverage resources from other development partners and programmes. This will establish a sustainable support modality for technology transfer and adoption, supported by regulated financing mechanisms.

A Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) will be set up by the project with preparation of standard operation procedure (SOP). UNDP, with its Stakeholder Response Mechanism (SRM) and Social and Environmental Standards (SES), will enhance the grievances redressal mechanism. The SRM facilitates the resolution of concerns and disputes for project-affected stakeholders, governments, and other partners.[32]

The RERAS (Renewable Energy and Rural Agriculture Sustainability) project will involve a wide range of stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive approach. The key stakeholders identified for the project are:

Table: Stakeholders and engagement priorities

Agency / Institutions	Engagement Priorities
Local Government Authorities	**Urban Municipalities and Rural Municipalities:** Local government bodies in project areas will play a crucial role in policy, planning, implementation, regulatory support, and integration of project activities with local development plans. Their involvement will ensure alignment with local priorities and sustainability of project outcomes.
Community Members and Beneficiaries	• **Farmers and Producer Groups:** Farmers, both individuals and cooperatives, are the primary beneficiaries and implementers of project interventions. Their participation will be central to the successful adoption of renewable energy technologies and sustainable agriculture practices. • **Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups:** Including women, Dalits, indigenous groups, people with disabilities, and landless laborers. Their inclusion will ensure that project benefits reach those who are most in need and contribute to reducing inequalities. • **Youth:** Engaging local youth in training, capacity building, and enterprise development activities will promote employment opportunities and sustainability.
Local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)	• **Local and National NGOs:** Partner NGOs will assist in community mobilization, capacity building, and awareness-raising on renewable energy and sustainable agricultural practices. They will also support monitoring and evaluation of the project's social impacts. • **Community-Based Organizations (CBOs):** CBOs, including cooperatives and will be involved in facilitating training

[32] https://www.undp.org/accountability/audit/secu-srm/stakeholder-response-mechanism

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	programs and ensuring the adoption of new technologies and practices at the grassroots level
Government Ministries and Departments	• **Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development:** Providing technical expertise, policy guidance, and support for sustainable agricultural practices. • **Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC):** Supporting renewable energy integration by providing technical assistance, financial incentives, and policy support. • **Ministry of Energy, Water Resources, and Irrigation:** Involved in promoting renewable energy technologies and infrastructure in rural areas.
Private Sector	• **Renewable Energy Companies:** Suppliers of renewable energy technologies such as solar pumps, biogas units, and other innovative solutions that can be used for irrigation and post-harvest processing. • **Agri-business Enterprises:** Companies providing agricultural inputs, technology, and market linkages to support the value chain in agricultural production. • **Microfinance Institutions and Cooperatives:** Providing financial services and access to credit to enable farmers and entrepreneurs to adopt renewable energy technologies and expand their agricultural activities.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation

With its strong emphasis on supporting climate-resilient agriculture development, integration of renewable energy in value chains, and aim of enhancing food security, the project offers multiple opportunities for learning and sharing across similar contexts. Through its close partnership with ICIMOD, UNDP will promote south-south cooperation through learning and sharing with similar projects and interventions implemented in remote mountainous areas across the Hindu-Kush Himalayas. During the initial phase of the project implementation, UNDP will explore opportunities to further formalize south-south cooperation with ICIMOD and other partners.

Digital Solutions

The project will utilize digital solutions across output areas and activities. Information dissemination and awareness raising will be conducted with the help of digital means when feasible, including by using ICT tools, and digital hoarding boards. Market intelligence, including pricing, trends, outlets, and sale points, will be provided through the use of digital solutions, to enhance awareness and accessibility for farmers and traders. The project will use digital learning platforms to provide training and knowledge-sharing opportunities for farmers and other stakeholders on appropriate technologies and sustainable agricultural practices. Digital solutions will be developed in close collaboration with project stakeholders, especially considering the geographic remoteness and limited internet connectivity in some project locations. Initiatives will be piloted before fully developed, to ensure accessibility and user-friendliness.

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The project will support the development and maintenance of a comprehensive energy-food security MIS system for local governments. Relevant online payment and web-based information systems and applications will be developed or improved during the project intervention. The project activities on digital solutions are aligned with UNDP Digital Strategy 2022-2025.[33]

Knowledge

The project will develop the following knowledge products within the project timeframe:

- **Agri Database/MIS system:** The project will collaborate with the local governments to develop/improve a MIS/Database system for energy, food security, and sustainable agriculture practices. The database will be maintained at the municipality and will contain information about geography, crop types, cropping pattern, weather information, production data, technology usage, energy status, and other relevant information.
- **Soil Maps:** The project will support the development of digital soil maps in collaboration with NARC and other relevant stakeholders. The soil maps will serve as a resource to identify and analyze soil properties to determine which commercially viable and nutritionally rich crops are most suitable for the specific locations.
- **Training Manuals:** Various Training Manuals will be developed, or further improved, including Home Gardens, Climate Smart Agriculture, Crop Based Manuals, Food Diversification and Nutrition.
- **Apps for linking production and marketing:** The project will explore possibilities of developing apps for market intelligence and production to increase access to information on inputs, technologies related to production and post-production, disease pest management, and market etc. mainly for women and youth led farming, enterprises, and businesses.
- **Publications & Media Products:** Information flyers, storytelling, brochures, pictorial materials, mass media pamphlets, and display boards would be developed to sensitize and distribute information to farmers and traders. In addition, media products like radio jingles and programs will be promoted. The radio programs will feature expert interaction conducted both in Nepali and local languages, providing valuable information and opportunities for engagement.
- **Success stories:** Timely updates and periodic reports will be developed and disseminated for reporting and information sharing with all project stakeholders. The project will publish case studies and success stories based on best practices, including on the impact of technology for promotion of sustainable energy-based agricultural practices.
- **Visibility:** The project will develop a communication and visibility plan to demonstrate and highlight project activities and results. The visibility plan will include the use of official social media, following guidelines to acknowledge project partners and donors providing support for the interventions.

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion:

The development context shows that youth-male out-migration is widespread in the proposed project sites. Additionally, due to socio-cultural reasons, women have reduced mobility and exposure to different livelihoods options. Many women are therefore bound to engage in domestic work and/or subsistence or small-scale farming. While this project focuses on empowering women through access to sustainable farming technologies, credit, and decision-making platforms, addressing systemic challenges like land ownership requires complementary efforts. The project will work in coordination with local governments and other

[33] https://digitalstrategy.undp.org/documents/Digital-Strategy-2022-2025-Full-Document_ENG_Interactive.pdf

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initiatives to ensure that the broader structural barriers to women's empowerment, such as land ownership, are effectively addressed. The baseline studies conducted on general agriculture, food security, and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) reveal the following scenarios:

- Population with disability: The disability prevalence is 2.9%, with 2.7% among females and 3.2% among males.
- Food sufficiency status: Only 11.7% of households have year-round self-sufficiency, while 16.9% have less than three months of sufficiency from their own production.
- Land ownership: 80% of the land is legally held by male members, 9.2% by female members, and 10.3% under joint ownership.
- Land size: On average, a family holds 0.36 hectares of land, with 0.31 hectares cultivable. Of the cultivable land, only 0.05 hectares have year-round irrigation, while the rest relies on seasonal and rainfed conditions.
- Access to renewable energy technology: Few options are available, and there is a dire need for improved access.
- Access to funding: There is minimal access to formal credit systems.
- Participation and voice: Community members participate in groups, cooperatives, Farmer's Field Schools (FFS), and other sector-specific training, indicating varied levels of agency and voice in decision-making.
- Promotion of indigenous crops: There is significant potential for promoting *raithane* (indigenous) crops that are nutrient-dense, climate-resilient, and locally adaptive, which could support both production and post-production efforts.

GESI Policies in Project working areas at Local Level:

The policies and programs related to Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in the reviewed municipalities during the baseline[34] shows limited integration into agriculture initiatives, often appearing neutral or lacking targeted interventions for marginalized groups:

1. Chandannath, Jumla: Focus on youth, lacks specific GESI initiatives and gender focus in agriculture policies.
2. Tatopani, Jumla: General focus on social empowerment programs, including "Investing in Daughter Lifetime" initiative; agriculture policies do not consider gender.
3. Patarasi, Jumla: Budget allocated for agriculture, livestock, women, children, and GESI programs; no detailed breakdown of allocations.
4. Sunkoshi, Sindhuli: Policies aim to support women's enterprises through subsidized loans and provide vocational training to disabled groups. Agriculture programs lack GESI-specific budget allocations.
5. Budhinanda, Bajura: Agriculture policies are gender-neutral; focuses on climate change adaptation and skill development for disadvantaged groups like "haliya."

[34] The baseline was conducted in the original 11 municipalities before additional funding expanded the project to its total 20 municipalities.

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6. Triveni Municipality: Agriculture policies lack explicit focus on disadvantaged groups; support for Dalit community through capacity building and goat-raising programs.
7. Himali Municipality: Gender-responsive policies; focus on supporting marginalized groups like single women, Dalits, and conflict-affected populations in agriculture and capacity-building programs.
8. Swamy Karthik Rural Municipality: Budget allocated for agriculture, social development, and promoting women's enterprises through subsidies; focus on traditional skills for Dalit and indigenous communities.
9. Jangannath Rural Municipality: Support for enterprise development, food security, skill development, and grants for women and youth to set up enterprises.
10. Khaptad Chedhaha Rural Municipality: Social policies focus on empowerment through skills and income generation activities for marginalized groups.
11. Budhiganga Municipality: Support for youth and marginalized populations to set up agriculture enterprises and facilitate digital transactions.

At the local level, the GESI focus on agriculture programs is limited or neutral, with gaps in addressing specific needs of marginalized groups. Capacity development for local officials is needed to integrate gender awareness into planning, budgeting, and implementing agriculture programs, ensuring effective gender-responsive initiatives across sectors.

Throughout, the project will conduct thorough gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) analysis and integrate findings across all relevant interventions. Further, the project will design and implement specific activities directly aimed at supporting women and persons from marginalized groups, related to sustainable agricultural practices, farming technologies, and food security. The project will also ensure close engagement with local communities and a wide range of beneficiaries to inform design and implementation of activities, thus further contributing to a GESI-responsive and locally adapted and relevant approach. The project will regularly track the progress on project support to women and marginalized groups and report to the project stakeholders, which will be reflected in Project MIS. Some of the activities include:

- Support for the formulation of gender-responsive policy frameworks at the local level
- Engage women and marginalized groups in decision-making platforms to enhance awareness, participation, voice, and agency, including as representatives of user groups, cooperatives, enterprises, and businesses;
- Conduct assessments on and promote gender-responsive farming technology adaptation.
  Facilitate services for women's and marginalized groups' access to appropriate tools, technologies, equipment and machines through cooperatives and groups..
- Facilitate services for women's access to credit/finance;

Sustainability and Scaling Up

Indications of sustainability

The primary collaborator for this project will be the local governments and all interventions will therefore be in alignment with their needs, demands, and priorities. Engagement with multiple stakeholders will be emphasized to enhance collaboration, coordination, and synergies. Multi-stakeholder partnerships will also support to synthesize generated knowledge from the interventions with the aim to institutionalize lessons learned in the local government systems. Some of the indications of sustainability are:

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- Local governments increasingly own and prioritize investments in micro-hydro, solar, and other renewable energy sources;
- Local governments increasingly prioritize indigenous crops due to their climate resilient nature, nutrition and market value;
- Synergies enhanced between different development projects working in the areas of renewable energy, agriculture, and food security;
- Emerging interest from the private sector in commercialization of value chains, technological innovations, supply of tools, equipment and machines;
- Inclusive economic growth promoted through increasing engagement and mobilization of women, youth, marginalized groups, and the private sector in renewable energy promotion and sustainable agricultural practices;
- Prototypes for appropriate seeds, tools, equipment and machines developed, piloted, and increasingly adopted by local communities; and
- Circular demand of energy services leads to continuity of interventions.

Sustainability Principles

The project will incorporate several dimensions of sustainability principles to ensure it is aligned for long-lasting impact and takes a complementary approach to other existing initiatives and programs. The details on some of the sustainable principles are as follows:

- **Institutional Sustainability:** The project will work to strengthen the capacity of local governments, communities, private sector, financial institutions, and other relevant actors. At the government level, the focus will be on capacity development of local governments to adopt appropriate policies and strategies. The project will seek to sufficiently strengthen institutional capacities such that even after the project exits, there is lasting sustainable impact.
- **Technical Sustainability:** Appropriate local tools, technologies and technical knowledge will be transferred to the project beneficiaries and local groups, cooperative and committees. Special focus will be placed on introducing energy-based solutions and other technological solutions which can be operated and maintained with local capacity beyond the project period.
- **Social Sustainability:** Significant efforts will be made to include women and marginalized communities in the project. Opportunities and solutions will be created to reduce drudgery of women through technical support, financial assistance, and inclusion of the marginalized and vulnerable farmers.
- **Financial Sustainability:** Funds from the local government and other stakeholders' contribution will be utilized while designing and implementing the project activities. The funding mechanism and financing tools established and developed together with operational guidelines through project support, will help leverage resources for key intervention areas beyond project interventions.
- **Environmental sustainability:** The project aims to promote the use of renewable energy sources in the production and post-harvesting processing of agriculture products with the use of efficient renewable energy-based technologies, thereby reducing dependency upon fossil fuels and traditional biomass. Measures to be taken to promote smart climate agriculture, mitigating disaster

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impacts on energy and enterprise infrastructure, and soil testing and soil mapping for promotion of appropriate crop varieties, will safeguard the environment.

The project will conduct a mid-term and a final evaluation to track project results and achievements, as well as provide recommendations for course correction or future actions. The project's learning will be widely shared among key stakeholders, including local governments, to inform future initiatives and promote sustainability.

IV. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Cost Efficiency and Effectiveness

Cost efficiency and effectiveness in the project management will be achieved through adherence to the UNDP Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP), which will be reviewed annually through the governance mechanism set out for review of UNDP's CPD with the government, and semi-annually by the Project Board, a governance structure set out specific for this Project. In addition, cost efficiency and effectiveness will be achieved through linking management of this project with overall portfolio management by UNDP. Applying this approach, the project will look to ensure synergies with other programmes and projects being implemented in Nepal, including UNDP projects related to renewable energy, climate change and resilience building, as well as agricultural value chain development. Efforts will also be made to streamline activities, reduce duplication, and leverage partnerships with other development partners and government entities, including local governments, to maximize synergies and impact. Information, materials, and lessons learned from projects and programmes will be shared and utilised for engagement with stakeholders involved in this project.

The project is designed to deliver maximum results with the available resources through ensuring the design is based on good practices and lessons learned, that activities are specific and clearly linked to the expected outputs, and that there is a sound results management and monitoring framework in place with indicators linked to the Theory of Change. The project aims to balance cost efficient implementation and best value for money with quality delivery and effectiveness of activities. For its capacity building activities, the project will utilise outside experts as well as in-house experts from within UNDP and UN sister organisations, and in-kind contributions from stakeholders.

Implementation Timeline

UNDP has initiated the project in two phases; first phase i.e. the inception phase, was effective from the day of signing of the financial agreement between the Royal Norwegian Embassy and UNDP initially until the end of June 2024 and was later extended to December 2024. This phase was implemented through an Initiation Plan designed to kickstart the project. It prioritized the completion of all due diligence work, including capacity assessments of local implementation partners, required to start the full-fledged implementation stage of the project in line with UNDP's internal approval process. Baseline assessments on food security, value chains, cropping practices, and energy systems were completed during the inception phase. Additionally, partnerships were identified and formalized through partnership agreements, with a focus on establishing a fully functional field implementation arrangement. Inception workshops were conducted with all three tiers of the government to ensure effective partnership and government ownership.

The second phase is expected to begin in January 2025, with the plan on executing the full-scale implementation of the activities over the next two and half years.

Project Management

The project is directly implemented following UNDP's Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) defined under POPP and in close collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD), Alternate

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Energy Promotion Center (AEPC) and the local governments of project areas. UNDP has set up a dedicated project team led by a Project Manager for day-to-day management of the project under overall guidance of the Portfolio Manager for the Resilience and Environment Portfolio. UNDP will be responsible for project finance management and reporting to donors as per UNDP policy, assuring quality of project results, managing project risks and ensuring achievements of project outcomes.

Project components will be implemented by several international and national agencies working in Nepal such as ICIMOD, WFP and Li-BIRD, following separate partnership agreements signed with them for project implementation. UNDP will pull-in expertise and resources of UNDP-supported Renewable Energy for Rural Livelihood (RERL) programme to implement renewable energy component (Outcome 2) of the project. Under the provisions of the partnership agreements, each partner will implement the project activities following its own specific operational modality in a coordinated manner to achieve the project objectives, outcomes, and targets. Partner agencies are also expected to support in leveraging additional resources for the project and complement to ensure sustainability of project results beyond the project period by using their influence, advocacy, and networks. The project partners will directly report to UNDP about their work based on the conditions of partnership agreements signed with them, which will include progress on financial delivery and physical achievements.

As part of the project implementation strategy, a portion of the project budget, amounting to USD 225,000, will be allocated through three Low Value Grants (LVGs). These grants will be used to support the upscaling of climate resilient agriculture practices, such as enhancing cattle shed management, supporting better farmyard manure, and improving soil fertility. These interventions will contribute to the outcome of one in specific geographical areas of the project. Eligible entities to receive LVGs will include local NGOs, community-based organizations, cooperatives, or other grassroots entities. The grant selection process will follow UNDP's established guidelines, as stipulated in the UNDP POPP, with a public call for proposals organized by the UNDP Country Office.

The project team has finalized the multi-year work plan of the project during the inception phase and implementation will follow the annual work plan and budget approved by Project Board every year. UNDP will ensure implementation of project GESI plan and project monitoring plan agreed by the Board and report to the Board on the progress. UNDP will mobilize its field offices based in Surkhet and Dhangadhi to support field level coordination, building partnership with provincial and local governments, managing project risks and monitoring project results. Project finance will be audited every year by professional auditor external to UNDP and final audit report will be shared with the donor as per UNDP policy.

For the smooth implementation of the project, two 4-wd vehicles and 5 motorbikes will be procured and used by the PMU and field offices.

Project Management Unit:

A Project Management Unit has been set up in Kathmandu as a coordination hub for the Project. The PMU is led by the Project Manager along with key technical personnel listed below to coordinate the activities of partner agencies, technical backstopping, managing contracts, planning of multi-year work plan and donor reporting.

The team will comprise:

- Project Manager – 1
- Private Sector Value Chain Analyst – 1
- Food and Nutrition Security Analyst- 1

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- Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Analyst(M&E) - 1
- GESI Analyst – 1
- Administration and Finance Analyst -1
- Admin and Finance Officer – 1
- Liaison and Coordination Officer – 1
- Communication Associate – 1
- Project Support Assistant- 1
- Driver –2

The PMU has been setup within the premises of MoALD for effective coordination and cost-efficiency. Partnerships with local organization has been initiated to facilitate delivery in 20 municipalities. Additional technical experts, personnel and specialists based on needs and requirements at the Provincial and Local Level will be identified and brought on board if needed. A coordination and reporting mechanism have been setup by the PMU to facilitate effective coordination amongst partners.

On a day-to-day basis, the Project Manager based at UNDP has the authority to run the project on behalf of UNDP with the strategic guidance by the Project Board and in accordance with the UNDP Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP). This includes authority to approve deviations to detailed annual work plans, under the multi-year work plan, of up to 10 percent of the agreed budget at output level.

Field Level Implementation

Based on topographic conditions, road access, infrastructure development, scale of interventions and ease in providing implementation support, project municipalities are divided into three clusters. To ensure the effective implementation of project activities in the field, three cluster field offices have already been established: two in Bajura (Phalasaina and Pillechour) and one in Jumla Bazaar, Jumla. Additionally, a satellite office has been set up in Surkhet to oversee the early recovery and environmental governance component of the project. The piloting work in one municipality of Sindhuli district is directly managed by the PMU team based in Kathmandu. In addition, LI-BIRD and CREF/AEPC are engaged as Responsible Parties to provide technical support and implementation of the agriculture and energy component respectively.

For managing the implementation of field-level activities, team members from UNDP/RERAS project will be based in the cluster and satellite offices as follows:

- Cluster Coordination Analyst / Value Chain – 1 (Jumla)
- Cluster Coordination Analyst / Livelihood – 1 (Bajura)
- Cluster Coordination Associates – 2
- Project Coordinator/ Environmental governance – 1 (Surkhet)
- Project Coordinator/ Early Recovery – 1 (Surkhet)
- Finance Associates – 1 (Surkhet)
- Environmental Governance Officers UNV – 3 (Jumla, Jajarkot, Sarlahi)
- Agriculture Technician UNV – 2 (Rukum, Jajarkot)

Project Assurance:

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UNDP performs the quality assurance and supports the Project Board and Project Management Unit by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. This role ensures appropriate project management milestones are managed and completed. The Project Board cannot delegate any of its quality assurance responsibilities to the Project Manager. UNDP provides a three – tier oversight services involving the UNDP Country Offices and UNDP at regional and headquarters levels. Project assurance is totally independent of the Project Management function.

Geographic coverage

The project will be implemented in 20 local governments spread across Sudurpashchim, Karnali, Bagmati and Madhesh Provinces. These regions have the highest food insecurity, low nutrition status, and limited supply of reliable and sustainable energy services, either through grid or off-grid sources, to support mechanization and commercialization of agriculture. In addition to the above, one municipality in Sindhuli District will be selected as a pilot site to demonstrate implementation of integrated energy-agriculture-food security interventions for sustainable agriculture value chain development.

Table 1: Project Working Areas

Province (4)	District (8)	Local Government (20)	Remarks*
Sudurpashchim	Bajura	Triveni Municipality	Core activities
		Budhigangha Municipality	Core activities
		Budhinanda Municipality	Core activities
		Himali Rural Municipality	Core activities
		Swamikarthik Rural Municipality	Core activities
		Jagannath Rural Municipality	Core activities
		Kaptad Chhededaha Rural Municipality	WFP working area
Karnali	Jumla	Tatopani Rural Municipality	Core activities
		Chandhannath Municipality	Core activities / Environmental Governance
		Patarasi Rural Municipality	Core activities
		Tila Gupha Rural Municipality	Environmental Governance
	Mugu	Khatyad Rural Municipality	Core activities
	Jajarkot	Bharekot Rural Municipality	Environmental Governance / Early Recovery / upscaling of CRA
		Nalgad Municipality	Early Recovery / upscaling of CRA
	Rukkum-West	Sani Bheri Rural Municipality	Early Recovery / upscaling of CRA
		Aathbiskot Municipality	Early Recovery / upscaling of CRA
		Musikot Rural Municipality	Early Recovery / upscaling of CRA
Bagmati	Sindhuli	Sunkhosi Rural Municipality	Core activities
	Kathmandu	Shankarapur Rural Municipality	Environmental Governance
Madhesh	Sarlahi	Hariwan Rural Municipality	Environmental Governance

*UNDP received additional funding during the inception phase and expanded its project area from 12 to 20 Local Governments. The additional funding supports early recovery efforts, implementation of environmental governance and upscaling of climate resilient agriculture in selected municipalities.

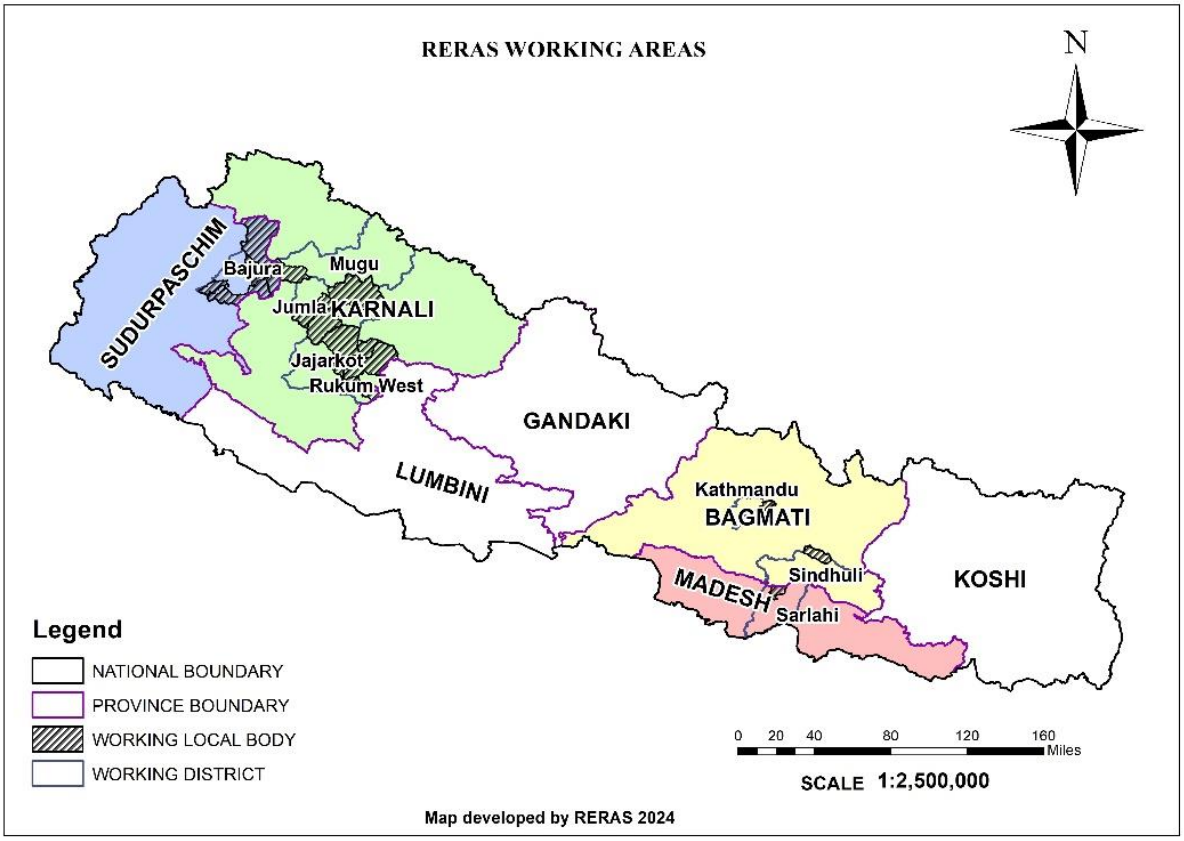
Table 2: Project Cluster and Offices

Sn	Clusters	Municipality	Office Location
1	Cluster 1 - Bajura	Chhededaha, Triveni and Budi Ganga	Phalasen Bazaar

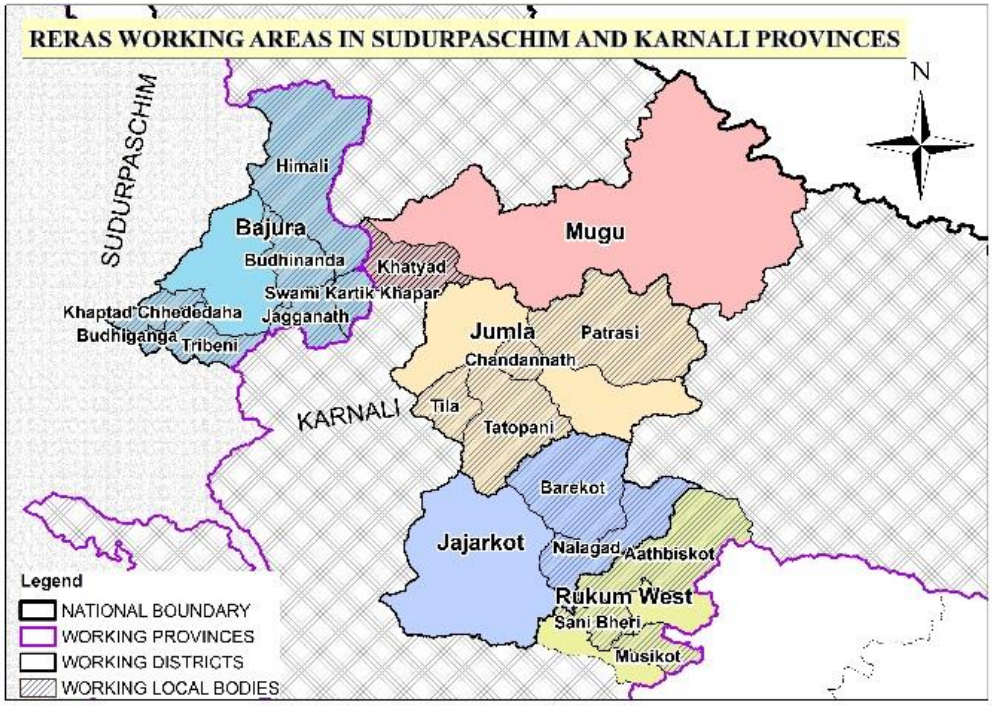
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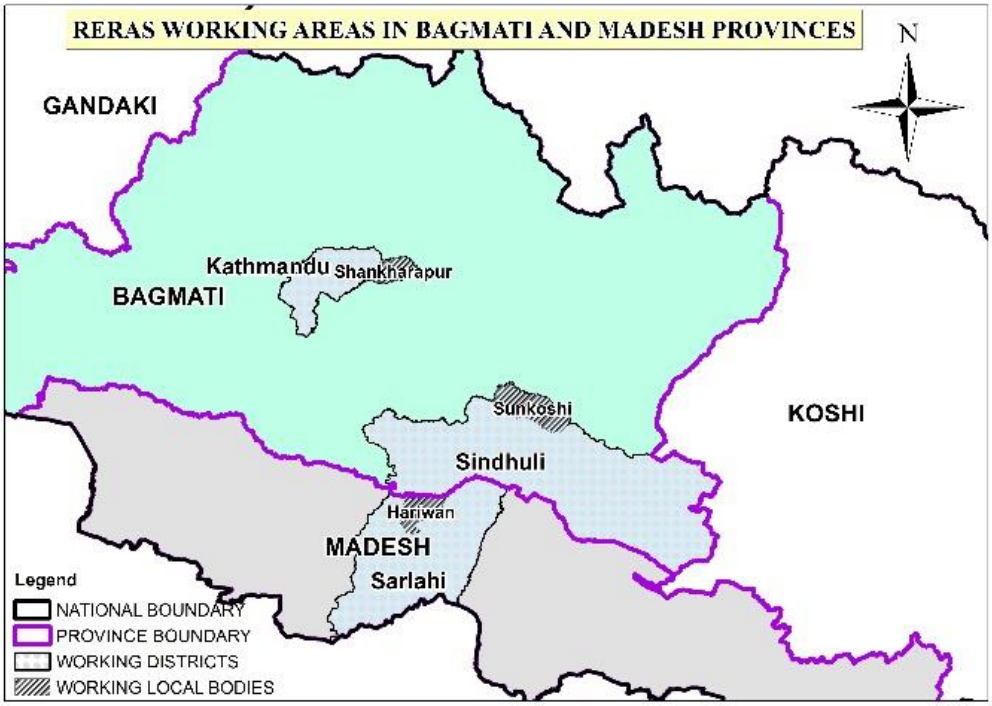
2	Cluster 2 – Bajura	Budinanda, Swamikartik, Jagannath, Himali, Khatyad	Pilichour Bazaar
3	Cluster 3 - Jumla	Patarasi, Chandannath, Tatopani, and Tila	Jumla Bazaar
4	Early Recovery – Jajarkot & Rukkum-West	Bharekot, Nalgad, Sanipheri, Aathbiskot, and Musikot	Surkhet
5	Project Management Unit	Sunkhosi, Shankarapur, Hariwan,	Kathmandu

Fig: Project Location Municipalities



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V. RESULTS FRAMEWORK

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Intended Outcome as stated in the UNSDCF/Country Programme Results and Resource Framework:
UNSDCF/CPD Outcome 3: By 2027, more people, especially women, youth and the most marginalized and poor, increasingly benefit from and contribute to building an inclusive, sustainable, climate-resilient and green society and reduced impacts of disasters at federal, provincial, and local levels.

Outcome indicators as stated in the Country Programme [or Regional] Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets:
Ratio of renewable energy in total energy consumption (%)
Baseline (2019): 5%; Target (2025): 37.3%

Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan: Increasing energy access for those furthest behind and accelerating the transition to renewable energy
Output 5.1 Energy gap closed
Indicator 5.1.1 Number of people, who gained access to clean, affordable and sustainable energy:

- Female
- Male
- Sex-disaggregated data unavailable
- In urban area
- In rural area

5.1.2 Number of people, who benefitted from services from clean, affordable and sustainable energy:

- Female
- Male
- Sex-disaggregated data unavailable
- In urban area
- In rural area

Output 5.2 Transition to renewable energy accelerated capitalizing on technological gains, clean energy innovations and new financing mechanisms to support green recovery
5.2.1 Increase (in megawatt) in installed renewable energy capacity per technology:

- Solar
- Wind
- Biomass
- Hydro
- Geothermal

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CPD Output 3.3: Reliable, affordable, and efficient clean energy solutions promoted
3.3.1. Number of men and women with access to clean, affordable and sustainable energy (IRRF5.1.1)
Baseline (2022): 610,708 (50% women) Target (2027): 760,708 (50% women)
3.3.2. Number of renewable energy-based businesses operational, including women-owned (IRFF-5.1.2)
Baseline (2022): 1,640 (30% owned by women/marginalized groups) Target (2027): 2,060 (30% owned by women/marginalized groups)
3.3.3. Increase (kilowatt) in installed renewable energy capacity per technology (IRFF-5.2.1)
Baseline (2021): Solar-565 KW; Micro-Hydro-12 MW Target (2027): Solar-685 KW; Micro-Hydro- 16.75 MW

Project title and Quantum Project Number: Renewable Energy for Resilient Agri-Food Systems | Project Quantum Number: 01001010

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS[35]	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE[36]		Yearly Targets (by frequency of data collection)						DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
			Value	Year	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	TOTAL	
Project Impact **Improved food and nutritional security of selected communities with particular focus on women and marginalized groups in the project area**	***Impact Indicators*** ***% of households with increased food and nutritional security status (proxy measurement of FNS)*** *(Disaggregation- Sex, Disability)*	***Project impact survey***	***15%***	***July 2023***						***10% increase from baseline survey***	***Separate impact survey will be conducted at the end of the project***
Outcome 1: Women and Socio-economically poor households have enhanced access to food to meet their daily dietary needs	**% increase in food sufficiency at household level (***disaggregation- Sex, Socio economic status)*	**Project survey Report (Baseline, Mid-term, endline)**	**12 months and above: 11.7% 9-11 months:14.7% 6-9 months: 21.7 3-6 months: 35.3% Less than 3 months: 16.9%**	**July 2023**	**NA**	**NA**	**2% increase from baseline**	**NA**	**8% increase from mid-term**	**10% - cumulative in each strata (**50% women-head households, socio-economically vulnerable groups)	**Primary data collection/ HH Survey**
Output 1.1: Increased demand for indigenous crop varieties from community (Dietary Diversity)	*# of people reached through events and campaigns (70% women or people from marginalized groups)*	*Periodic Municipality report/ Home – grown School Feeding programme report/WFP report*	1540	2024 September	*898 F:628 M: 270*	1525 F: 1067 M: 458	4230 F: 2961 M:1269 Dalit: 253	4230 F:2961 M: 1269	*0*	*10883 F: 7617 M: 3266 Dalit: 650*	*Attendance tracking, people count*

[35] *Adjustment to Output indicators will be undertaken during the inception phase.*
[36] *Baseline to be updated during preparatory phase in 2023*

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	(Disaggregation by: Sex, Socioeconomic status, Disability status				*Dalit : 53*	Dalit: 91		Dalit: 253			
	% increase in Area under cultivation of local indigenous crops[37]	*Municipal Agriculture profile/ Statistical Information on Nepalese Agriculture Report/ Annual project report*	*4.5 Ropani on an average*	*2023 July*	*0*	0	5% increase from baseline value		*10% increase from mid-term value*	*15% increase (cumulative)*	*HH Survey data*
	% increase in inclusion of indigenous crops in food composition	*Periodic Municipality report/School Feed programme report/WFP report*	14.11%	2023 July	*NA*	NA	5% increase from baseline value		*10% increase from mid-term value*	*15% cumulative*	*HH survey data*
Output 1.2: Production and Productivity of selected local varieties of food crops increased (Productivity)	*# of irrigation facilities installed*	*Municipal Agriculture Profile/ Project report*	5	2023 July	*0*	6	6	0	*0*	*12(cumulative)*	*Survey Data, municipal and project*
	# of HHs accessing irrigation facilities installed through project	*Project report/ Municipal agriculture profile*	0	2023 July	*0*	750	750	0	*0*	*1500 (cumulative)*	*Survey Data, municipal and project*
	% increase in yield in selected commodities	*Municipal Agriculture Profile; Project Reports*	*cereals (85.5), Fruit (300) and Vegetable (149 Kg/ropani)*	*2023 July*	*0*	*0*	*5%*	*5%*	*5%*	*15% increase from baseline values (cumulative)*	*HH Survey Data, municipal and project*
	% reduction in post-harvest loss	*Municipal Agriculture profile/ Project Reports*	*Indigenous crop: 15.7% Vegetables: 17.4% Fruits: 14.3%*	*2023 July*	*0*	*0*	*1%*	*2%*	*2%*	*Decrease by 5% point*	*HH Survey Data, municipal and project*
	# of gender responsive agricultural technologies provided	*Periodic report/Reports of Municipal Agriculture section/Agriculture Knowledge Center*	4	2024 September	*0*	2	6	2		*10 (cumulative)*	*Survey Data, project report*

[37] *Types of crop varieties used in PADC, AKC and RARS programmes*

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	*# of farmers using climate resilient agricultural (CRA) practices*38 *(70% women or people from marginalized group) (disaggregation by: Sex, Disability status, Socio-economic status)*	*Project reports*	750	*2024 September*	*150 F: 105 M: 45*	450 F: 315 M: 135	550 F: 385 M: 165	250 F: 175 M: 75	*0*	*1400 F: 980 M: 420*	*Survey/ FGDs*
Output 1.3: Enhanced supply of diverse and local food produce in the market (Market access)	*# of market outlets selling local indigenous crops/value added products*	*Evaluation Report/ Periodic Reports*	3	2024 September	*0*	4	10	8	*0*	*22*	*Project Survey,*
	% increase in marketable produce (volume, products, sales value)	*Evaluation Report/ Periodic Reports/District Chamber of Commerce data*	Indigenous crops: 307 Kg Fruits: 4793 Kg Vegetables: 3939 Kg.	2023 July	*0*	0	5%	5%	*10%*	*20% (cumulative)*	*Project survey data*
	# of digitized market services established and strengthened	*Evaluation Report/ Periodic Reports*	0	*2023 July*	*0*	*0*	*4*	*4*	*3*	*11*	*Project MIS data*
Outcome 2: Renewable energy solutions for improved agriculture value chain[39] function	**% of HH accessing energy solutions for agriculture**	**Project Periodic Report/ Baseline, Mid-term, End-line report**	2%	**2023 July**						**15% increase from baseline**	**Survey**
Output 2.1: *Energy-based solutions and applications ascertained for selected value chain (Energy solutions)*	*# of energy-based solutions contributing to production and post-harvesting services.*	*Project Periodic Report*	4	2024 September	*0*	2	8	5	*0*	*15*	*Survey, questionnaire, project report*
	# of operational agro-based enterprises (Disaggregation by: Sex, Disability status, Marginalized groups)	*Periodic Reports/ Municipal Profile/*	17	2024 September	*0*	0		15	*15*	*47 (cumulative)*	*Project survey data*
Output 2.2:	*# of people, especially women, trained on sustainable operation*	*Project Periodic Report/ training report*	23	2024 September	*0*	20 Dalit: 2	20 Dalit: 4	20 Dalit: 4	*0*	*63 Dalit: 10*	*Training report, project report*

[38] CRA refers to practices that enable producers with different kinds of capacity: Threshold capacity; Coping capacity; Recover capacity; Adaptive capacity; and Transformative capacity
[39] Improvement of value efficiency

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Reliable supply of renewable energy services , ensured by energy service providers (capacity)	*and management of energy systems. (Disaggregated by: , ethnicity)*										
	# of schools with access to clean and modern cooking	*Project Periodic Report/survey and completion report*	16	*2024* Septem ber	*0*	*10*	*10*	*10*	*0*	*30*	*Project Report*
	# of students reached through home grown school feeding program (Disaggregated by sex)	*Project Periodic Report/survey and completion report*	0	*2023 July*	*1013*	*2079*	*2608*	*0*	*0*	*5700 F: 3021 M: 2679*	*Project Report*
Output 2.3: *Inclusive Financing Mechanism established for sustainable operation of energy systems and enterprises (access to finance)*	*# of local governments supported with financial instrument*	*No. of financial instruments/Project report*	0	2023 July	*0*	0	5	6	*0*	*11*	*Project report, financial instrument guideline*
	# of value chain actors with Improved access to finance. (Disaggregated by: Sex, Marginalized groups)	*Project Periodic report*	0	*2023 July*	*0*	*0*	*25 F: 18 M: 7 Dalit: 2*	*25 F: 18 M: 7 Dalit: 2*	*10 F: 8 M: 2 Dalit: 1*	*60 F: 44 M: 16 Dalit: 5*	*Survey, questionnaire, project report*
Outcome 3: Resilient Agri- food systems and Environmental Governance Institutionalized[40]	**# of Climate resilient plans institutionalized by the local government**	**Municipal reports/ MoLMAC progress reports/ Project Evaluation Report/ Baseline, Mid-term, End-line report**	**0**	**2023 July**	**NA**	**NA**	**NA**	**NA**	**11**	**11 Municipalities**	**Survey**
Output 3.1: Gender Responsive knowledge about policy, institution, technology, and finance developed	*# of gender responsive knowledge products developed*	*Municipality report, project report*	0	*2023 July*	*0*	*1*	*10*	*10*	*4*	*25*	*Project Report*
Output 3.2: Sustainable and resilient agri-production system	*# Digital soil maps prepared*	*Soil mapping reports, AKC reports*	0	2023 July	*0*	*0*	*4*	*7*	*0*	*11*	*Soil mapping of each municipality;*

[40] *Institutionalization for the purpose of this project refers to set of provisions: i) policies and plans e.g. Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act, Women specific programme operation guidelines ; ii) institutional mechanisms e.g. Food council/ Food coordination committee; iii) capacity e.g. access to machines and its operations; and iv) resources allocated for (financial and human resources) formulated/endorsed by the local government, published in local gazette and operationalized*

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strengthened at the local level	*# of farmers reached through farmer's field schools*	*Municipality and AKC reports, project report*	150 F: 113 M: 37	*24 Sept*	*0*	*125 F: 94 M: 31*	*475 F: 356 M: 119*	*300 F: 225 M: 75*	*0*	*925 F: 675 M: 225*	*Attendance tracking*
Output 3.3: Value chain actors capacitated on production, processing, post-harvest and market linkage	*# of value chain actors capacitated (Disaggregation by: Sex, Ethnicity,)*	*Reports of Agribusiness promotion/AKC, training report, project report*	*25*	2023 July	*120 F: 90 M: 30*	*132 F: 99 M: 33*	*250 F: 188 M: 62*	*98 F: 74 M: 24*	*0*	*600 F: 450 M: 150 :*	*Training tracking/ Attendance*
	# of MIS established and strengthened in municipalities	*Municipal reports, project report*	0	*2023 July*	*0*	*3*	*8*	*0*	*0*	*11*	*Project MIS/ Municipal survey*
Output 3.4: Enhanced capacities of local governments on environment friendly local governance	*# of local government with EFLG framework institutionalized*	*Municipal reports, project report*	0	*2023 July*	*NA*	*NA*	*5*	*0*	*0*	*5*	*Municipal Survey/ Document review*

*** For the operational definition of each indicator, please refer to the project M&E framework*

*** While the ProDoc was being completed, Q4 of 2024 was still running. Therefore, the cumulative achievements till Q3 of 2024 is considered as the baseline values for output indicators*

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In accordance with UNDP's programming policies and procedures, the project will be monitored through the following monitoring and evaluation plans.

Monitoring Plan

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Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action	Partners (if joint)	Cost (if any)
Field Monitor and Manage Risk	Identify potential delays and risks that may obstruct project results, maintain a log, and provide guidance based on UNDP's social and environmental standards.	Quarterly –at least 4 monitoring visits	Identify risks, take action to minimize them, and update the risk register.	UNDP	US$ 10,000
Track result progress	Collect and analyse progress data against result indicators to monitor project outputs.	Periodic data collection Quarterly analysis Annual outcome harvesting survey	Address slower progress through project management interventions.	UNDP, ICIMOD, AEPC, WFP, LI-BIRD	US$ 10,000
Community Engagement and Feedback Sessions	Collect feedback from local communities regarding the impact of renewable energy projects on their livelihoods and agri-food practices.	Annually	Address community concerns and integrate their feedback into project planning and implementation.	UNDP, LI-BIRD, AEPC, WFP	NA
Pause and Reflect Sessions	Assess the project's direction and quality against envisioned results and UNDP's standards, informing management for decision-making improvements.	Periodic	Identify strengths and weaknesses, supporting management in making informed decisions for improvement.	UNDP	US$ 22,500
Review and make course corrections	Review project targets and activities, defining project boundaries. Make decisions on required course corrections based on inputs from pause and reflect sessions.	Semi-annually	Review project performance data, anticipated risks, and lessons learned, sharing findings with the project steering committee.	UNDP, ICIMOD, AEPC, WFP, LI-BIRD	US$ 24,000
Project Reporting	Produce quarterly progress reports containing results achieved against targets, risks, mitigation measures, and detours. Compile quarterly reports into an annual report.	Quarterly and annually	Develop reports and submit them to the project board and donors.	UNDP, ICIMOD, WFP, AEPC, LI-BIRD	US$ 5,000
Project Board Meetings	Hold scheduled meetings to assess project performance and review the Multi-Year Work Plan, ensuring realistic budgeting and governance.	Semi-annual	Discuss significant delays or quality issues, forwarding them to management for further action.	UNDP	US$ 5,000
Learning and Knowledge Management	Capture knowledge, good practices, and lessons learned from the project and disseminate to larger audiences. Integrate external learnings into the project.	Semi-annually	Document and disseminate stories of change for management decisions and broader audience engagement.	UNDP, ICIMOD, AEPC, WFP, LI-BIRD	US$ 77,000

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Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action	Partners (if joint)	Cost (if any)
Monitoring Visits	Conduct regular monitoring visits to assess project implementation, identify challenges, and provide real-time feedback for corrective actions. Joint monitoring visits to capture insights from the field to inform project adjustments.	Quarterly	Document field observations, including successes, challenges, and potential improvements. Share actionable insights and recommendations with the management team for informed decision-making.	UNDP, ICIMOD, AEPC, WFP, LI-BIRD	US$ 75,000
Final Dissemination	Highlight the key successes, outcomes, and lessons learned from the entire project, communicating them to external stakeholders, partners, donors, and the public.	End of the project	Dissemination workshop to be organised by the project to share key highlights that other stakeholders can uptake.	UNDP	US$ 6000

Evaluation Plan

Evaluation Title	Partners (if joint)	Related Strategic Plan Output	UNSDCF/CPD Outcome	Planned Completion Date	Key Evaluation Stakeholders	Cost and Source of Funding
Mid Term Evaluation	-	Output 3.3	CPD Outcome 3	December 2025	Municipalities, agriculture cooperative, AKC, farmer group, energy cooperatives, traders, lead farmers.	US$ 25,000
Final Evaluation	-	Output 3.3	CPD Outcome 3	March 2027	Municipalities, agriculture cooperative, AKC, farmer group, energy cooperatives, traders, lead farmers, private sector, national stakeholders.	US$ 40,000

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VII. MULTI-YEAR WORK PLAN

Budget Summary (Summary of Budget)

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year					RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		FUNDING SOURCE	Budget Description	AMOUNT
Outcome 1: Households access to sufficient food supply in the market to meet their daily dietary needs is enhanced										
Output1.1:- Demand for indigenous crop varieties to meet diverse dietary needs of the community increased (Dietary diversification) Baseline: Target: Gender marker:	**Activity 1.1.1:** Prepare a firm baseline to take stock of indigenous crops varieties, agriculture practices and project boundary	6,032	-	-	-	-	**UNDP**	**UNDP**	Professional or contractual services	6,032
		-	-	-	-	-	**ICIMOD**	**RNE-FS**	Professional or contractual services	-
		-	27,600	-	-	-	**UNDP**	**UNDP**	Professional or contractual services	27,600
		-	5,000			-	**UNDP**	**RNE-FS**	Professional or contractual services	5,000
	Activity 1.1.2: Enhance understanding on indigenous crops to enhance production and local consumption	-	5,412	4,000	3,000	-	**UNDP-RP**	**RNE-FS**	Training, workshops, and conferences	12,412
		-	9,500	4,500	-	-	**UNDP**	**UNDP**	Training, workshops, and conferences	14,000

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		-	4,907	5,420		-	**UNDP-RP**	**RNE-FS**	Professional or contractual services	10,327
		-				-	**UNDP-RP**	**RNE-FS**	Training, workshops, and conferences	-
		-	9,026	8,000	9,510	-	**UNDP-RP**	**RNE-FS**	Professional or contractual services	26,536
		-	-	4,500	-	-	**UNDP-RP**	**RNE-E**	Professional or contractual services	4,500
		9,448	122,741		144,000*	36,000*	**WFP**	**RNE-FS**	Professional or contractual services	312,189
				123,000			**WFP**	**RNE-E**	Professional or contractual services	123,000
		-	7,711	6,934	-	-	**UNDP-RP**	**RNE-FS**	Professional or contractual services	14,645
		-	46,414	6,934	-	-	**UNDP-RP**	**RNE-FS**	Professional or contractual services	53,348
	Activity 1.1.3: Enhance capacities of local governments, farmer groups and local value chain actors in pocket area development and adoption of energy based technologies for pre- and post-production	8,433	37,848	-	-	-	**ICIMOD**	**RNE**	Professional or contractual services	46,281
		-	8,000	25,000	-	-	**ICIMOD**	**RNE**	Professional or contractual services	33,000

		-	6,784	9,000	9,000	4,500	**UNDP-RP**	**RNE-FS**	Professional or contractual services	29,284
		-	14,493	11,840	5,008	-	**UNDP-RP**	**RNE**	Training, workshops, and conferences	31,341
		-	-	25,000	15,000	9,536	**UNDP-RP**	**RNE-E**	Professional or contractual services	49,536
		-	117,765	5,000	5,000	-	**UNDP-RP**	**RNE-FS**	Professional or contractual services	127,765
	Sub-Total for Output 1.1	**23,913**	**423,201**	**239,128**	**190,518**	**50,036**				**926,796**
Output 1.2 :-Productivity of selected local varieties of food crops increased (Productivity) ***Baseline:*** ***Target:*** ***Gender marker:***	**Activity 1.2.1:** Conduct assessment to take stock of soil organic matter, availability of quality seeds, crop management practices, productivity and post harvest losses in select commodities		26,999	-	-	-	**ICIMOD**	**RNE**	Professional or contractual services	26,999
		3,252	9,250	-	-	-	**ICIMOD**	**RNE-FS**	Professional or contractual services	12,502
		-	7,490	-	-	-	**UNDP**	**RNE-FS**	Professional or contractual services	7,490
			90,000	150,731	66,000	-	**UNDP**	**RNE**	Grants (LVG)	306,731

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		568	55,807	25,000	20,000	-	**ICIMOD**	**RNE-FS**	Travel and DSA	101,375
	Activity 1.2.2: Provide technical assistance and input support for enhanced production and productivity of the selected agriculture crops	-	12,000	12,000	10,000	-	**ICIMOD**	**#REF!**	Professional or contractual services	34,000
		-	9,049	40,000	30,000	-	**UNDP-RP**	**RNE-E**	Professional or contractual services	79,049
		-	-	2,992	-	-	**UNDP-RP**	**RNE-E**	Professional or contractual services	2,992
		-	6,000	30,000	-	-	**ICIMOD**	**RNE**	Professional or contractual services	36,000
		-	3,000	7,000	10,000	-	**ICIMOD**	**RNE**	Professional or contractual services	20,000
		-	-	7,000	7,000	4,745	**UNDP-RP**	**RNE-E**	Professional or contractual services	18,745
		-	11,865	14,500	6,500	-	**UNDP-RP**	**RNE**	Professional or contractual services	32,865
		-	9,185	-	-	-	**UNDP**	**UNDP**	Professional or contractual services	9,185

	Activity 1.2.3 Scale-up agro-mechanization, agro-processing and storage systems (move to 1.2.1	-	8,000	-	-	8,000	**UNDP**	**RNE-E**	Professional or contractual services	16,000
		114	13,990	10,000	20,000	-	**UNDP-RP**	**RNE**	Professional or contractual services	44,104
		965	38,872	20,000	-	-	**ICIMOD**	**RNE**	Professional or contractual services	59,837
	Activity 1.2.4: Strengthen agriculture value chain with modern technology solutions	-	-	20,000	24,000	-	**UNDP-RP**	**RNE-E**	Professional or contractual services	44,000
		-	-	20,000	30,000	-	**UNDP-RP**	**RNE-E**	Professional or contractual services	50,000
			7,994	-	-	-	**UNDP-RP**	**RNE-E**	Professional or contractual services	7,994
		-	70,000	70,000	-	-	**UNDP**	**RNE**	Grants (LVG)	140,000
	Sub-Total for Output 1.2	**4,899**	**379,501**	**429,223**	**223,500**	**12,745**				**1,049,868**

Output 1.3 :-Supply of diverse and local food produce in the market enhanced (Market access) *Baseline:* *Target:* *Gender marker:*	**Activity 1.3.1:** Technical support towards understanding the value chain of select commodities and capacity of user groups to scale up processing	-	-	-	-	-	ICIMOD	**RNE**	Professional or contractual services	-
		-	9,424	40,000	35,000	-	UNDP-RP	**RNE**	Equipment	84,424
		-	7,830	10,000	9,150	-	UNDP-RP	**RNE**	Professional or contractual services	26,980
	Activity 1.3.2: Provide access to finance and susidy mechanisms to stregnthen enhanced market acces and digitization of market connectivity	-	5,636	4,000	4,000	2,872	UNDP-RP	**RNE**	Professional or contractual services	16,508
		114		25,000	30,000	-	UNDP-RP	**RNE**	Professional or contractual services	55,114
			22,000				UNDP	**UNDP**	Grants	22,000
			15,000				UNDP	**RNE**	Grants	15,000

		-	10,000	15,000	7,875	-	UNDP-RP	**RNE**	Professional or contractual services	32,875
		449	-	2,000	2,000	500	UNDP	**RNE**	Travel and DSA	4,949
		7,311	4,000	2,035	2,000	2,000	UNDP	**UNDP**	Travel and DSA	17,346
	Sub-Total for Output 1.3	**7,873**	**73,890**	**98,035**	**90,025**	**5,372**				**275,195**
	Technical Support for Output 1	7,412	173,799	186,085	157,082	50,000	**UNDP-RP**	**RNE**	Staff Cost	574,378
			21,575				**ICIMOD**	**RNE**	Staff Cost	21,575
		-	92,890				**AEPC**	**RNE-FS**	Staff Cost	92,890
	Sub-Total for Output 1	**44,097**	**1,164,856**	**952,471**	**661,125**	**118,153**				**2,940,702**
	Quality assurance, technical inputs, operations support and communication for OUTCOME 1	14,287	31,044	4,442	12,040	2,560	**UNDP**	**RNE-FS**	GOE to Project Technical DPC	64,373
		20,000	36,424	40,015	22,917	3,373	**UNDP**	**RNE**	GOE to Project Technical DPC	122,730
		-	1,583	15,326	6,699	1,408	**UNDP**	**RNE-E**	GOE to Project Technical DPC	25,016
							UNDP	**UNDP**	GOE to Project Technical DPC	-
	Sub-Total for OUTCOME 1	**78,384**	**1,233,906**	**1,012,254**	**702,782**	**125,494**				**3,152,820**
OUTCOME 2: Renewable energy solutions play key role in improvement of agriculture value chains										
Output 2.1:- A suit of renewable energy solutions and applications ascertained	**Activit 2.1.1:** Identify and map energy needs and demands, techological options and		**4,093**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**AEPC**	**RNE-FS**	**Professional or contractual services**	4,093

for selected value chain (energy solutions) *Baseline:* *Target:* *Gender marker:*	energy-based enterprieses to strengthen value chain products						**UNDP**	**UNDP**		-
			22,350	-	-	-	**AEPC**	**RNE-FS**	**Professional or contractual services**	22,350
			6,117	-	-	-	**AEPC**	**RNE-FS**	**Equipment**	6,117
		-	-		-	-	**AEPC**	**RNE-E**	**Equipment**	-
	Act 2.1.2 Promotion of productive end use of electricity to support agri-based productive use, value chain and, school feeding,		**5,000**	-	-	-	**AEPC**	**RNE-FS**	**Equipment**	5,000
		-	2,000	**30,000**	**25,000**		**AEPC**	**RNE**	**Equipment**	57,000
		-	63,656	**10,000**	**5,000**	-	**UNDP**	**UNDP**	Equipment/SES	78,656
		2,335	220,000	50,000	50,000	-	**AEPC**	**RNE**	**Contractual Services-Companies**	322,335
		3,516	110,000			-	**AEPC**	**RNE-E**	**Equipment**	113,516
		-		**75,000**	-	-	**UNDP**	**UNDP**	Equipment	75,000
		28,345	315,463	**192,895**		-	**WFP**	**RNE**	**Equipment**	536,703

					77,300*		**WFP**	**RNE-E**	**Equipment**	77,300
				24,281	**18,700***	**24,000***	**WFP**	RNE-FS	**Equipment**	66,981
		-	-	75,000	-	-	**AEPC**	**RNE-E**	**Contractual Services-Companies**	75,000
		-	**2,000**	**2,000**	**2,000**	**1,000**	**UNDP**	**RNE**	Travel and DSA	7,000
	Sub-Total for Output 2.1	**34,196**	**750,679**	**459,176**	**178,000**	**25,000**				**1,447,051**
Output 2.2:- Reliable supply of renewable energy services ensured by energy service providers (capacity)	**Activity 2.2.1:** Technical support for strengthening electricity infrastructure	-	5,000	25,000	25,000	21,000	AEPC	RNE	Contractual Services-Companies	76,000
		-	-	20,000	10,000	-	UNDP	UNDP	Contractual Services-Companies	30,000
Baseline:		-	1,500				AEPC	RNE-FS	Contractual Services-Companies	1,500
Target:		37,023	217,777	265,000	-	-	AEPC	RNE	Contractual Services-Companies	519,800
Gender marker:		-	10,000	20,000	90,000	20,000	AEPC	RNE	Contractual Services-Companies	140,000
		-	45,000	250,000	40,000	-	AEPC	RNE	Contractual Services-Companies	335,000
		-	-	50,000	45,000	-	UNDP	UNDP	Contractual Services-Companies	95,000

		-	90,000	25,000	10,000	-	AEPC	RNE-E	Contractual Services-Companies	125,000
		-	103,475	-	-	-	UNDP	UNDP	Contractual Services-Companies	103,475
	Activity 2.2.2: Strengthen capacities on sustainable operation and management of energy systems and promotion of energy services & systems	-	15,000	7,000	-	-	AEPC	RNE-E	**Professional or contractual services**	22,000
		-	49,319	10,000	5,000	-	AEPC	RNE	**Training, workshops, and conferences**	64,319
		-	25,230	50,000	50,000	-	AEPC	RNE-E	**Professional or contractual services**	125,230
		-	-	-	-	-	UNDP	UNDP	Professional or contractual services	-
		-	500	1,000	1,000	1,500	UNDP	RNE	Travel and DSA	4,000
		-	-	1,500	1,500	1,500	UNDP	**RNE-E**	Travel and DSA	4,500
	Sub-Total for Output 2.2	**37,023**	**562,801**	**724,500**	**277,500**	**44,000**				**1,645,824**
Output 2.3 :-Financing Mechanism for sustainable operation of energy systems and	**Activity 2.3.1:** Identify and promote financing instrumentss to strengthen capacity and	-	-	-	-	-	**AEPC**	**RNE**	**Professional or contractual services**	-

enterprises set in place. (access to finance) *Baseline:* *Target:* *Gender marker:*	access by local communities	-	10,000			-	**AEPC**	**RNE-E**	**Professional or contractual services**	10,000
		-	-	45,000	40,000	-	**AEPC**	**RNE-E**	**Contractual Services-Companies**	85,000
	Activity 2.3.2: Technical support to leverage financing for value chain actors on agriculture technology and result-based financing for farmer groups, women groups and youths to enhance commercialization of indigenous crops	-	-	-	-	-	**AEPC**	**RNE**	**Grants**	-
		-	-	50,000	50,000	5,000	**AEPC**	**RNE**	**Grants**	105,000
		-	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	**UNDP**	**RNE**	Travel and DSA	6,000
			4,251	-	-	1,500	**UNDP**	**RNE-FS**	Travel and DSA	5,751
		-	**15,751**	**96,500**	**91,500**	**8,000**				**211,751**
	Tech. Support for Output 2			120,000	45,000		**UNDP**	**RNE-FS**	Staff Cost	165,000
		27,147	283,781	195,000	181,750	35,875	**AEPC**	**RNE**	Staff Cost	723,553

	Sub-Total for Output 2	**98,366**	**1,613,012**	**1,595,176**	**773,750**	**112,875**				**4,193,179**
	Quality assurance, technical inputs, operations support and communication	-	2,737	9,119	4,026	1,612	**UNDP**	**RNE-FS**	GOE to Project Technical DPC	17,493
		33,493	72,828	69,039	29,783	5,427	**UNDP**	**RNE**	GOE to Project Technical DPC	210,571
		11,164	15,815	12,861	11,300	95	**UNDP**	**RNE-E**	GOE to Project Technical DPC	51,235
	Total for OUTCOME 2	**143,023**	**1,704,392**	**1,686,195**	**818,859**	**120,009**				**4,472,478**
Outcome 3: Enabling environment to promote resilient food system is ensured through enhanced knowledge and capacity of value chain actors										
Output 3.1:- Knowledge about policy, institution, technology and finance consolidated to design right policy instrument by the municipalities ***Baseline:*** ***Target:*** *Gender marker:*	**Activity 3.1.1:** Undertake need assessment to identify barriers, map capacities of actors towards strengthening capacities of value chain actors and food systems	-	8,139	8,000	-	-	**UNDP**	**UNDP**	**Professional or contractual services**	16,139
		-	-	-	-	-	**UNDP**	**RNE-E**	**Professional or contractual services**	-
		-	-	25,000	28,000	20,500	**UNDP**	**UNDP**	**Professional or contractual services**	73,500
		-	2,350	5,000	9,000	-	**UNDP**	**RNE**	**Professional or contractual services**	16,350
		-	-	12,000	8,000	-	**UNDP**	**UNDP**	Professional or contractual services	20,000

	Activity 3.1.2: Technical support for institutional arrangement and strengthening capacities of local govrenments and value chain actors	-	5,500	8,000	6,000	-	**UNDP**	**RNE**	**Individual Consultant**	19,500
		-	-	-	-	-	**UNDP**	**RNE-FS**	Individual Consultant	-
				7,500	6,000	3,000	**UNDP**	**UNDP**	**Training, workshops, and conferences**	16,500
		-	-	-	-	-	**ICIMOD**	**RNE**	**Professional or contractual services**	-
	Activity 3.1.3: Design and develop knowledge products on promotion and awarenss on best practices and agri-business	-	-	6,000	6,000	-	**ICIMOD**	**RNE-E**	**Professional or contractual services**	12,000
		-	-	5,500	5,500	-	**ICIMOD**	**RNE-E**	**Professional or contractual services**	11,000
			1,000	1,500	1,500	1,000	**UNDP**	**RNE**	**Travel and DSA**	5,000
	Sub-Total for Output 3.1	-	**16,989**	**78,500**	**70,000**	**24,500**				**189,989**
Output 3.2:-Farm research and experiments conducted to develop sustainable	**Activity 3.2.1** Undertake on-farm research to enhance food productivity, storage and	-	246	50,000	20,000	-	**UNDP**	**RNE**	**Professional or contractual services**	70,246

and resilient value chain ***Baseline:*** ***Target:*** ***Gender marker:***	hands-on learning of local farmers	9,808	12,135	4,808	-	-	**UNDP-RP**	**RNE-FS**	**Training, workshops, and conferences**	26,751
		-		2,000	7,000	-	**UNDP-RP**	**RNE**	**Training, workshops, and conferences**	9,000
		-	500	500	1,000	1,000	**UNDP**	**RNE**	**Travel and DSA**	3,000
	Sub-Total for Output 3.2	**9,808**	**12,881**	**57,308**	**28,000**	**1,000**				**108,997**
Output 3.3 :-Capacities of value chain actors built for improved production, processing, post-harvest and supply of food in the market ***Gender marker:***	Activity 3.3.1 Organize shared knowledge and dialgoues opportunities for value chain actors and document best practices and IP knowledge	-	-	15,000	-	15,000	**UNDP**	**UNDP**	**Professional or contractual services**	30,000
		-	-	48,000	48,000	-	**UNDP**	**UNDP**	**Professional or contractual services**	96,000
		-	25,374	40,000	28,000	-	**ICIMOD**	**RNE**	**Professional or contractual services**	93,374
	Activity 3.3.2: Technical support to Local Goverments for climate resilient agriculture value chain	-	-	12,000	11,000	4,000	**UNDP**	**RNE**	**Professional or contractual services**	27,000

		-	23,566	20,000	35,000	-	**UNDP**	**UNDP**	**Professional or contractual services**	78,566
		-	15,000				**UNDP**	**RNE**	Professional or contractual services	15,000
		-		1,000	1,000	500	**UNDP**	**UNDP**	**Travel and DSA**	2,500
		925	**17,757**	**35,000**	**25,000**	**-**	**ICIMOD**	**RNE**	**Staff Cost**	78,682
	Sub-Total for Output 3.3	**925**	**81,697**	**171,000**	**148,000**	**19,500**				**421,122**
Output 3.4: Enhanced capacities of local governments on environment friendly local governance	Activity 3.4.1: Strengthened capacity of 5 local governments on environment friendly local governance and accountability;	-	45,000	100,000	50,000	-	**UNDP**	**RNE**	**Professional or contractual services**	195,000
	Activity 3.4.2: Facilitate effective coordination and policy discourse amongst inter-local government and provincial governments particularly with focus on municipal assemblies and provincial assemblies;	-	30,000	100,000	-	-	**UNDP**	**RNE**	**Professional or contractual services**	130,000
		-	-	-	50,000	-	**UNDP**	**UNDP**	**Professional or contractual services**	50,000
		-	4,446	1,587	2,000	2,000	**UNDP**	**UNDP**	**Travel and DSA**	10,033
	Sub-Total for Output 3.4	-	**79,446**	**201,587**	**102,000**	**2,000**				**385,033**

	Sub-Total for Output 3	**10,733**	**191,013**	**508,395**	**348,000**	**47,000**				**1,105,141**
	Quality assurance, technical inputs, operations support and communication	**6,163**	**767**	**304**	-	-	**UNDP**	**RNE-FS**	GOE to Project Technical DPC	7,234
		2,054	**9,020**	22,373	10,017	379	**UNDP**	**RNE**	GOE to Project Technical DPC	43,844
		-	-	727	727	-	**UNDP**	**RNE-E**	GOE to Project Technical DPC	1,454
		-	-	-	-	-	**UNDP**	**UNDP**	GOE to Project Technical DPC	-
	Sub-TOTAL OUTCOME 3	**18,950**	**200,800**	**531,798**	**358,744**	**47,379**				**1,157,672**
	TOTAL BUDGET PROGRAMME	**240,357**	**3,139,098**	**3,230,248**	**1,880,385**	**292,882**				**8,782,970**
Project Management Cost	Personnel Costs (Staff Costs)	-	-	128,877	95,000	95,000	**UNDP**	**UNDP**	Staff Cost	318,877
		7,363	200,000		-	0	**UNDP**	**RNE-FS**	Staff Cost	207,363
			67,700			-	**UNDP-RP**	**RNE-E**	Staff Cost	67,700
		8,888	50,000	-		-	**UNDP**	**RNE**	Staff Cost	58,888
	Kick off meeting / Annual review workshop / Project Boards	-	6,677	8,000	8,000	3,359	**UNDP**	**UNDP**	Training, workshops, and conferences	26,036
		4,129	6,000	7,000	6,690	-	**UNDP**	**RNE-FS**	Training, workshops, and conferences	23,819
		-		-	-	7,000	**UNDP**	**UNDP**	Training, workshops, and conferences	7,000

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	Travel	-	5,000	4,000	4,200	4,000	**UNDP**	**RNE**	Travel and DSA	17,200
	Joint Monitoring		6,500			870	**UNDP**	**RNE-E**	Travel and DSA	7,370
				4,000	4,000	4,600	**UNDP**	**RNE**	Travel and DSA	12,600
	Professional Services (Audit Fee)	-	3,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	**UNDP**	**RNE**	Professional or contractual services	17,000
	Evaluation (Mid-term & Final Evaluation)	-	-	25,000	-	40,000	**UNDP**	**RNE**	Professional or contractual services	65,000
	Equipment and Furniture	-	18,000	15,000	10,000		**UNDP**	**RNE**	Equipment and Furniture	43,000
	Supplies	-	6,000	10,000	10,000	4,000	**UNDP**	**RNE**	Supplies	30,000
	Printing and Publications	785	21,000	4,000	4,200	2,100	**UNDP**	**RNE**	Printing & Publication	32,085
	Sundries	24	500	1,000	1,000	1,000	**UNDP**	**RNE**	Miscellaneous Expenses	3,524
	IT Equipment	17,252	4,000	6,000	4,000	1,500	**UNDP**	**RNE**	Information Technology Equipmt	32,752
	Communication	126	2,400	2,500	2,500	1,800	**UNDP**	**RNE**	Communic & Audio Visual Equip	9,326
	Rental & Maintenance / Facilities	-	4,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	**UNDP**	**UNDP**	Rental & Maintenance-Premises	19,000
		-	7,400	-	-	-	**UNDP**	**RNE**	Rental & Maintenance-Premises	7,400

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	Assets; vehicles & motorcycles (Assets; Field vehicles -4 WD (2 Units) & motorcycles (4 units))	25,043	40,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	**UNDP**	**UNDP**	Equipment	74,043
		12,227	40,000	-	-	-	**UNDP**	**RNE**	Equipment	52,227
	Maintenance of office premises	-		15,000	-	-	**UNDP**	**UNDP**	Materials & Goods	15,000
	DFS and SES for maintenance of office premises	-	2,000	10,000	8,000	4,000	**UNDP**	**RNE**	Materials & Goods	24,000
	Maintenance of vehicles (fuel/vehicle mgmt)	649	23,000	2,500	2,423	2,007	**UNDP**	**RNE-FS**	Rental, Fuel, Petrolium and other oils	30,579
		-	10,756	10,757	12,000	12,000	**UNDP**	**UNDP**	Miscellaneous Expenses	45,513
	Misc. i.e. Bank Charges, Forex Gain/Loss, insurance		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,012	**UNDP**	**RNE**	Miscellaneous Expenses	4,012
	Quality assurance, operations support and communication	6,019	10,163	5,498	3,375	4,330	**UNDP**	**RNE**	GOE to Project Technical DPC	30,266
		2,006	14,473	600	576	127	**UNDP**	**RNE-FS**	GOE to Project Technical DPC	17,782
		-	4,689	-	-	55	**UNDP**	**RNE-E**	GOE to Project Technical DPC	4,744
		-	-	-	-	-	**UNDP**	**UNDP**	GOE to Project Technical DPC	-
	Sub-Total PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT	**84,512**	**554,758**	**273,233**	**189,464**	**201,259**				**1,304,106**
	TOTAL BUDGET	**324,870**	**3,693,856**	**3,503,481**	**2,069,849**	**494,141**				**10,087,076**
	UNDP GMS RNE @8%	17,130	172,851	184,278	88,949	18,181	**UNDP**	**RNE**	Programme&Support Services Inc	481,451

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	UNDP GMS RNEFS @ 8%	4,614	65,973	19,467	22,397	5,784	**UNDP**	**RNE-FS**	Programme&Support Services Inc	118,236
	UNDP GMS RNE-E @ 8%	1,174	29,725	38,912	25,202	2,097	**UNDP**	**RNE-E**	Programme&Support Services Inc	97,110
	Grand TOTAL	**347,788**	**3,962,405**	**3,746,139**	**2,206,396**	**520,204**				**10,783,874**

A total of USD 300K have been allocated for WFP in the MYWP for 2026-2027. The exact allocation period is under discussion and subject to change. Part of the 300K for WFP's intervention will be made available already as of beginning of Q3 2025.

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RESOURCE ALLOCATION SUMMARY (DONOR)

DONOR	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	TOTAL
RNE	231,262	2,333,484	2,487,755	1,200,806	246391	6,499,698
RNE-FS	62,288	890,637	262,809	302,362	78,089	1,596,186
RNE-E	15,854	401,284	525,318	340,228	28,305	1,310,990
UNDP	38,385	337,000	470,256	363,000	168,359	1,377,000
TOTAL	**347,788**	**3,962,405**	**3,746,139**	**2,206,396**	**521,144**	**10,783,874**
Levy and coordination cost (around NOK 1,021,022)						**94,068**
Project Budget Grand Total						**10,877,942**

AGENCYWISE ALLOCATION BY DONOR July 2023 – June 2027

Donor	ICIMOD	WFP	AEPC	UNDP-RP	UNDP	Total
RNE	449,748	536,703	2,343,008	907,589	2,262,650	6,499,698
RNE-FS	113,877	379,170	131,950	301,068	670,120	1,596,186
RNE-E	23,000	200,300	555,746	324,516	207,428	1,310,990
UNDP	-	-	-	-	1,377,000	1,377,000
TOTAL	586,625	1,116,173	3,030,703	1,533,173	4,517,198	10,783,874

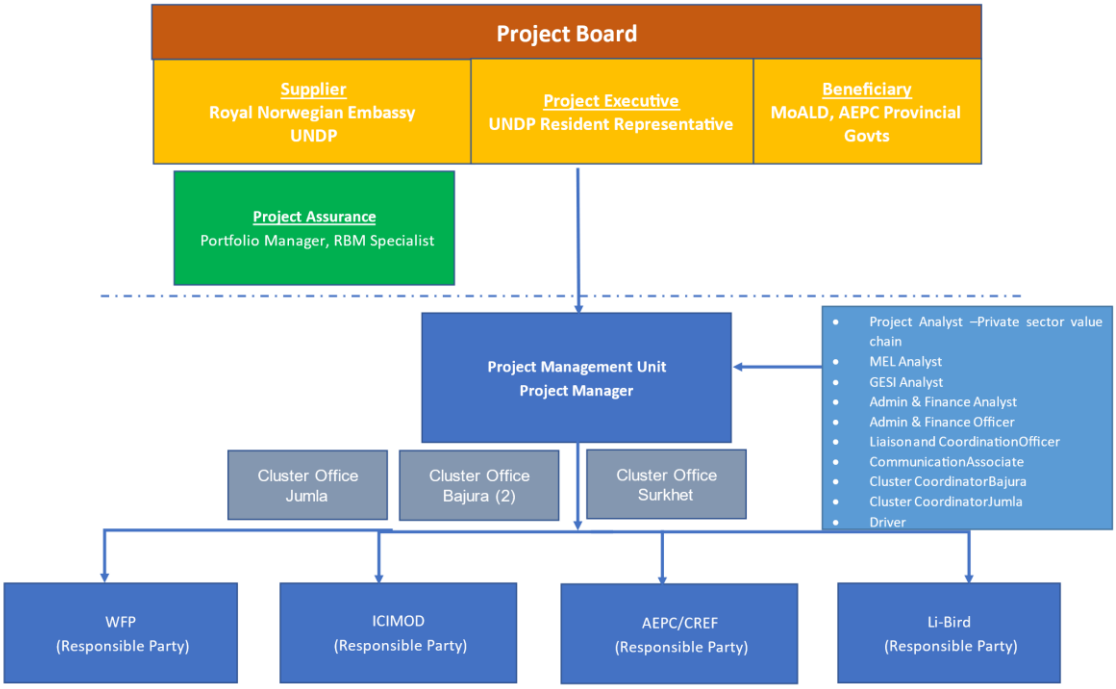
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VIII. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS:

The project has set up a Project Board chaired by UNDP Deputy Resident Representative (DRR), serving as the executive, with members representing the Norwegian Embassy as the supplier, and MoALD, MoLMAC of Karnali and Sudurpashchim provinces, and AEPC as beneficiaries. Responsible Parties are also represented at the board. Together these entities make up the highest governance mechanism for the project. UNDP also takes on the role for quality assurance and oversight of project management, through UNDP's Portfolio Manager for Resilience and Environment and Programme Quality & Results-Based Management Analyst. The Project Management Unit is headed by the Project Manager.

The Project Board provides overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints, and provides overall oversight of the project implementation. The Project Board review project performance based on monitoring, evaluation, and reporting, including progress reports, risk logs and the combined delivery report. The Project Board is responsible for making management decisions to ensure best value money, fairness, timeliness, integrity, transparency, and effectiveness. The Project Board will meet on quarterly basis in general if appropriate but bi-annual meetings will be mandatory.

Fig 2: Project Board & Implementation Structure



The Project Board meets on a bi-annual basis and more frequently on quarterly basis if decided so by the Board. The Project Board is the group responsible for making, by consensus, management decisions for the project when guidance is required by the Project Manager, including recommendations for approval of project plans and revisions. In order to ensure accountability, Project Board decisions are made in accordance with standards that ensure management for development results, best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition. In case a consensus cannot be

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reached within the Board, final decision rests with UNDP. In addition, the Project Board plays a crucial role in UNDP-commissioned project evaluations by quality-assuring the evaluation process and products, and using evaluations for performance improvement, accountability and learning. The Terms of Reference for the Project Board is provided in Annex: TOR and represented diagrammatically in Fig 2: Project Board Structure.

As per the provision of the Grant Agreement, UNDP will hold bilateral meetings with the Royal Norwegian Embassy on an annual basis to review the project progress, agree on project work plan and budgetary matters, addressing implementation challenges and risks.

IX. LEGAL CONTEXT

Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA)

This project document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article 1 of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of (Nepal) and UNDP, signed on 1984. All references in the SBAA to "Executing Agency" shall be deemed to refer to "Implementing Partner."

This project will be implemented by UNDP ("Implementing Partner") in accordance with its financial regulations, rules, practices and procedures only to the extent that they do not contravene the principles of the Financial Regulations and Rules of UNDP. Where the financial governance of an Implementing Partner does not provide the required guidance to ensure best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition, the financial governance of UNDP shall apply.

X. RISK MANAGEMENT

1.UNDP as the Implementing Partner will comply with the policies, procedures and practices of the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS.)

2.UNDP as the Implementing Partner will undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the [project funds][41] [UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document][42] are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism , that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the United Nations Security Council Consolidated Sanctions List, and that no UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used for money laundering activities. The United Nations Security Council Consolidated Sanctions List can be accessed via https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/un-sc-consolidated-list. This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this Project Document.

3.Social and environmental sustainability will be enhanced through application of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (http://www.undp.org/ses) and related Accountability Mechanism (http://www.undp.org/secu-srm).

4.UNDP as the Implementing Partner will: (a) conduct project and programme-related activities in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, (b) implement any management or mitigation plan prepared for the project or programme to comply with such standards, and (c) engage in a constructive and timely manner to address any concerns and complaints raised through the Accountability Mechanism. UNDP will seek to ensure that communities and other project stakeholders are informed of and have access to the Accountability Mechanism.

[41] To be used where UNDP is the Implementing Partner

[42] To be used where the UN, a UN fund/programme or a specialized agency is the Implementing Partner

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5.In the implementation of the activities under this Project Document, UNDP as the Implementing Partner will handle any sexual exploitation and abuse ("SEA") and sexual harassment ("SH") allegations in accordance with its regulations, rules, policies and procedures.

6.All signatories to the Project Document shall cooperate in good faith with any exercise to evaluate any programme or project-related commitments or compliance with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards. This includes providing access to project sites, relevant personnel, information, and documentation.

7.UNDP as the Implementing Partner will ensure that the following obligations are binding on each responsible party, subcontractor, and sub-recipient:

a. Consistent with the Article III of the SBAA *[or the Supplemental Provisions to the Project Document]*, the responsibility for the safety and security of each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in such responsible party's, subcontractor's and sub-recipient's custody, rests with such responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient. To this end, each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient shall:
   i. put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;
   ii. assume all risks and liabilities related to such responsible party's, subcontractor's and sub-recipient's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.

b. UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of the responsible party's, subcontractor's and sub-recipient's obligations under this Project Document.

c. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient (each a "sub-party" and together "sub-parties") acknowledges and agrees that UNDP will not tolerate sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse of anyone by the sub-parties, and other entities involved in Project implementation, either as contractors or subcontractors and their personnel, and any individuals performing services for them under the Project Document.

   (a) In the implementation of the activities under this Project Document, each sub-party shall comply with the standards of conduct set forth in the Secretary General's Bulletin ST/SGB/2003/13 of 9 October 2003, concerning "Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse" ("SEA").

   (b) Moreover, and without limitation to the application of other regulations, rules, policies and procedures bearing upon the performance of the activities under this Project Document, in the implementation of activities, each sub-party, shall not engage in any form of sexual harassment ("SH"). SH is defined as any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offense or humiliation, when such conduct interferes with work, is made a condition of employment or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment. SH may occur in the workplace or in connection with work. While typically involving a pattern of conduct, SH may take the form of a single incident. In assessing the reasonableness of expectations or perceptions, the perspective of the person who is the target of the conduct shall be considered.

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d. In the performance of the activities under this Project Document, each sub-party shall (with respect to its own activities), and shall require from its sub-parties (with respect to their activities) that they, have minimum standards and procedures in place, or a plan to develop and/or improve such standards and procedures in order to be able to take effective preventive and investigative action. These should include: policies on sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse; policies on whistleblowing/protection against retaliation; and complaints, disciplinary and investigative mechanisms. In line with this, sub-parties will and will require that their respective sub-parties will take all appropriate measures to:

   (i) Prevent its employees, agents or any other persons engaged to perform any services under this Project Document, from engaging in SH or SEA;

   (ii) Offer employees and associated personnel training on prevention and response to SH and SEA, where sub-parties have not put in place its own training regarding the prevention of SH and SEA, sub-parties may use the training material available at UNDP;

   (iii) Report and monitor allegations of SH and SEA of which any of the sub-parties have been informed or have otherwise become aware, and status thereof;

   (iv) Refer victims/survivors of SH and SEA to safe and confidential victim assistance; and

   (v) Promptly and confidentially record and investigate any allegations credible enough to warrant an investigation of SH or SEA. Each sub-party shall advise UNDP of any such allegations received and investigations being conducted by itself or any of its sub-parties with respect to their activities under the Project Document, and shall keep UNDP informed during the investigation by it or any of such sub-parties, to the extent that such notification (i) does not jeopardize the conduct of the investigation, including but not limited to the safety or security of persons, and/or (ii) is not in contravention of any laws applicable to it. Following the investigation, the relevant sub-party shall advise UNDP of any actions taken by it or any of the other entities further to the investigation.

e. Each sub-party shall establish that it has complied with the foregoing, to the satisfaction of UNDP, when requested by UNDP or any party acting on its behalf to provide such confirmation. Failure of the relevant sub-party to comply of the foregoing, as determined by UNDP, shall be considered grounds for suspension or termination of the Project.

f. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will ensure that any project activities undertaken by them will be implemented in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards and shall ensure that any incidents or issues of non-compliance shall be reported to UNDP in accordance with UNDP Social and Environmental Standards.

g. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will take appropriate steps to prevent misuse of funds, fraud, corruption or other financial irregularities, by its officials, consultants, subcontractors and sub-recipients in implementing the project or programme or using the UNDP funds. It will ensure that its financial management, anti-corruption, anti-fraud and anti money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism policies are in place and enforced for all funding received from or through UNDP.

h. The requirements of the following documents, then in force at the time of signature of the Project Document, apply to each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient: (a) UNDP Policy on Fraud and other Corrupt Practices (b) UNDP Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Policy; and (c) UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations Investigation Guidelines. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-

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recipient agrees to the requirements of the above documents, which are an integral part of this Project Document and are available online at www.undp.org.

i. In the event that an investigation is required, UNDP will conduct investigations relating to any aspect of UNDP programmes and projects. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will provide its full cooperation, including making available personnel, relevant documentation, and granting access to its (and its consultants', subcontractors' and sub-recipients') premises, for such purposes at reasonable times and on reasonable conditions as may be required for the purpose of an investigation. Should there be a limitation in meeting this obligation, UNDP shall consult with it to find a solution.

j. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will promptly inform UNDP as the Implementing Partner in case of any incidence of inappropriate use of funds, or credible allegation of fraud, corruption other financial irregularities with due confidentiality.

   Where it becomes aware that a UNDP project or activity, in whole or in part, is the focus of investigation for alleged fraud/corruption, each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will inform the UNDP Resident Representative/Head of Office, who will promptly inform UNDP's Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI). It will provide regular updates to the head of UNDP in the country and OAI of the status of, and actions relating to, such investigation.

k. UNDP will be entitled to a refund from the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient of any funds provided that have been used inappropriately, including through fraud corruption or other financial irregularities, or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Project Document. Such amount may be deducted by UNDP from any payment due to the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient under this or any other agreement.

   Where such funds have not been refunded to UNDP, the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient agrees that donors to UNDP (including the Government) whose funding is the source, in whole or in part, of the funds for the activities under this Project Document, may seek recourse to such responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient for the recovery of any funds determined by UNDP to have been used inappropriately, including through fraud, corruption or other financial irregularities, or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Project Document.

   Note: The term "Project Document" as used in this clause shall be deemed to include any relevant subsidiary agreement further to the Project Document, including those with responsible parties, subcontractors and sub-recipients.

l. Each contract issued by the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient in connection with this Project Document shall include a provision representing that no fees, gratuities, rebates, gifts, commissions or other payments, other than those shown in the proposal, have been given, received, or promised in connection with the selection process or in contract execution, and that the recipient of funds from it shall cooperate with any and all investigations and post-payment audits.

m. Should UNDP refer to the relevant national authorities for appropriate legal action any alleged wrongdoing relating to the project or programme, the Government will ensure that the relevant national authorities shall

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actively investigate the same and take appropriate legal action against all individuals found to have participated in the wrongdoing, recover and return any recovered funds to UNDP.

n. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient shall ensure that all of its obligations set forth under this section entitled “Risk Management” are passed on to its subcontractors and sub-recipients and that all the clauses under this section entitled “Risk Management Standard Clauses” are adequately reflected, *mutatis mutandis*, in all its sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into further to this Project Document.

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XI. ANNEXES

1. **Social and Environmental Screening**
2. **Risk Log**
3. **Capacity Assessments**
4. **Project Quality Assurance Report**
5. **GESI Concept Note and Action Plan**
6. **Project Board Terms of Reference**
7. **Grievance Redress Mechanism Terms of Reference**
8. **Project Manager Terms of Reference**
9. **Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) Minutes**

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Annex 1: Risk Analysis

Social and Environmental Screening

Project Information

Project Information	
1. Project Title	**Renewable Energy for Resilient Agri-Food Systems (RERAS)**
2. Project Number (i.e. Atlas project ID, PIMS+)	01001010
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	Nepal (20 Local Governments in 8 Districts of 4 Provinces)
4. Project stage (Design or Implementation)	Implementation
5. Date	15 November 2024

Part A. Integrating Programming Principles to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability

QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Programming Principles in Order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?
Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams the human rights-based approach
The project primarily aims to enhance access to reliable and affordable energy solutions to support the agricultural value chain, thereby increasing agricultural productivity and improving food and nutritional security in remote, off-grid areas of Nepal. In alignment with UNDP's human rights-based approach, the project is committed to ensuring that all individuals, especially marginalized and vulnerable populations, can exercise their rights to basic services such as electricity and food, as enshrined in the 2015 Constitution of Nepal. Working in close collaboration with government bodies, cooperatives, traders, and service providers, the project promotes modern technologies that support production and food system management. Through a water-energy-agriculture nexus approach, the project contributes to achieving national targets on SDG1 (poverty), SDG2 (zero hunger), SDG4 (quality education), SDG5 (gender equality), and SDG7 (affordable and clean energy), reinforcing rights to essential services. The project envisions that at least 70% of participants will be women, youth, and individuals from vulnerable, disadvantaged, and socially excluded groups, thereby strengthening their food security, building their capacities to manage energy systems, and promoting equal opportunities in energy-based agro-processing enterprises. This approach not only ensures inclusivity and non-discrimination but also actively empowers marginalized groups to claim their rights and participate meaningfully throughout the project cycle.
Briefly describe in the space below how the project is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment

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The Project has been designed to primarily ensure access to renewable energy and affordable energy solutions that can provided better socio-economic benefit within these communities, such as rehabilitating damaged Micro Hydro Powers (MHPs) to restore electricity access to rural communities in earthquake affected areas of western Nepal. Most of these areas experience huge out-male migration to urban areas, leading to a feminization of agriculture among rural villages in Nepal. The Project adopts the Water-Food-Energy nexus approach, linking water through hydro power technology with the agriculture sector, i.e. installation of MHP-powered lift irrigation schemes to irrigate dry land. In the Project's inception phase, RERAS has already installed four lift irrigation systems to provide irrigation to 31. Ha of land. Most of this area is under the responsibility of women, who receive training on sustainable and climate resilient agriculture practices, such as home-grown vegetable farming.

As per the Project's Result-Based Framework, the target beneficiaries will be at least 70% women and members of vulnerable, disadvantaged groups. Interventions are designed to promote productive end use of energy and increase access to finance for both agriculture/non agriculture based enterprises. Activities under the projects first outcome are designed under the GEN3-marker, with the aim to promote women farmers in decision-making bodies and capacity development trainings for transformative impact. Assessments have been conducted by the regional knowledge hub ICIMOD to identify gender-responsive agriculture technologies, such as electric corn shellers and multi-crop threshers, to reduce drudgery and and time-poverty of especially rural women farmers.

A GESI strategy for the project has been designed during the initiation phase of the project along with a GESI Action Plan which will be implemented in all stages of the project cycle.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams sustainability and resilience

The project mainstreams sustainability and resilience by actively engaging local municipalities and stakeholders in local and federal level consultations, including with potential beneficiaries, local entrepreneurs, cooperatives, and companies, to identify and capacitate them during the project phase with the aim to promote local ownership.

Emphasizing a 'systems approach,' the project aims to strengthen institutional capacities at the local level and within the agricultural value chain, i.e. capacitating value chain actors, through policy interventions and targeted actions using renewable energy solutions, gender-responsive technologies, and increasing access to finance. For energy system interventions, such as rehabilitation of MHPs, comprehensive feasibility studies along with social and environmental screenings will be conducted before implementation to identify site-specific risks such as those that might affect sustainability and resilience, with activities coordinated and financed in partnership with local governments and cooperatives to promote ownership and long-term capacity for the successful operation and maintenance of energy-based technologies. Post-rehabilitation support will focus on institutional strengthening to ensure smooth and profitable plant operation for the promotion of productive end-use of electricity, especially for the agriculture sector, where a climate resilient agriculture approach is taken to support sustainable farming.

Additionally, given the potential expansion of the national grid system to Karnali, the project is closely coordinating with the Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC), the engineering arm of the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources, and Irrigation, as well as with the National Electricity Authority. This collaboration aims to facilitate grid interconnection of the mini-hydro plants while leveraging necessary subsidies from AEPC.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project strengthens accountability to stakeholders

The project will be managed by UNDP under the Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) and guided by UNDP's standard programmatic and operational policies and guidelines. UNDP will establish a dedicated Project Management Unit (PMU) led by the Project Manager, responsible for the day-to-day management of the project under the overall guidance of the Portfolio Manager, who works closely with the Deputy Resident Representative (DRR). UNDP will oversee project finance management, donor reporting, quality assurance of project results, risk management, and the achievement of project outcomes.
To strengthen accountability, UNDP will set up a Project Board, chaired by the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative and including members from the Royal Norwegian Embassy, AEPC, MoALD, Heads of Responsible Parties, and representatives from the Karnali and Sudurpashchim provincial

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governments. The Project Board will serve as the highest governance body for project quality assurance and oversight, reviewing project performance based on monitoring, evaluation, and reporting, including progress reports, risk logs, work plans, HR & Procurement plans, and delivery reports. The Project Board is responsible for making management decisions that ensure value for money, fairness, timeliness, integrity, transparency, and effectiveness. During the inception phase, three Project Boards have taken place, with bi-annual meetings planned for the remainder of project implementation.
The project will further strengthen accountability by preparing annual work plans, M&E plans, and HR and Procurement plans, all of which will be reviewed and endorsed by the Board. Quarterly and annual progress reports, GESI plans, risk and issues logs will be submitted to the Board, along with risk reports and mitigation treatments by the Project Team. Budgets are allocated to monitor the M&E plan, with at least two joint high-level field missions with the Royal Norwegian Embassy to monitor activities and review progress. An independent end-line survey will be conducted at the end of the project to assess project impact and the sustainability of results based on the targets prescribed in the Project Results Framework following the baseline survey.

Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks? *Note: Complete SESP Attachment 1 before responding to Question 2.*	**QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks?** *Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5 below before proceeding to Question 5*			**QUESTION 6: Describe the assessment and management measures for each risk rated Moderate, Substantial or High**
Risk Description (broken down by event, cause, impact)	***Impact and Likelihood (1-5)***	***Significance (Low, Moderate Substantial, High)***	***Comments (optional)***	***Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High***
Risk 1: There is a risk that the project may result in inequitable or discriminatory impacts on marginalized or excluded individuals, and may exclude them from fully participating in decisions that affect them. *Human Rights and Accountability (P2, P3, P5, P6, P13, P14)*	I = 3 L =3	**Moderate**	This risk arises due to the lack of capacity among duty-bearers (e.g., government agencies) to meet their obligations, rights-holders (e.g., project-affected persons) to claim their rights, and insufficient stakeholder engagement and communication. With the project being implemented by multiple partners, local communities might not be fully aware of mechanisms to claim their rights if violations occur. There is also a risk that affected populations may be misrepresented and not adequately engaged in project processes, leading to grievances or objections and undermining the project's effectiveness and community support.	To mitigate the risk of inequitable or discriminatory impacts on marginalized or excluded individuals, the project implements a series of inclusive and participatory measures. Comprehensive baseline assessments are conducted through consultative processes with local communities and governments to ensure targeted beneficiaries are aware of their rights and opportunities within the project. A Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) strategy and action plan are developed to foster inclusive participation, complemented by a Stakeholder Engagement Plan to ensure diverse representation in decision-making processes. Grievance Redress Mechanisms and Stakeholder Response Mechanisms are established and communicated clearly to beneficiaries, providing

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				accessible and confidential channels for raising and addressing concerns. For infrastructure-related interventions, independent Social and Environmental Safeguard (SES) assessments are conducted by qualified SES experts. These assessments ensure that all social and environmental considerations are thoroughly addressed and that appropriate mitigation measures are implemented before construction begins. This approach reinforces accountability and promotes sustainable, inclusive outcomes across the project lifecycle.
Risk 2: There is a risk that the influx of project workers into the community may exacerbate risks of gender-based violence and disrupt social dynamics. *Gender Equality and Community Health, Safety and Security (P12, 3.7)*	I = 3 L = 1	**Low**	This risk arises due to changes in community and household power dynamics and the strain on local resources resulting from an influx of workers. Such changes may lead to increased harassment or violence against women and girls, negatively affecting their safety and well-being and potentially undermining the project's success.	To mitigate the risk of exacerbating gender-based violence and disrupting social dynamics due to the influx of project workers, the project implements a multi-faceted approach. A comprehensive Gender Action Plan (GAP) is implemented and will be monitored by the project to prevent and address incidents of gender-based violence and ensure gender-sensitive project execution. Regular orientation and training sessions are conducted for all partners, vendors, and their staff to uphold and enforce policies on Sexual Harassment (SH) and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA). These sessions ensure that all personnel are aware of their responsibilities and the zero-tolerance stance towards any form of gender-based misconduct. Orientations are organized within project communities to educate workers and resident, with GESI as a cross-cutting issue in all interventions. Most construction work will be done by the local communities themselves, although a few skilled workers is used through vendors and partners to oversee construction. The influx of project workers will therefore be limited. A Grievance Redress Mechanism is established and made accessible, allowing community members, especially women and girls, to report incidents confidentially and receive timely support. This mechanism ensures accountability and provides a structured process for addressing grievances. These proactive measures collectively strengthen community resilience and safeguard the project's success.

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Risk 3: There is a risk that the project's agricultural interventions may adversely impact soils due to practices like excessive use of chemical fertilizers and poor soil management, which could lead to soil degradation and reduced fertility. *Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management (1.7)*	I = 2 L = 2	**Low**	This risk arises from the potential for farmers, including smallholder and semi-commercial farmers, to adopt intensive agriculture practices without proper guidance. The use of chemical fertilizers without adequate soil management can degrade soil health over time, negatively affecting long-term agricultural productivity. There's a need to ensure that agricultural interventions promote sustainable practices to maintain soil fertility and prevent environmental degradation.	To address the risk of soil degradation from agricultural interventions, the project implements sustainable agricultural practices that promote soil health and long-term productivity through a local NGO LI-BIRD with long expertise on community-led resilient agriculture extension work. Climate-resilient agriculture practices, such as conservation farming techniques, are actively promoted to reduce environmental impacts and maintain soil fertility. Additionally, to support biodiversity and sustainable agriculture, the project encourages the cultivation of indigenous crops and local production of fruits and vegetables, targeting smallholder farmers. This approach reduces dependency on chemical inputs and fosters the resilience of farming systems. The project collaborates with ICIMOD to leverage their expertise in conducting assessments and studies, ensuring that all introduced technologies and practices are sustainable, environmentally friendly, and suitable for local conditions. For semi-commercial farmers looking to expand their market reach, the project promotes organic fertilizers through initiatives such as improved cattle shed management, production of jholmol (organic fertilizer), and other conservation farming techniques. These efforts minimize the reliance on chemical fertilizers and mitigate soil health risks. Additionally, farmer field schools are established to build farmers' capacity in sustainable agricultural practices and effective soil management. These schools provide training and practical knowledge on soil conservation techniques, ensuring that farmers are equipped to adopt environmentally sound farming practices.
Risk 4: There is a risk that natural hazards and climate change impacts could disrupt project activities, damage infrastructure, and increase community vulnerability. *Climate Change and Disaster Risks (2.1)*	I = 3 L = 4	**Moderate**	his risk arises because the project areas are subject to earthquakes, floods, and landslides, and project outputs are sensitive to climate change impacts like increased precipitation or extreme events. Additionally, project activities may inadvertently encourage development in hazard-prone areas (maladaptive practices), which could pose safety risks to staff and beneficiaries, affect the sustainability of project benefits, and lead to greater exposure of communities to climate-related hazards. Most of the infrastructure work involves the rehabilitation of already established micro-hydro power plants, focusing on resilient reinforcements rather than new construction. Integrating protective measures and disaster-resilient infrastructure into sub-project design is essential.	To mitigate the risks associated with natural hazards and climate change impacts, the project prioritizes the rehabilitation of already existing micro-hydro power plants rather than initiating new construction. This approach focuses on integrating resilient reinforcements and disaster-resilient designs into the sub-projects to withstand potential hazards such as earthquakes, floods, and landslides. All infrastructure-related activities undergo thorough Social and Environmental Safeguard (SES) assessments conducted by independent SES experts to identify and address risks effectively, with associated mitigation plans. These assessments ensure that potential climate vulnerabilities and disaster risks are incorporated into the implementation of the project. Protective measures, such as reinforced infrastructure, are embedded within all sub-project designs to safeguard both the facilities and the communities that depend on them.

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Risk 5: There is a risk that construction and infrastructure development, combined with adverse climatic conditions and natural calamities (such as earthquakes, floods, and landslides), may pose health and safety hazards to workers and local communities while potentially damaging project infrastructure. *Climate Change and Disaster Risks, and Community Health, Safety and Security (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.3)*	I = 4 L = 2	**Moderate**	This risk arises from challenging geographical locations and difficult terrain conditions (including steep slopes, high altitudes, sharp turns, and riverbanks). The nature of construction work, such as excavation, confined spaces, and working at heights, poses physical hazards. Additional contributing factors include inadequate site studies during feasibility phases, insufficient Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) protocols, and unpredictable adverse climatic conditions. Migrant workers may face stressors from working away from home, and terrain instability exacerbates risks.	To address health and safety risks associated with construction and infrastructure development, the project implements comprehensive Social and Environmental Safeguard (SES) assessments for all sub-projects. These assessments, conducted by independent SES experts, identify potential risks related to construction activities, natural hazards, and climate impacts, ensuring that appropriate mitigation measures are planned and implemented. The project emphasizes protective measures, such as reinforced infrastructure designs, to minimize physical hazards during excavation, work in confined spaces, and other high-risk activities. Disaster-resilient infrastructure features are integrated into rehabilitation works, particularly for existing micro-hydro power plants, to enhance their capacity to withstand earthquakes, floods, and landslides. Strict Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) protocols are enforced at all work sites. These include providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to all workers, maintaining first-aid kits on-site, and establishing access control mechanisms to prevent unauthorized entry into hazardous areas. Safety awareness sessions are conducted before construction begins, with periodic refreshers to reinforce compliance. To further reduce risks, the project prioritizes the rehabilitation of existing infrastructure rather than new construction in hazard-prone areas, thereby avoiding maladaptive practices. Hazard mapping is incorporated into site selection and planning processes to ensure construction activities are not undertaken in high-risk zones. Finally, community engagement sessions are conducted to raise awareness about potential health and safety risks, and grievance redress mechanisms are established to address any safety concerns from local stakeholders. Regular monitoring visits and reviews are carried out to continuously improve risk management practices.
Risk 6: There is a risk that project activities, such as construction and rehabilitation, may generate hazardous and non-hazardous waste, which, if not properly	I = 2 L = 2	**Low**	The risks stem from the spoil generated during excavation, packaging waste, and construction-related activities. These environmental hazards can lead to pollution, health issues, and disruption of community life. However, as most interventions involve small-scale and locally driven infrastructure, the environmental impact is expected to be minimal. The project also promotes renewable energy systems, which	To mitigate environmental and health risks from waste and other potential hazards associated with construction and rehabilitation activities, the project has developed comprehensive Waste Management Plans (WMPs) for each sub-project. These WMPs ensure safe handling, storage, and disposal of both hazardous and non-hazardous waste, minimizing the risk of pollution. An Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) accompanies each cluster of infrastructure activities, guiding the

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managed, could cause environmental pollution and pose health hazards to the community. Additional risks include air pollution, noise, vibration, runoff, and erosion, which could negatively affect community health and safety. *Community Health, Safety and Security, and Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency (3.2, 8.2)*			reduce reliance on fossil fuel generators, further minimizing environmental harm.	construction and operation phases to address potential environmental hazards. The project's focus on small-scale, locally driven systems, like run-of-the-river hydropower plants, ensures that environmental impact remains low. These systems produce minimal waste, further reducing potential harm. Additionally, the project promotes renewable energy solutions, reducing community reliance on fossil-fuel generators and thus lowering air pollution levels and enhancing resilience, particularly in remote, off-grid areas where fuel access is sometimes limited due to road conditions. To safeguard community health and safety, construction plans include measures to mitigate erosion and runoff, while safety protocols for workers and community members are enforced.
Risk 7: There is a risk that project activities may negatively impact indigenous peoples' communities and cultural heritage due to inadequate consideration of their rights and needs and insufficient culturally appropriate consultations. *Indigenous Peoples (6.1)*	I = 2 L = 2	**Low**	This risk is particularly relevant as many subprojects are located in off-grid, remote areas inhabited by indigenous peoples. Without careful planning and culturally sensitive engagement, project activities may result in the loss of cultural heritage, diminished livelihoods, community grievances, or legal challenges. Such outcomes could delay project implementation and damage the project's reputation.	Project sites are selected in collaboration with local governments and local communities to avoid culturally sensitive areas. The project is guided by UNDP's Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) strategy and relevant government policies to reinforce its commitment of promoting inclusive practices that respect indigenous rights and needs. Independent Social and Environmental Safeguard (SES) assessments are conducted to identify any potential impacts on indigenous communities and cultural heritage, with mitigation measures implemented prior to project activities. Additionally, the project builds capacity of farmer groups including indigenous people by collaborating with the local government, leaders and organizations, fostering understanding and partnership for successful project implementation. As part of the project's interventions, indigenous crops and traditional farming methods are promoted.
Risk 8: There is a risk that project activities may involve unsafe working conditions that do not meet national labor laws and international commitments, potentially leading to worker	I = 3 L = 3	**Moderate**	This risk arises from insufficient Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) plans, inadequate provision of safety equipment, lack of worker training, and non-compliance with labor laws. Contributing factors include exposure to physical, chemical, biological, and psychosocial hazards during construction activities.	The project enforces strict adherence to national labour laws and international standards to maintain ethical, safe, and equitable working conditions. Child labour is strictly prohibited, with regular monitoring and verification to ensure compliance, especially in agricultural activities. All Responsible Parties have undergone a thorough Partnership Capacity Assessment Tool (PCAT) assessment, including spot checks and audits, and have received training on fiduciary matters and Social and Environmental Safeguards (SES). Additionally, the

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exploitation, inequality, or accidents. *Labour and Working conditions (7.1, 7.3, 7.5, 7.6)*				project's Letter of Agreement includes clauses on compliant working conditions and worker protections. To foster an inclusive environment, the project promotes non-discriminatory practices and equal opportunities, focusing on marginalized groups. Comprehensive Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) measures are implemented, including the provision of safety equipment, training, and protocols to mitigate physical, chemical, biological, and psychosocial risks throughout the project lifecycle. Regular audits and monitoring are conducted to identify any gaps in compliance, and capacity-building initiatives ensure that workers and contractors understand labour rights, safety protocols, and equal opportunity practices. This approach safeguards worker well-being and mitigates risks of exploitation, inequality, and accidents.		
	QUESTION 4: What is the overall project risk categorization?					
	Low Risk	☐				
	Moderate Risk	✓				
	Substantial Risk	☐				
	High Risk	☐				
	QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are triggered? (check all that apply)					
	Question only required for Moderate, Substantial and High Risk projects					
	Is assessment required? (check if "yes")	☐			***Status? (completed, planned)***	
	if yes, indicate overall type and status		✓	Targeted assessment(s)	**Completed**: Site-specific SES assessments, Baseline survey, PCAT **Planned:** Site-specific SES assessments	
			☐	ESIA (Environmental and Social Impact Assessment)		
			☐	SESA (Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment)		
	Are management plans required? (check if "yes)	✓				
	If yes, indicate overall type		✓	Gender Action Plan	Completed	
			✓	Waste Management Plan	Completed (per sub-project)	

			✓	OHS Guidelines and Plan GRM	Completed (per sub-project)
			✓	ESMP (Environmental and Social Management Plan)	Completed (Per sub-projects)
			☐	ESMF (Environmental and Social Management Framework)	
	Based on identified <u>risks</u>, which Principles/Project-level Standards triggered?		**Comments (not required)**		
	Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind				
	Human Rights	✓			
	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	✓			
	Accountability	✓			
	1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	✓			
	2. Climate Change and Disaster Risks	✓			
	3. Community Health, Safety and Security	✓			
	4. Cultural Heritage	☐			
	5. Displacement and Resettlement	☐			
	6. Indigenous Peoples	✓			
	7. Labour and Working Conditions	✓			
	8. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	✓			

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Final Sign Off

Final Screening at the design-stage is not complete until the following signatures are included

Signature	Signature & Date	Description
QA Assessor Kalpana Sarkar, Portfolio Manager, UNDP	DocuSigned by: 22-Nov-2024 3B6EEA93108A40D...	UNDP staff member responsible for the project, typically a UNDP Programme Officer. Final signature confirms they have "checked" to ensure that the SESP is adequately conducted.
QA Approver Julien Chevillard, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP	DocuSigned by: 22-Nov-2024 2B6D826A661446B...	UNDP senior manager, typically the UNDP Deputy Country Director (DCD), Country Director (CD), Deputy Resident Representative (DRR), or Resident Representative (RR). The QA Approver cannot also be the QA Assessor. Final signature confirms they have "cleared" the SESP prior to submittal to the PAC.
PAC Chair Julien Chevillard, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP	DocuSigned by: 22-Nov-2024 2B6D826A661446B...	UNDP chair of the PAC. In some cases PAC Chair may also be the QA Approver. Final signature confirms that the SESP was considered as part of the project appraisal and considered in recommendations of the PAC.

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Annex 2: Project Risk Log

Project: Renewable Energy for Resilient Agri-Food Systems (RERAS)	Project ID: 01001010	Consolidated Risk Log - 19/11/2024

#	Event	Cause	Impact(s)	Risk Category and Sub-category *(including Risk Appetite)*	Impact, Likelihood & Risk Level *(see Annex 3 Risk Matrix)*	Risk Valid From/To	Risk Owner *(individual accountable for managing the risk)*	Risk Treatment and Treatment Owner
1	There is a risk that the project may result in inequitable or discriminatory impacts on marginalized or excluded individuals, and may exclude them from fully participating in decisions that affect them.	As a result of **lack of primary data** and **inadequate demographic and social data**, coupled with **poor technical assessments** and **ineffective beneficiary selection criteria**. **Insufficient consultations with the local community** may lead to key groups not being included in stakeholder engagement. **Communication gaps due to language differences**, misrepresentation, or not fully engaging affected populations in the planning or	Which will impact in **poor prioritization of targeted beneficiaries**, community needs, and the technical design of infrastructure, leading to **possible exclusion errors** and **increased disparities among affected populations**. This may result in **community resistance**, **project delays**, and a **negative public perception**, ultimately causing a **loss of trust** in the project.	**1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.1. Human rights) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS**	Likelihood: **3 - Moderately likely** Impact: **3 - Intermediate** Risk level: **MODERATE (equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)**	From: 01-Jan-25 To: 31-Jul-27	Pragyajan Rai; Portfolio Manager, R&E	**Risk Treatment 1.1**: Undertake detailed disaggregated data requirements and data identification to update baselines and targets. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS **Risk Treatment 1.2**: Undertake thorough disaggregated data analysis to identify data quality, gaps, requirements for data modeling, and plan for additional data collection early in the project. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS **Risk Treatment 1.3**: Exercise a participatory and consultative process to prepare a strong baseline, along with the preparation of a Gender Equality, and Social Inclusion (GESI) concept note and Gender Action Plan (GAP). Key stakeholder consultations have taken place during the inception phase, while ongoing consultations with the relevant stakeholders will take place during implementation. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS

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		implementation process exacerbate the issue. Additionally, **power imbalances**, where dominant groups overshadow marginalized voices, contribute to the risk.						**Risk Treatment 1.4**: Establish grievance redressal mechanism, and continuously monitor to ensure inclusion and equality **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS
2	There is a risk that the influx of project workers into the community may exacerbate risks of gender-based violence and disrupt social dynamics. .	As a result of the **influx of project workers and migrant laborers into project areas** and **lack of awareness on sexual harassment (SH) and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA)**.	Which will impact in **social disharmony in the field** and result in **reputational risks**.	**1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.13. Sexual exploitation and abuse) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS**	Likelihood: **1 - Not likely** Impact: **3 - Intermediate** Risk level: **LOW (equates to a risk appetite of CAUTIOUS)**	From: 01-Jan-25 To: 31-Jul-27	Pragyajan Rai; Portfolio Manager, R&E	**Risk Treatment 2.1**: Gender Action Plan is in place and will be continuously monitored to avoid any unforeseen incidences. **Risk Treatment 2.2**: Regular orientation and trainings organized for partners, vendors, and their staff to follow standard practices regarding SH/SEA Policy. **Risk Treatment 2.3**: Establish accessible channels for feedback and addressing grievances, and continuously monitor for inequities to make necessary adjustments. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS
3	There is a risk that the project's agricultural interventions may adversely impact soils due to practices like excessive use of	As a result of the **promotion of commercial-level farming of local indigenous crops**, there is a risk of communities adopting	Which will impact in the **degradation of soil organic matter** and **increased water pollution**.	**1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.4. Biodiversity conservation and**	Likelihood: **2 - Low likelihood** Impact: **2 - Minor**	From: 01-Jan-25 To: 31-Jul-27	Pragyajan Rai; Portfolio Manager, R&E	**Risk Treatment 3.1**: Promotion of conservation and organic farming practices will be implemented in the project site. Farmer field schools will be operated to enhance farmers' capacity on better soil management and conservation farming approaches. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS

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	chemical fertilizers and poor soil management, which could lead to soil degradation and reduced fertility.	intensive agricultural practices, including **excessive use of chemical fertilizers**.		**sustainable natural resource management) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS**	Risk level: **LOW (equates to a risk appetite of CAUTIOUS)**			**Risk Treatment 3.2**: The project will prioritize conservation agriculture practices that have been piloted and tested by ICIMOD and scale up their application in the region. Farmer field schools will facilitate the increased adoption of conservation farming practices to boost soil organic matter. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS
								Risk Treatment 3.3: The project partners with LI-BIRD, a local NGO with extensive expertise in community-led resilient agriculture, to implement sustainable agricultural practices. These practices promote soil health and long-term productivity by emphasizing conservation farming techniques, organic fertilizer production, and the cultivation of indigenous crops. This approach ensures that agricultural interventions are environmentally sustainable and reduce the risk of soil degradation. **Risk Treatment Owner: Project Manager - RERAS**
4	There is a risk that natural hazards and climate change impacts could disrupt project activities, damage infrastructure, and increase community vulnerability.	As a result of **insufficient geotechnical surveys**, **inadequate hazard mapping**, **poor engineering design**, **budget constraints**, and **lack of expertise**.	Which will impact in **damage to infrastructure** and lead to **economic loss**.	**1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.5. Climate change and disaster risks) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS**	Likelihood: **4 - Highly likely** Impact: **3 - Intermediate** Risk level: **MODERATE (equates to a risk appetite of**	From: 01-Jan-25 To: 31-Jul-27	Pragyajan Rai; Portfolio Manager, R&E	**Risk Treatment 4.1:** The project mitigates risks from natural hazards and climate change impacts by prioritizing the rehabilitation of existing micro-hydro power plants instead of initiating new construction. Resilient reinforcements and disaster-resilient designs are integrated into sub-projects to ensure infrastructure can withstand potential hazards, including earthquakes, floods, and landslides. **Risk Treatment Owner:** Project Manager - RERAS

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					EXPLORATORY)			**Risk Treatment 4.1**: The project will conduct comprehensive SES (Social and Environmental Safeguard) surveys to ensure all sub-project risks are accounted for, particularly in areas vulnerable to seismic and non-seismic hazards. Most of the energy component will focus on supporting the rehabilitation of existing mini/micro hydro projects operating on run-off river systems, which generally pose minimal environmental risks. These systems are primarily functional but require repairs or capacity restoration due to degradation or prior damage. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS
								Risk Treatment 4.3: Protective measures, including reinforced infrastructure, are embedded within all sub-project designs to safeguard facilities and ensure the safety and resilience of the communities reliant on them. **Risk Treatment Owner:** Project Manager - RERAS

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5	There is a risk that construction and infrastructure development, combined with adverse climatic conditions and natural calamities (such as earthquakes, floods, and landslides), may pose health and safety hazards to workers and local communities while potentially damaging project infrastructure.	As a result of challenging geographical locations and difficult terrain conditions (including steep slopes, high altitudes, sharp turns, and riverbanks). The nature of construction work in these areas, such as excavation, confined spaces, and working at heights, poses physical hazards. Additional contributing factors include inadequate site studies during feasibility phases, insufficient Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) protocols, and unpredictable adverse climatic conditions. Migrant workers may face stressors from working away from home, and terrain instability exacerbates risks.	Which will impact in increased project costs due to reconstruction and rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure, delays in project delivery, and financial implications from accidents and potential fatalities. These challenges may also disrupt access to energy systems, leading to reputational risks.	**3. OPERATIONAL (3.7. Occupational safety, health and well-being) - UNDP Risk Appetite: EXPLORATORY TO OPEN**	Likelihood: **2 - Low likelihood** Impact: **4 - Extensive** Risk level: **MODERATE (equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)**	From: 01-Jan-25 To: 31-Jul-27	Pragyajan Rai; Portfolio Manager, R&E	**Risk Treatment 5.1:** The project conducts thorough Social and Environmental Safeguard (SES) assessments before initiating any construction activities. These assessments guide the development of OHS plans, which include construction precautions, evacuation plans, and engineering and safety protocols to mitigate risks. **Risk Treatment Owner:** Project Manager - RERAS **Risk Treatment 5.2:** Health and safety precautions include mandatory OHS training for all workers, the provision of safety equipment, and regular monitoring of contractor compliance with national and international labor safety standards. Contingency budgeting ensures staff safety even under adverse conditions**.** **Risk Treatment Owner:** Project Manager - RERAS **Risk Treatment 5.3:** Feasibility studies are conducted to map potential hazard conditions during site selection. Hazard mapping is used to avoid high-risk zones and ensure construction activities incorporate reinforced infrastructure designs to withstand earthquakes, floods, and landslides.

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								Risk Treatment Owner: Project Manager - RERAS
								Risk Treatment 5.4: The project emphasizes protective measures, including reinforced infrastructure designs, to minimize physical hazards during high-risk activities such as excavation and work in confined spaces. Disaster-resilient infrastructure features are integrated into rehabilitation works, particularly for existing micro-hydro power plants, to enhance their capacity to withstand earthquakes, floods, and landslides. **Risk Treatment Owner: Project Manager - RERAS**
								Risk Treatment 5.5: The project prioritizes the rehabilitation of existing infrastructure to minimize risks associated with new construction in hazard-prone areas. Disaster-resilient features are integrated into rehabilitation works to enhance their capacity to endure climatic and seismic events. **Risk Treatment Owner:** Project Manager - RERAS

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6	There is a risk that project activities, such as construction and rehabilitation, may generate hazardous and non-hazardous waste, which, if not properly managed, could cause environmental pollution and pose health hazards to the community. Additional risks include air pollution, noise, vibration, runoff, and erosion, which could negatively affect community health and safety.	As a result of **poor environmental assessment, inadequate risk mapping, and substandard technical design**, debris generated from excavation and packaging waste may lead to **soil erosion and environmental pollution**.	Which will impact in an **increased financial burden** and potential risks to downstream communities, including **environmental pollution** (contamination of land and water sources), **health hazards** (increased health risks for local communities), **negative public perception** (loss of community support and trust), and **regulatory non-compliance** (potential fines and legal issues)..	**1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.11. Pollution prevention and resource efficiency) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS**	Likelihood: **2 - Low likelihood** Impact: **2 - Minor** Risk level: **LOW (equates to a risk appetite of CAUTIOUS)**	From: 01-Jan-25 To: 31-Jul-27	Pragyajan Rai; Portfolio Manager, R&E	**Risk Treatment 6.1**: Most of the energy component focuses on supporting the rehabilitation of existing mini/micro hydro projects that operate on run-off river systems, which typically have minimal environmental impact. However, enhanced capacity building for technical representatives of local governments (LGs) will be provided to improve their ability to map and assess environmental effects, enabling them to implement mitigating measures for repair and maintenance interventions. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS **Risk Treatment 6.2**: Mitigation measures will be outlined in the subproject-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs). Additionally, a waste management plan will be developed for all infrastructure-related construction interventions to manage waste effectively and prevent environmental pollution. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS

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7	There is a risk that project activities may negatively impact indigenous peoples' communities and cultural heritage due to inadequate consideration of their rights and needs and insufficient culturally appropriate consultations.	As a result of **lack of understanding or respect for local cultural norms and sensitive sites**, **failure to adequately consult with local communities about their concerns and cultural values**, and **potential harm to culturally significant natural sites**.	Which will impact in **increased resistance and protests from local communities**, **significant delays due to conflicts and the need for conflict resolution**, **negative publicity and loss of trust with the local population**, and **potential legal actions taken by communities to protect their cultural sites**.	**1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.9. Indigenous peoples) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS**	Likelihood: **2 - Low likelihood** Impact: **2 - Minor** Risk level: **LOW (equates to a risk appetite of CAUTIOUS)**	From: 01-Jan-25 To: 31-Jul-27	Pragyajan Rai; Portfolio Manager, R&E	**Risk Treatment 7.1:** Project sites will be selected in collaboration with local governments and local communities to avoid culturally sensitive areas and minimize potential negative impacts on cultural heritage. A Gender Equality, and Social Inclusion (GESI) strategy reinforces inclusive practices that respect indigenous rights and needs**.** **Risk Treatment Owner: Project Manager - RERAS**
								Risk Treatment 7.2: Independent Social and Environmental Safeguard (SES) assessments will be conducted prior to project activities to identify any potential impacts on indigenous communities and cultural heritage. Mitigation measures will be developed and implemented based on the findings of these assessments to ensure cultural sensitivity and minimal disruption. **Risk Treatment Owner: Project Manager - RERAS**

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								Risk Treatment 7.3: The project builds capacity of farmer groups including indigenous people by collaborating with the local government, leaders and organizations, fostering understanding and partnership for successful project implementation. As part of the project's interventions, indigenous crops and traditional farming methods are promoted. Risk Treatment Owner: **Project Manager - RERAS**
8	There is a risk that project activities may involve unsafe working conditions that do not meet national labor laws and international commitments, potentially leading to worker exploitation, inequality, or accidents.	As a result of potential non-compliance with national labour laws and international commitments, insufficient safeguards for occupational health and safety (OHS), and inadequate mechanisms to prevent discriminatory practices and child labour, particularly in agricultural activities. Additionally, gaps in monitoring and verification may exacerbate these risks.	Which will impact in worker exploitation, inequality, legal non-compliance, accidents, reputational damage to the project, and harm to project beneficiaries and staff. This could undermine trust in the project and delay implementation.	**1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.10. Labour and working conditions) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS**	Likelihood: **3 - Moderately likely** Impact: **3 - Intermediate** Risk level: **MODERATE (equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)**	From: 01-Jan-25 To: 31-Jul-27	Pragyajan Rai; Portfolio Manager, R&E	**Risk Treatment 8.1:** The project ensures compliance with national labor laws and international labor standards by developing and implementing SES and OHS plans. These plans include detailed safety protocols, mandatory orientation and training for workers, and regular audits to monitor adherence. **Risk Treatment Owner:** Project Manager - RERAS **Risk Treatment 8.2:** Safety equipment, such as helmets, gloves, and boots, is provided to all workers. Contractors are required to enforce proper usage of personal protective equipment, and regular safety audits are conducted to identify and address gaps. **Risk Treatment Owner:** Project Manager - RERAS

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								Risk Treatment 8.3: Conduct Partnership Capacity Assessment Tool (PCAT) assessments, spot checks, and audits for all Responsible Parties, ensuring their compliance with fiduciary matters, Social and Environmental Safeguards (SES), and labour regulations. **Risk Treatment Owner:** Project Manager - RERAS
								Risk Treatment 8.4: Incorporate clauses on compliant working conditions and worker protections in the Letter of Agreement with Responsible Parties. **Risk Treatment Owner:** Project Manager - RERAS
								Risk Treatment 8.5: Worker grievances are addressed through an accessible Grievance Redress Mechanism, and labor rights awareness sessions are conducted to ensure workers understand their rights and safety obligations. **Risk Treatment Owner:** Project Manager - RERAS
								Risk Treatment 8.6: Implement comprehensive OHS measures, including the provision of safety equipment, training, and protocols to mitigate physical, chemical, biological, and psychosocial risks throughout the project lifecycle. **Risk Treatment Owner:** Project Manager - RERAS
9	There is a risk that **implementation of project activities**	As a result of **the project being implemented by**	Which will impact in **delays in project implementation**,	**1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONM**	Likelihood: **2 - Low likelihood**	From: 01-Jan-25	Pragyajan Rai; Portfolio	**Risk Treatment 9.1**: Institutional mapping has been conducted to identify all relevant stakeholders across government, non-government, community,

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	may be obstructed by local communities due to inadequate stakeholder consultation..	**multiple partners**, there is a risk that local communities may not be fully aware of the mechanisms and approach to claim their rights if their rights are perceived to be violated..	increased costs due to the need to resolve conflicts with local communities, and **diminished trust and cooperation** from the community.	**ENTAL (1.12. Stakeholder engagement) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS**	Impact: **3 - Intermediate** Risk level: **MODERATE (equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)**	To: 31-Jul-27	Manager, R&E	donor, and other user groups. Continued engagement has been facilitated through multi-layered dialogue among stakeholders, with organized forums established for collaboration at the local, provincial, and central levels. The project will align activities accordingly and monitor interventions. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS **Risk Treatment 9.2**: The project has completed a comprehensive baseline assessment and institutional mapping through a consultative and participatory process, actively engaging local communities and governments. Targeted beneficiaries have been educated about their rights and made aware of mechanisms, such as the Grievance Redress Mechanism, to address any concerns. The project will align activities accordingly and monitor interventions. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS

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10	There is a risk that **corruption and grant embezzlement may impact the project**, leading to **reputational risks**.	As a result of **corruption during the procurement of consultancy firms or agencies for services related to goods and services**, such as conservation farming, rehabilitation of micro-hydro, and solar irrigation systems. Additionally, **transfers of grants to local organizations** to deliver projects on the ground carry the risk of being embezzled or misused for inappropriate purposes.	Which will impact in **delays in the timely completion of activities**, **failure to deliver targeted outputs**, and **increased reputational risks** for the project.	**2. FINANCIAL (2.3. Corruption and fraud) - UNDP Risk Appetite: MINIMAL TO CAUTIOUS**	Likelihood: **2 - Low likelihood** Impact: **3 - Intermediate** Risk level: **MODERATE (equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)**	From: 01-Jan-25 To: 31-Jul-27	Pragyajan Rai; Portfolio Manager, R&E	**Risk Treatment 10.1**: UNDP will lead the procurement process of larger contracts, adhering to its mandates and utilizing an open, competitive bidding process to ensure cost-efficiency, prevent conflicts of interest, and mitigate risks of manipulation. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS **Risk Treatment 10.2**: Detailed partner capacity assessments have been undertaken during the initial stages before contracting partnering organizations. This assessment outlined the technical capacity of each agency and reviewed internal control mechanisms to mitigate potential fiduciary risks. Contractual arrangements include specific clauses on anti-corruption measures, oversight mechanisms, and procedures for dispute settlement to further safeguard against corruption and embezzlement. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS
11	There is a risk of **delays and challenges in project**	As a result of **limited geographical outreach**, coupled with **failure by local**	Which will impact the **project's ability to achieve its scope in advancing Climate**	**2. FINANCIAL (2.5. Delivery) -**	Likelihood: **2 - Low likelihood**	From: 01-Jan-25	Pragyajan Rai; Portfolio	**Risk Treatment 11.1**: A detailed baseline assessment of the municipalities has taken stock of the intervention actions and support required. Learnings from prior and ongoing projects,

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	implementation and delivery, particularly in advancing sustainable livelihood options and upscaling agricultural productivity.	**farmer user groups to adopt technology (such as agricultural mechanization) and financing options**.	**Resilient Agriculture practices** and **scaling up of agricultural productivity**.	**UNDP Risk Appetite: MINIMAL TO CAUTIOUS**	Impact: **3 - Intermediate** Risk level: **LOW (equates to a risk appetite of CAUTIOUS)**	To: 31-Jul-27	Manager, R&E	including GRAPE, have been internalized to develop a clear strategy to support farmer groups. Exposure visits and learning sessions have been prioritized to enhance local capacity. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS **Risk Treatment 11.2**: A responsible party agreement with a national-level organization, LI-BIRD, has been established to provide strong technical support for the agriculture component and on-ground implementation. A capacity assessment of the organization was undertaken with a risk rating of 'low'. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS **Risk Treatment 11.3**: Private sector entities and cooperatives are being targeted, particularly for agricultural mechanization, including support for service centers, market outreach, and supply chain mechanisms in coordination with local governments. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS
12	There is a risk of **lack of synergy among partners and targeted outputs**, which could **disrupt project deliverables and affect sustainability**.	As a result of **lack of coordination with partner agencies** (responsible parties, UN agencies) for the timely completion of activities, **insufficient technical capacity** of local governments and communities to continue project interventions (especially technical aspects of micro-hydro, solar, and irrigation systems), **lack of community**	Which will impact in **disjointed programming** and **poor delivery of the project**, leading to **irregular power supply and services**, **weak revenue streams**, **lack of proper repair and maintenance**, **waste of resources**, and **inability to achieve expected results and programmatic changes**.	**3. OPERATIONAL (3.5. Partners' engagement) - UNDP Risk Appetite: EXPLORATORY TO OPEN**	Likelihood: **3 - Moderately likely** Impact: **3 - Intermediate** Risk level: **MODERATE (equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)**	From: 01-Jan-25 To: 31-Jul-27	Pragyajan Rai; Portfolio Manager, R&E	**Risk Treatment 12.1**: A clear implementation arrangement with defined roles and responsibilities, deliverable timelines, reporting arrangements, and communication channels has been established to ensure clarity among partner agencies. A high-level coordination meeting will be held quarterly, while a technical working team meeting will be organized monthly in the initial year and quarterly from Year 2 onwards. Joint monitoring visits will be planned bi-annually among partner agencies. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS **Risk Treatment 12.2**: Formalize contracts among local governments (LGs), hydro system suppliers, and community user groups to clarify responsibilities and ensure long-term commitment.

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		ownership, and **absence of self-sustaining implementation mechanisms**.						**Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS **Risk Treatment 12.3**: Ensure that service provision is embedded in the contracts for a specified number of years to guarantee operational support during the initial phases of the project. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS **Risk Treatment 12.4**: Conduct capacity building to establish accountable and inclusive governance and management systems, incorporating incentive-based rules and regulations to promote sustainability. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS **Risk Treatment 12.5**: Support local training institutes, such as CTEVT, to provide basic and advanced skills training with adaptive curricula tailored to project needs. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS **Risk Treatment 12.6**: Establish a mechanism for technical backstopping by experienced professionals to ensure continued technical support for the project's interventions. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS
13	There is a risk of **recruitment delays and high staff turnover**, which may affect the **project implementation timeline** and overall workforce stability.	As a result of **delays in recruiting project staff**, along with **challenging working conditions in remote locations**, including isolation, limited access to basic facilities such as telephone, internet, and transportation.	Which will impact in **delays in the initiation and implementation of project activities**, leading to **poor quality of project delivery**, increased **management workload**, challenges in **ensuring accountability**, and	**4. ORGANIZATIONAL (4.7. Human Resources) - UNDP Risk Appetite: EXPLORATORY TO OPEN**	Likelihood: **3 - Moderately likely** Impact: **3 - Intermediate** Risk level:	From: 01-Jan-25 To: 31-Jul-27	Pragyajan Rai; Portfolio Manager, R&E	**Risk Treatment 13.1**: A proactive coordination mechanism established by UNDP during the project inception phase will remain active throughout the project to streamline recruitment efforts and address staffing needs efficiently. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS **Risk Treatment 13.2**: Recruitment announcements will be made through local FM stations, newspapers, palika boards, and UN agency websites, with priority given to local

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			difficulties in **maintaining an inclusive workforce**		**MODERATE (equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)**			candidates or candidates from the province to attract suitable talent from nearby areas. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS **Risk Treatment 13.3**: Local staff will be hired whenever possible to enhance workforce stability and reduce turnover associated with remote work conditions. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS **Risk Treatment 13.4**: Measures will be taken to ensure a safe and secure working environment for all team members, including adherence to UNDP's zero tolerance policy on sexual harassment. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS **Risk Treatment 13.5**: Incentivize staff through professional growth opportunities, financial incentives (such as remote allowances), insurance, and non-monetary benefits to retain talent in remote and challenging locations. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS
14	There is a risk of **lack of government prioritization and support**, including failure to agree on necessary policy and	As a result of **failure to consult and engage relevant stakeholders**, **lack of policy provisions at the local level**, limited capacity	Which will impact in **lack of project ownership** and **challenges to project sustainability**, potentially delaying the	**7. STRATEGIC (7.5. Government commitment) - UNDP Risk**	Likelihood: **2 - Low likelihood** Impact:	From: 01-Jan-25 To: 31-Jul-27	Pragyajan Rai; Portfolio Manager, R&E	**Risk Treatment 13.1**: The project has undertaken institutional mapping to identify all relevant stakeholders across government, non-government, community, donor, and other user groups. This ensures targeted engagement with key stakeholders to support project priorities and objectives.

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	legislative changes, which may hinder project buy-in and limit the scale-up of initiatives like the school meals program and promotion of agri-value chains.	within local governments, and insufficient engagement with school management committees. Additionally, **political instability and changes in government** at federal, provincial, and local levels, along with the need for local governments to build capacity in strengthening agri-food systems post-federalization, contribute to this risk.	**implementation of project activities** and impeding the **project's strategy to increase local demand for consumption of local food through for example the school feeding program**.	**Appetite: OPEN TO SEEKING**	**3 - Intermediate** Risk level: **LOW (equates to a risk appetite of CAUTIOUS)**			**Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS
								Risk Treatment 13.2: Establish formalized Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with municipalities, aligning project plans and programs with local priorities to secure government support and enhance project buy-in. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS
								Risk Treatment 13.3: Develop evidence-based knowledge products to facilitate effective policy advocacy, promoting awareness of project benefits and policy alignment at all government levels. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS
								Risk Treatment 13.4: Ensure continued stakeholder engagement through multi-layered dialogue, embedding future collaboration and institutional linkages between Local, Provincial, and Federal governments. The project steering committee and technical committee at federal and local levels will ensure interventions align with the needs, demands, and priorities of municipalities, embedding learnings into the institutionalization process. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS
								Risk Treatment 13.5: Collaborate closely with school management committees to map out existing practices, assess the feasibility of using indigenous crops in school meals, and monitor the school feeding program. Successes will be documented and shared with local governments to encourage further scale-up. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS

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								Risk Treatment 13.6: Work with local governments to enhance policy support for initiatives that facilitate the linkage between local production and local consumption, particularly within the school feeding program. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS
								Risk Treatment 13.7: Prioritize capacity-building for technical staff in agricultural units and local resource persons. Engage provincial institutions, such as Agriculture Knowledge Centers, to support food systems and local school feeding programs. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS
								Risk Treatment 13.8: Support local governments in institutionalizing and budgeting for school feeding programs and agro-mechanization as part of their long-term development plans. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS
15	There is a risk that **expansion of the National Grid by the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) will lead to a lack of interest in and utilization of rehabilitated off-grid mini-hydro projects (MHPs) and solar energy solutions** (such as solar irrigation systems).	Due to the **rapid expansion of the national grid**, mini-hydro projects in previously off-grid areas may face **grid encroachment**, diminishing the appeal and relevance of isolated renewable energy (RE) solutions.	Which will impact in **risks to the future sustainability of isolated RE projects** and hinder the **upscaling of off-grid energy solutions**.	**3. OPERATIONAL (3.6. Transition and exit strategy) - UNDP Risk Appetite: EXPLORATORY TO OPEN**	Likelihood: **4 - Highly likely** Impact: **2 - Minor** Risk level: **MODERATE (equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)**	From: 01-Jan-25 To: 31-Jul-27	Pragyajan Rai; Portfolio Manager, R&E	**Risk Treatment 15.1**: The AEPC and NEA have drafted an Interconnection Master Plan for Mini Grids to provide policy guidance for grid interconnection, supporting the sustainability of existing off-grid renewable energy (RE) solutions. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS
								Risk Treatment 15.2: Prepare a plan to adopt a hybrid model to ensure uninterrupted power supply and maximize the use of existing RE solutions. This includes exploring alternative uses, such as powering small machines operated by women for post-production services, which enhances local economic opportunities. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS

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								Risk Treatment 15.3: Two mini-hydro projects (MHPs) have signed Net Metering Agreements with NEA, and similar agreements will be pursued with other MHPs as needed to integrate off-grid solutions into the grid effectively. **Risk Treatment Owner**: Project Manager - RERAS
16	There is a risk that political uncertainties and unclarities regarding the federal governance system may disrupt project delivery mechanisms and modalities.	Since the adoption of the 2015 Constitution, Nepal's devolution of funds, functions, and functionaries to federal, provincial, and local governments has created overlapping mandates, unclarities, and limited coordination. This is further exacerbated by risks of political capture at the community level, particularly through agricultural cooperatives and farmers' groups.	Which will impact in potential delays in project implementation, duplication of efforts, weakened stakeholder collaboration, and risk of political capture at the community level, undermining transparency, equity, and project effectiveness.	**4. ORGANIZATIONAL (4.1. Governance) - UNDP Risk Appetite: EXPLORATORY TO OPEN**	Likelihood: **3 - Moderately likely** Impact: **3 - Intermediate** Risk level: **MODERATE (equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)**	From: 01-Jan-25 To: 31-Jul-27	Pragyajan Rai; Portfolio Manager, R&E	**Risk Treatment 16.1:** UNDP will actively engage with government entities at federal, provincial, and local levels to foster understanding and ownership of the project. UNDP will provide policy and capacity development support to strengthen coordination and collaboration among the three tiers of government, contributing to more effective governance in the energy, agriculture, and food security sectors. **Risk Treatment Owner: Project Manager - RERAS** **Risk Treatment 16.2:** Close engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, including multiple community and farmers' groups, will be ensured to promote broad representation and mitigate risks of political capture. **Risk Treatment Owner: Project Manager - RERAS**
17	There is a risk that foreign exchange fluctuations may impact the project's investment costs.	As a result of the current global economic scenario, forex volatility remains a key challenge, leading to potential increases or decreases in project costs.	Which will impact in potentially increased financial strain and reduced resources for project implementation.	**2. FINANCIAL (2.4. Fluctuation in credit rate, market, currency) - UNDP Risk Appetite: MINIMAL**	Likelihood: **2 - Low likelihood** Impact: **2 - Minor** Risk level: **LOW (equates to a**	From: 01-Jan-25 To: 31-Jul-27	Pragyajan Rai; Portfolio Manager, R&E	**Risk Treatment 17.1:** The project has allocated resources under the Miscellaneous budget to address bank charges and forex gain/loss. **Risk Treatment Owner: Project Manager - RERAS** **Risk Treatment 17.2:** Any significant increase or decrease in forex will be discussed between UNDP and the Royal Norwegian Embassy to determine appropriate actions, such as cost-cutting measures,

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				TO CAUTIOUS	**risk appetite of MINIMAL)**			additional financing, or re-programming. **Risk Treatment Owner: Project Manager - RERAS**

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Annex 3: Partner Capacity Assessments

SN	Organization	Micro-assessment Status	Risk rating (Low, Moderate, High)
1	Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD)	Completed (December 2023)	Low
2	International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)	Completed (September 2023)	Low
3	Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC) / Center for Renewable Energy Fund (CREF)	Completed (November 2023)	Low

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Annex 4: Project Quality Assurance Report

PROJECT QA ASSESSMENT: DESIGN AND APPRAISAL				
OVERALL PROJECT				
EXEMPLARY (5) ◎◎◎◎◎	HIGHLY SATISFACTORY (4) ◎◎◎◎○	SATISFACTORY (3) ◎◎◎○○	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT (2) ◎◎○○○	INADEQUATE (1) ◎○○○○
At least four criteria are rated Exemplary, and all criteria are rated High or Exemplary.	All criteria are rated Satisfactory or higher, and at least four criteria are rated High or Exemplary.	At least six criteria are rated Satisfactory or higher, and only one may be rated Needs Improvement. The SES criterion must be rated Satisfactory or above.	At least three criteria are rated Satisfactory or higher, and only four criteria may be rated Needs Improvement.	One or more criteria are rated Inadequate, or five or more criteria are rated Needs Improvement.

DECISION
• APPROVE – the project is of sufficient quality to continue as planned. Any management actions must be addressed in a timely manner. • APPROVE WITH QUALIFICATIONS – the project has issues that must be addressed before the project document can be approved. Any management actions must be addressed in a timely manner. • DISAPPROVE – the project has significant issues that should prevent the project from being approved as drafted.
RATING CRITERIA
STRATEGIC

1. Does the project's Theory of Change specify how it will contribute to higher level change? (Select the option from 1-3 that best reflects the project): • 3: The project has a theory of change with explicit assumptions and clear change pathway describing how the project will contribute to outcome level change as specified in the programme/CPD, backed by credible evidence of what works effectively in this context. The project document clearly describes why the project's strategy is the best approach at this point in time. • 2: The project has a theory of change. It has an explicit change pathway that explains how the project intends to contribute to outcome-level change and why the project strategy is the best approach at this point in time but is backed by limited evidence. • 1: The project does not have a theory of change, but the project document may describe in generic terms how the project will contribute to development results, without specifying the key assumptions. It does not make an explicit link to the programme/CPD's theory of change. *Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1	3	2 1 Evidence Score: 3 The Theory of Change thoroughly articulates the context of improved access to renewable energy services for improved agri-value chain and promotion of home-gardens for improved access to indigenous crops for improved production and nutrition security. Thus, the project significantly contributes to the CPD and Outcome indicators by improving and strengthening climate-resilient and green society and increased benefit from resilient and sustainable socioeconomic transformation. Evidence- Pg 10. Pro Doc
2. Is the project aligned with the thematic focus of the UNDP Strategic Plan? (select the option from 1-3 that best reflects the project):	3	2 1

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• 3: The project responds to one of the three areas of development work[43] as specified in the Strategic Plan; it addresses at least one of the proposed new and emerging areas[44]; an issues-based analysis has been incorporated into the project design; and the project's RRF includes all the relevant SP output indicators. (all must be true to select this option) • 2: The project responds to one of the three areas of development work[1] as specified in the Strategic Plan. The project's RRF includes at least one SP output indicator, if relevant. (both must be true to select this option) • 1: While the project may respond to one of the three areas of development work[1] as specified in the Strategic Plan, it is based on a sectoral approach without addressing the complexity of the development issue. None of the relevant SP indicators are included in the RRF. This answer is also selected if the project does not respond to any of the three areas of development work in the Strategic Plan.	Evidence Score: 2 The Project aligns with the SP Signature Solutions on 'Energy'. The contributes to the SP Output indicators; Output 5.1: Energy gap closed (IRRF) Output 5.1 Energy gap closed Indicator 5.1.1 Number of people, who gained access to clean, affordable and sustainable energy: Output 5.2 Transition to renewable energy accelerated capitalizing on technological gains, clean energy innovations and new financing mechanisms to support green recovery Evidence: Refer Pg 13; Pg 39 of Pro Doc.
3. Is the project linked to the programme outputs? (i.e., UNSDCF/CPD, RPD or Strategic Plan IRRF for strategic interventions not part of a programme)	YES NO Evidence: The project outputs responds to Outcome 3 of the UNSDCF/CPD and 'Energy' of the Strategic Plan' ○ Output 3.3: Reliable, affordable, and efficient clean energy solutions promoted. (IRRF – 5.1.1) ○ Output 3.2: Environmental governance strengthened at all three levels for climate-change adaptation and mitigation, sustainable watershed, ecosystem, and biodiversity management. ○ Output 1.2: Expanded access to sustainable livelihoods and income for women, youth,

[43] 1. Sustainable development pathways; 2. Inclusive and effective democratic governance; 3. Resilience building

[44] sustainable production technologies, access to modern energy services and energy efficiency, natural resources management, extractive industries, urbanization, citizen security, social protection, and risk management for resilience

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	poor and other marginalized groups. Evidence: Refer Pg 13; Pg 39 of Pro Doc.
RELEVANT	
4. Does the project identify target groups , and particularly those marginalized, vulnerable and left further behind • (LNOB)3: The LNOB target groups are clearly specified, prioritising discriminated, and marginalized groups left furthest • behind, identified through a rigorous process based on evidence. • 2: The LNOB target groups are clearly specified, prioritizing groups left furthest behind. • 1: The LNOB target groups are not clearly specified.	3 / 2 / 1 Evidence Score: 2 The Project has undertaken GESI analysis as part of its baseline study that outlines scenarios for GESI in agriculture, food security and energy access. The project will prepare a GESI action plan that ensures engagement of target groups including women, youth, LGBTIQ Community people, people living with disabilities, and ethnic minorities. The Project will support in preparation of gender-responsive policy frameworks at the local level, engaging women and marginalized groups in decision-making platforms and engaging them on access to renewable energy and access to credit/finance. Evidence: Refer GESI Analysis & Plan in Pro Doc; Pg 29-31
5. Have knowledge, good practices, and past lessons learned of UNDP and others informed the project design? (select the option from 1-3 that best reflects this project): • 3: Knowledge and lessons learned (gained e.g. through peer assist sessions) backed by credible evidence from evaluation, corporate policies/strategies, and monitoring have been explicitly used, with appropriate referencing, to develop the project's theory of change and justify the approach used by the project over alternatives. • 2: The project design mentions knowledge and lessons learned backed by evidence/sources, which inform the project's theory of change but have not been used/are not sufficient to justify the approach selected over alternatives. • 1: There is only scant or no mention of knowledge and lessons learned informing the project design. Any references that are made are not backed by evidence. *Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1	3 / 2 / 1 Evidence Score: 2 The Project has been designed based UNDP's prior work on promotion of renewable energy solutions under the RERL Project and improving nutritional security and economic benefits by strengthening agriculture value chain of key commodities. This is based on evaluation report of both RERL & VCDP Project. Evidence: TE Report for RERL & VCDP Project

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6. Does UNDP have a clear advantage to engage in the role envisioned by the project vis-à-vis national / regional / global partners and other actors? • 3: An analysis has been conducted on the role of other partners in the area where the project intends to work, an credible evidence supports the proposed engagement of UNDP and partners through the project, including identification of potential funding partners. It is clear how results achieved by partners will complement the project's intended results and a communication strategy is in place to communicate results and raise visibility vis-à-vis key partners. Options for south-south and triangular cooperation have been considered, as appropriate. (all must be true) • 2: Some analysis has been conducted on the role of other partners in the area where the project intends to work, and relatively limited evidence supports the proposed engagement of and division of labour between UNDP and partners through the project, with unclear funding and communications strategies or plans. • 1: No clear analysis has been conducted on the role of other partners in the area that the project intends to work. There is risk that the project overlaps and/or does not coordinate with partners' interventions in this area. Options for south-south and triangular cooperation have not been considered, despite its potential relevance.	3	2
	1	
	Evidence Score: 2 An analysis has been conducted towards mapping of the potential partners to completement the in line with the Project scope. A strategic partnership approach has been undertaken with ICIMOD in line with their work in Bajura on conservation farming and knowledge management as well as WFP to completement and promote their home-grown school feeding. Partnership with AECP/CREF has been proposed in view their work mandate on promotion of renewable energy an improved access to finance. Evidence: Refer Pg 22 – 24 of Pro Doc	
PRINCIPLED		
7. Does the project apply a human rights-based approach? • 3: The project is guided by human rights and incorporates the principles of accountability, meaningful participation, and non-discrimination in the project's strategy. The project upholds the relevant international and national laws and standards. Any potential adverse impacts on enjoyment of human rights were rigorously identified and assessed as relevant, with appropriate mitigation and management measures incorporated into project design and budget. (all must be true) • 2: The project is guided by human rights by prioritizing accountability, meaningful participation and nondiscrimination. Potential adverse impacts on enjoyment of human rights were identified and assessed as relevant, and appropriate mitigation and management measures incorporated into the project design and budget. (both must be true) • 1: No evidence that the project is guided by human rights. Limited or no evidence that potential adverse impacts on enjoyment of human rights were considered *Note: Risk management must be done for criteria with score of 1.	3	2
	1	
	Evidence Score: 2 The Project has undertaken GESI analysis as part of its baseline studies that outlines scenarios for GESI in agriculture, food security and energy access. The Project will support in preparation of gender-responsive policy frameworks at the local level, engaging women and marginalized groups in decision-making platforms and engaging them on access to renewable energy and access to credit/finance. The project beneficiaries will ensured 70% of the beneficiaries includes women, people from	

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	marginalized, person with disability and minorities. The project works with duty bearers and right holders. From the right holder's perspective project sensitized beneficiaries on their rights, process of claiming different services and realize it. Likewise, project support to local governments, cooperatives and private sector actors to acknowledge the right, respect and fulfilling the rights of the beneficiaries The project applies a human rights-based approach by ensuring: Accountability: Clear mechanisms are in place for monitoring, reporting, and addressing grievances, ensuring transparency and responsibility in project implementation. Meaningful Participation: The project actively involves stakeholders, especially marginalized groups, in decision-making processes to ensure their voices are heard and needs addressed. Non-Discrimination: Measures are incorporated to prevent exclusion based on gender, ethnicity, or socio-economic status, promoting equitable access to project benefits. Potential adverse impacts on human rights were identified, assessed, and addressed through targeted mitigation strategies embedded in the project design and budget. Evidence: Refer Pg 39-43 of Pro Doc	
8. Does the project use gender analysis in the project design?	3	2

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• 3: A participatory gender analysis on the project has been conducted. This analysis reflects on the different needs, roles, and access to/control over resources of women and men, and it is fully integrated into the project document. The project establishes concrete priorities to address gender inequalities in its strategy. The results framework includes outputs and activities that specifically respond to this gender analysis, with indicators that measure and monitor results contributing to gender equality. (all must be true to select this option). • 2: A gender analysis on the project has been conducted. This analysis reflects on the different needs, roles, and access to/control over resources of women and men. Gender concerns are integrated in the development challenge and strategy sections of the project document. The results framework includes outputs and activities that specifically respond to this gender analysis, with indicators that measure and monitor results contributing to gender equality. (all must be true to select this option) • 1: The project design may or may not mention information and/or data on the differential impact of the project's development situation on gender relations, women, and men, but the constraints have not been clearly identified and interventions have not been considered. *Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1	1 Evidence Score: 2 The project has undertaken a gender analysis on the basis of the baseline assessment that outlines challenges and opportunities on GESI on agriculture, food security and renewable energy. The project's gender action plan prioritises for gender responsive policy framework and engagement of women and marginalized groups in decision-making and access to energy and finance. The PRF will ensure disaggregated figures of beneficiaries including 70% to women, people from marginalized, person with disability and minorities. Evidence: Refer Pg 39-43 of Pro Doc
9. Did the project support the resilience and sustainability of societies and/or ecosystems? • 3: Credible evidence that the project addresses sustainability and resilience dimensions of development challenges, which are integrated in the project strategy and design. The project reflects the interconnections between the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Relevant shocks, hazards and adverse social and environmental impacts have been identified and rigorously assessed with appropriate management and mitigation measures incorporated into project design and budget. (all must be true) • 2: The project design integrates sustainability and resilience dimensions of development challenges. Relevant shocks, hazards and adverse social and environmental impacts have been identified and assessed, and relevant management and mitigation measures incorporated into project design and budget. (both must be true) • 1: Sustainability and resilience dimensions and impacts were not adequately considered. *Note: Risk management must be done for criteria with score of 1.	3 / 2 1 Evidence Score: 2 The project aims to increase food and nutrition security of target communities through mechanization of agriculture and food system using renewable energy-based solutions. The relevant risks from shocks, and hazards have been identified under the climate and environmental risks particularly for the renewable energy systems which are well documented in the SESP for the Project while on-site SESP and necessary assessment and plans will be developed. Evidence: Refer Pg 25-26 of Pro Doc; SESP of Project
	Yes / No

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10. Has the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) been conducted to identify potential social and environmental impacts and risks? The SESP is not required for projects in which UNDP is Administrative Agent only and/or projects comprised solely of the preparation and dissemination of reports and communication materials; organization of events, workshops, or training; strengthening capacities of partners to participate in international negotiations and conferences; partnership coordination (including UN coordination) and management of networks; and global/regional projects with no country-level activities as well as Development Effectiveness projects and Institutional Effectiveness projects. [If yes, upload the completed checklist. If SESP is not required, Select all exemption criteria that apply.]	SESP not required because project consists solely of (Select all exemption criteria that apply) Evidence Score: YES The project has undertaken the SESP for the Project with an overall risk rating of 'Moderate' taking considering to the potential risk from potential risk from inequitable impacts to marginalized groups, risk of gender-based violence, gender based violence, environmental hazards affecting community health and safety, disruption of social cohesion, threats of labor and working conditions and vulnerability to climate change. The SESP recommends targeted assessments for stakeholder engagement plan and preparation of key management plans on gender, waste management, operational health and safety and ESMP. Evidence: SESP of Project
Management & Monitoring	
11. Does the project have a strong results framework? • 3: The project's selection of outputs and activities are at an appropriate level. Outputs are accompanied by SMART, results-oriented indicators that measure the key expected development changes, each with credible data sources and populated baselines and targets, including gender sensitive, target group focused, sex-disaggregated indicators where appropriate. (all must be true) • 2: The project's selection of outputs and activities are at an appropriate level. Outputs are accompanied by SMART, results-oriented indicators, but baselines, targets and data sources may not yet be fully specified. Some use of target group focused, sex-disaggregated indicators, as appropriate. (all must be true) • 1: The project's selection of outputs and activities are not at an appropriate level; outputs are not accompanied by SMART, results-oriented indicators that measure the expected change and have not been populated with baselines and targets; data sources are not specified, and/or no gender sensitive, sex-disaggregation of indicators. (if any is true) *Note: Risk management must be done for criteria with score of 1.	3 2 | 1 Evidence Score: 2 The PRF includes result oriented impact indicators along with SMART and sex-dis-aggregated indicators. The baseline indicators are reflective of government's data and baseline assessment undertaken by UNDP during inception phase. Evidence: Pg 39-43 of PRF of Pro Doc.
12. Is the project's governance mechanism clearly defined in the project document, including composition of the project board?	3 2 | 1

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• 3: The project's governance mechanism is fully defined in the project composition. Individuals have been specified for each position in the governance mechanism (especially all members of the project board.) Project Board members have agreed on their roles and responsibilities as specified in the terms of reference. The ToR of the project board has been attached to the project document. (all must be true to select this option). • 2: The project's governance mechanism is defined in the project document; specific institutions are noted as holding key governance roles, but individuals may not have been specified yet. The Pro-Doc lists the most important responsibilities of the project board, project director/manager and quality assurance roles. (all must be true to select this option) • 1: The project's governance mechanism is loosely defined in the project document, only mentioning key roles that will need to be filled at a later date. No information on the responsibilities of key positions in the governance mechanism is provided. *Note: Management Action or strong management justification must be given for a score of 1	Evidence Score: 2 The project is directly implemented by UNDP in accordance to the Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) in line with the Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP). The project implementation and management will be guided by the Grant Agreement signed between UNDP and Royal Norwegian Embassy including the establishment of a bilateral meeting between UNDP and Norwegian Embassy to review project progress and agree on the project work plan and budgetary matters. A Project Board has been setup chaired by UNDP Resident Representative or designated representative and will held at least once a year. The project's governance mechanism is clearly outlined in the project document. It specifies the key governance roles and their associated responsibilities, including: Project Board Composition: While specific individuals are yet to be identified, the document highlights the institutions responsible for nominating representatives to the project board. Responsibilities of the Project Board: The project board is tasked with overarching oversight, strategic decision-making, and ensuring alignment with project objectives. Project Manager Role: The project director/manager is responsible for day-to-day operations, coordination among

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	stakeholders, and ensuring timely implementation of activities. Quality Assurance Roles: The document identifies mechanisms to ensure project outputs meet expected standards, including monitoring, evaluation, and periodic reviews. This framework ensures a robust governance structure to drive the project towards its goals effectively. Evidence: Governance and Management Arrangements on Pg 71 of Pro Doc.
13. Have the project risks been identified using the risk assessment tools (Project Quality Assurance, Social and Environmental Screening Procedure, Partner Capacity Assessment Tool, Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer, Private Sector Due Diligence, etc., if applicable), with clear plans stated to manage and mitigate each risk? • 3: Project risks related to the achievement of results are fully described in the project risk register, based on comprehensive analysis drawing on the programme's theory of change, Social and Environmental Standards and screening, situation analysis, capacity assessments and other analysis such as funding potential and reputational risk. Risks have been identified through a consultative process with key internal and external stakeholders, including consultation with the UNDP Security Office as required. Clear and complete plan in place to manage and mitigate each risk, including security risks, reflected in project budgeting and monitoring plans. (both must be true) • 2: Project risks related to the achievement of results are identified in the initial project risk register based on a minimum level of analysis and consultation, with mitigation measures identified for each risk. • 1: Some risks may be identified in the initial project risk register, but no evidence of consultation or analysis and no clear risk mitigation measures identified. This option is also selected if risks are not clearly identified, no initial risk log is included with the project document and/or no security risk management process has taken place for the project. *Note: Risk management must be done for criteria with score of 1.	3 2 | 1 Evidence Score: 2 The Risk Register for the project captures social and environmental, strategic, operational and financial risks for the Project and its impact if the risks are materialized. The mitigation measures of the risks and responsible focal points have also been outlined. The SESP has also been prepared along with recommended assessment and management plans to be prepared. This will also be tracked during project implementation. Partner Capacity Assessment and HACT has been undertaken for all project partners i.e AEPC, ICIMOD and Li-Bird to ensure appropriate actions are undertaken. Evidence: Risk Template, SESP, HACT & PCAT Docs.
Efficient	
	Yes | No

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14. Have specific measures for ensuring cost-efficient use of resources been explicitly mentioned as part of the project design?	Evidence Score: Yes UNDP will mobilise technical and operations support to provide quality assurance and smooth implementation of the project. Technical experts will be for mobilized for backstopping and coordination support at the local level and with partner agencies. UNDP will mobilize field implementation through AEPC and RPA will ensure implementation of activities in accordance with the existing market rates. The consultancy fee have been prepared in line with the existing UN rates for consultants and on the basis of the market rates established during the implementation of prior projects. In addition, the establishment of Long Term Agreement with hotels and travel and subsistence allowances has also helped facilitate standardization and cost efficiency. Evidence: Resource Requested; Pg 21 of Pro Doc.
15. Is the budget justified and supported with valid estimates? • 3: The project's budget is at the activity level with funding sources, and is specified for the duration of the project period in a multi-year budget. Realistic resource mobilisation plans are in place to fill unfunded components. Costs are supported with valid estimates using benchmarks from similar projects or activities. Cost implications from inflation and foreign exchange exposure have been estimated and incorporated in the budget. Adequate costs for monitoring, evaluation, communications and security have been incorporated. • 2: The project's budget is at the activity level with funding sources, when possible, and is specified for the duration of the project in a multi-year budget, but no funding plan is in place. Costs are supported with valid estimates based on prevailing rates. • 1: The project's budget is not specified at the activity level, and/or may not be captured in a multi-year budget.	3 2 | 1 Evidence Score: 2 A multi-year work plan with itemized costs has been prepared based on UN's existing rates and mandates for consultants, travels and inline with standardized rate for meeting/ workshop. The cost is also based on existing market rate established during the preparation of Long Term Agreements with hotels. The Multi-year work plan has been

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	agreed prior to the agreement signing with Norway and is also discussed during the Annual Meeting with Norway. Evidence: MYWP; Pg 46 to 70 of Pro Doc.
16. Is the Country Office / Regional / Global Project fully recovering the costs involved with project implementation? • 3: The budget fully covers all project costs that are attributable to the project, including programme management and development effectiveness services related to strategic country programme planning, quality assurance, pipeline development, policy advocacy services, finance, procurement, human resources, administration, issuance of contracts, security, travel, assets, general services, information and communications based on full costing in accordance with prevailing UNDP policies (i.e., UPL, LPL.) • 2: The budget covers significant project costs that are attributable to the project based on prevailing UNDP policies (i.e., UPL, LPL) as relevant. • 1: The budget does not adequately cover project costs that are attributable to the project, and UNDP is cross subsidizing the project.	3 | 2 1 Evidence Score: 3 The cost recovery for the Project in accordance with agreement with Norway is at 8% for GMS and 7% for DPC under the Quality and Technical oversight undertaken by the CO. The rate for consultants are proposed inline with the agreed standard for UN consultancy fee (2017) while all cost of travel and subsistence costs are in line with our UN's standard policies. UNDP has setup a standard Long Term Agreement with hotels and transportation services to ensure standardization of rate for the project. In addition, UNDP CO will mobilize additional US$ 399,000 to cover programmatic and operational costs. Evidence: MYWP; Pg 46 to 70 of Pro Doc.
Effective	
17. Have targeted groups, and particularly those marginalized, vulnerable, and left further behind (LNOB), been engaged in the design of the project? • 3: Credible evidence that all targeted groups, prioritising discriminated, vulnerable and marginalized populations that will be involved in or affected by the project, have been actively engaged in the design of the project. The project has an explicit strategy to identify, engage and ensure the meaningful	3 2 | 1 Evidence Score: 2 A rapid assessment conducted during the

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participation of target groups as stakeholders throughout the project, including through monitoring and decision-making (e.g., representation on the project board, inclusion in samples for evaluations, etc.) • 2: Some evidence that key targeted groups have been consulted in the design of the project. • 1: No evidence of engagement with targeted groups during project design. • Not Applicable	design process with consultation with local level governments, farmers and cooperatives to map key highland commodities and energy inputs for agriculture value chain. An additional baseline assessment was also conducted during the project inception period to map key stakeholders and included consultations with target groups, women, disadvantaged and socially excluded groups, person with disability and minorities. Evidence: Initial Rapid Assessment; Baseline Assessment
18. Does the project plan for adaptation and course correction if regular monitoring activities, evaluation, and lesson learned demonstrate there are better approaches to achieve the intended results and/or circumstances change during implementation?	YES | NO Evidence Score: Yes The project also organizes a partners review and coordination meeting each quarter to document progress, lessons learned and challenges with adaptive measures agreed in consensus amongst all parties. The Project regularly undertakes monitoring of it's activities and documents the issues and risks on it's risk register. The Project Board which is held semi-annually document the project's progress and provide strategic guidance for adaptive measures or course correction if necessary of the partners activity.

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	An annual meeting with the donor (Norway) has been arranged to not only share project's progress and lessons learned but is solely responsible for any programmatic course correction or adjustment that may be required for the project. Evidence: Refer Governance Arrangement
19. The gender marker for all project outputs are scored at GEN2 or GEN3, indicating that gender has been fully mainstreamed into all project outputs at a minimum.	YES / NO Evidence Score: YES The Project has been assigned GEN 2 taking consideration of project's target beneficiaries that includes farmers and producer groups, marginalized and vulnerable groups and youths. The project will aim to promote productive end-use to support agri or non-agri enterprises with more than 70% beneficiaries to include women, youth and marginalized groups. The support to local cooperatives and women's groups on production and improved value chain of indigenous crops and access to e-cooking solutions is expected to improved schools meals resulting in nutrition security to youths. The policy priorities includes support for local government on gender response policy on farming technologies adaptation, access to technology and access

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	to finance by women and marginalized groups. Evidence: Initial Rapid Assessment; Baseline Assessment
20. Have societal digital risks and opportunities been taken into account when designing the project's approach and have digital or data technology solutions been considered to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and scalability of project results? • 3: To the extent possible, societal digital risks and opportunities have been investigated when designing the strategy and Theory of Change, and the potential use of digital or data technologies in project activities has been considered in line with UNDP's digital standards and data principles. (All must be true) • 2: Only the potential use of digital or data solutions in project activities has been considered in line with UNDP's digital standards and data principles, but there is no or limited evidence that aspects of inclusive digital societies have been considered in the design of the strategy or Theory of Change. • 1: Neither societal digital risks and opportunities, nor digital or data technology solutions were specifically considered in the project design or, UNDP's digital standards and data principles are not taken into account when intending to use digital or data technology solutions in project activities. • Digital considerations are not relevant to this project.	3 2 | 1 Evidence Score: 2 The Project will prioritize the improvement of Management of Information System (MIS) for energy, food security and sustainable agriculture practices of the local government. The database will be maintained to strengthen information about geography, crop types, cropping pattern, weather information, production data, technology usage, energy status etc. The digital soil maps will also be prepared in collaboration with govt. to help policy makers for resilient agriculture planning. Evidence: Refer Digital solution, Knowledge of Pro Doc.
Sustainability & National Ownership	
21. Have national / regional / global partners led, or proactively engaged in, the design of the country / regional /global project, respectively? • 3: National / regional / global partners have full ownership of the country / regional / global project and led the process of the development of the project jointly with UNDP. • 2: The project has been developed by UNDP in close consultation with national / regional / global partners. • 1: The project has been developed by UNDP with limited or no engagement with national partners.	3 2 | 1 Evidence Score: 2 The Project has been designed by UNDP based on our success of promotion of renewable energy systems for energy solutions to productive end use for agri- or non-agriculture enterprises and our successful work on improved agriculture value chain for improved market access for marginalized farmers. The project has been designed in close consultation with

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	Norway while also taking onboard the expertise of partner agencies that have prior experience in Bajura and Jumla. As a nexus approach, the Project brings together technical expertise of ICIMOD, WFP, AEPC and Li-Bird for scale-up of renewable energy solutions. Evidence: Refer Partnership
22. Are key institutions and systems identified, and is there a strategy for strengthening specific / comprehensive capacities based on capacity assessments conducted? • 3: The project has a strategy for strengthening specific capacities of national institutions and/or actors based on a completed capacity assessment. This strategy includes an approach to regularly monitor national capacities using clear indicators and rigorous methods of data collection, and adjust the strategy to strengthen national capacities accordingly. • 2: A capacity assessment has been completed. There are plans to develop a strategy to strengthen specific capacities of national institutions and/or actors based on the results of the capacity assessment. • 1: Capacity assessments have not been carried out • Not Applicable *Note: Risk management must be done for criteria with score of 1.	3 2 | 1 Evidence Score: 2 The Project will build strategic partnership with ICIMOD, WFP, AEPC and NGOs to provide technical support on action research on conservation farming, renewable energy solutions and linking to women cooperatives to school feeding programme. Partnership with AEPC and ICIMOD will be done on the basis of Letter of Agreement with Government and IGO with necessary due diligence through HACT and PCAT. An RFI Process to 'engage CSOs as RP' was undertaken along with micro-assessment and PCAT to select the NGO to support on scaling-up conservation farming and strengthening agri-value chain. All due diligence was completed in 2023. Evidence: PCAT, HACT reports
	YES | NO | NA

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23. Is there is a clear strategy embedded in the project specifying how the project will use national systems (i.e.,procurement, monitoring, evaluations, etc.,) to the extent possible? *Note: Risk management must be done when the response is "No".	Evidence Score: 3 The project will be implemented by UNDP and thus all procurements will be done by UNDP in line with our procurement policy guided by the Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP). The Project has i). mapped out clear resource requirement for mobilization of technical and operations including human resources, experts required, grants arrangements, trainings/ workshops and ii). clear costed monitoring & evaluation plan for programmatic components and to meet the reporting requirements. Evidence: Refer to Resources for Expected Results
24. Is there a clear transition arrangement / phase-out plan developed with key stakeholders in order to sustain or scale up results (including resource mobilisation and communications strategy)?	YES / NO Evidence Score: Yes The sustainability and scaling up plan outlines i). Engagement of local governments to increasingly ownership of renewable energy systems and prioritizing investment on indigenous crops; ii). Engaging private sectors on commercialization of value chains and support services at the local level; iii). Enhanced demand of energy services from community and agriculture technology;

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	iv). Evidence based policy discussion with provincial and local governments on scale-up of technology solutions Evidence: Refer Sustainability and Scaling up

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Annex 5: Gesi Concept Note And Action Plan

Introduction:

Gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) is fundamental in ensuring human rights of citizen to participate and benefit from development dividends. In the countries with agrarian economy like Nepal, land and labor productivity plays key role to determine economic, environmental and socio-cultural rights of population through enhanced agricultural sector growth in an inclusive manner. In this process, alignment with the international instruments such as Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), International Labor Organization (ILO) 169, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC) action plan, renewable energy summit, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), it is the mandate of the Government of Nepal (GoN) as a state member with the support of international collaborators such as UNDP to fulfill the commitments towards GESI objectives. Additionally, the changing scenarios of hunger, climate change, agriculture and food trade, migration, pandemics, war and conflicts also have direct and indirect roles to impact on agriculture sector as well as food and nutrition security at the national levels. Therefore, GESI is not a welfare motive services-based consideration, rather is an integral part of human rights of every citizen to participate, make voice to demand and respond their prioritized needs and choices through proper policy and institutional arrangements. Furthermore, intersectionality is a common agenda for all as guided by the Living No One Behind (LNOB) framework (UN, 2017). Therefore, it is a shared commitment of all state members, international agencies, private sector, civil societies and rights holders including women, people with disability (PwD), small holder farmers and consumers to abide with it to make GESI targets fulfilled objectively.

National context:

Nepal as a home country of more than 145 caste and ethnicities with 51 percent of women deserves high attention towards GESI agenda. As per the census of 2022, sixty two percent of the population engaged in agriculture for their livelihoods (NSO, 2023). Of the total population, 56 percent are of small holders with less than 0.5 hectares of land. Among the total population engaged in farming, approximately seventy percent labor force are women with 34.4 percent having legal land entitlement[45]. Furthermore, 32.4 percent households (HHs) are headed by women (NSO, 2023) which is in increasing trend due to massive out migration of 28.9 percent of population (MoF, 2022).

In the given context, though the large population of women, agriculture laborers and people in remote areas are engaged in agriculture, they are denied of access to adequate food and nutritional supplies, which is against the Constitutional provision on food security, right to food (RtF) and food sovereignty (NLC, 2015). Globally, Nepal stands at medium status with 15 score as per the global hunger index (WHH and Concern Worldwide, 2023). However, there is a huge disparity based on gender relations, provincial status, and ecological variations. Furthermore, the national health and demographic survey (NDHS), 2022 shows that there is a huge disparity in terms of minimum dietary requirements (MDR) specially among women, ethnic and religious minorities and differentiations by urban rural settings (MoHP, New Era, and ICF, 2023). Of the total women population within the age of 15-49 years, only fifty six percent of them have access to minimum dietary requirements. Furthermore, sixty percent of women in urban area against the forty six percent women in rural area have been enjoying MDR based intakes. From ethnic and religious minority perspectives, women in madhesh have less access to meat and dairy products, likewise muslim women have lesser access to green vegetables (MoHP, New ERA, and ICF. 2023). This scenario shows that RERAS working districts has high relevance to consider GESI agenda as its priority area of focus through food and agriculture-based interventions.

On the policy front, GoN have adopted many different GESI responsive policy provisions, which is captured in the table 1 below:

[45] https://www.newbusinessage.com/Articles/view/19689

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Legal and policy documents	GESI specific provisions
GESI Strategy, MoAD, 2017	Vision: Enhance inclusive agriculture system through accelerating active participation of socially, economically and geographically disadvantaged groups in all areas of agricultural development
GESI Strategy 2021-2023, MoFAGA, 2021 (PLGSP)	Outcome indicators: Proportion of population who believe decision making is inclusive and responsive by sex, age and Disability, Women and the Citizens from disadvantaged group empowered to participate in decision making process of local government
National Gender Equality Policy, 2021	Vision: Ensure women's substantive and meaningful participation for gender equality through economic and social transformation
ADS, MoAD, 2015	Output on GESI: Mechanisms established for gender equality and social and geographic inclusion in the ADS (as part of the improved governance pillar)
Constitution of Nepal, 2015	Article 38.5: women's rights "Women shall have the right to obtain special opportunity in education, health, employment and social security, based on positive discrimination" and Article 42: Right to Social Justice "The economically, socially or educationally backward women……farmers, laborers…and 42.4: "Every farmer shall have the right to have access to lands for agro activities, select and protect local seeds and agro species which have been used and pursued traditionally, in accordance with law".

Project Background

Given the country context and in specific of the project areas, RERAS aims to increase agricultural productivity and food and nutrition security mainly among women-headed household by enhancing the use of reliable and affordable energy-based solutions for production, irrigation, processing, storing, packaging, and marketing of locally grown farm produces.

The project thus plans to support farmers in production, processing and food diversification spheres through the promotion and use of appropriate technologies. In doing so, project will work with local and provincial governments and other actors such as cooperatives, traders, and other service providers to enhance their knowledge on use of appropriate technologies especially focusing on reducing women's drudgery for food production and sustainable food system management. In this process, specific attention will be given to capacity building and impart information and knowledge related to climate change, policies, financing mechanisms, and farm-based research. Additional emphasis will be given to extensive use of energy-based and climate smart technology to reduce the cost of production and increase local food supply. Eventually, it is expected to contribute to economic empowerment of women and women headed households (WHH) and marginalized groups through job creation and contribute to environment.

UNDP commitment and compliance to GESI objectives:

The gender marker set by UNDP with proper categorization by objectives provides conducive environment for UNDP's initiatives to plan both targeted and mainstreaming interventions for GESI (see figure 1).

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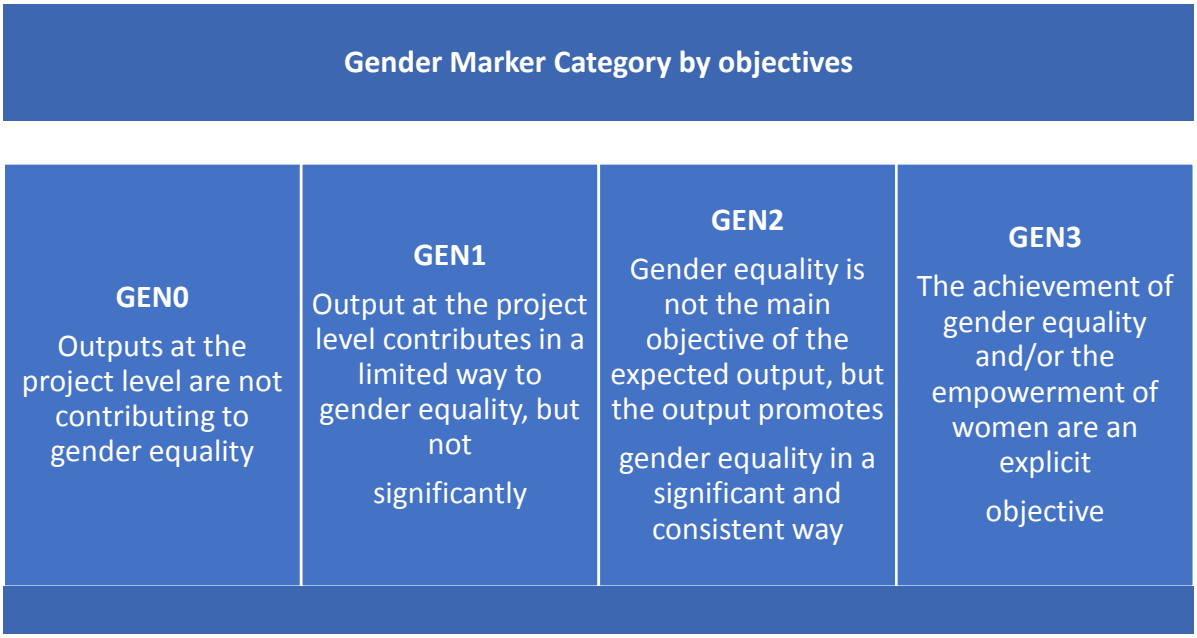


Figure 1: Gender Marker, UNDP, 2016

In addition, UNDP Nepal in its GESI Strategy clearly offers two-pronged approach: i) apply strong gender equality lens throughout sectoral interventions; and ii) focused interventions for gender equality and women empowerment (GEWE).

Furthermore, International Development Partners Group (IDPG) agreed and developed shared GESI framework in 2017 with its prime objective to support GoN in achieving GESI transformative objectives through common and coordinated efforts of donor partners (IDPG, 2017).

Remaining within the scope of the gender marker guiding framework, RERAS adopted the impact objective as "**Improved food and nutritional security of women in selected areas of Nepal**" with three inter-connected outcomes such as
Outcome 1: Women and socio-economically poor households have enhanced access to food to meet their daily dietary needs.
Outcome 2: Renewable energy solutions utilized for improved agriculture value chain function.
Outcome 3: Enabling environment improved for resilient agri-food systems and environmental governance.
Therefore, RERAS has potential and commitment to integrate GESI in its activities.

In alignment with the Constitutional mandate of local governments (LGs) for food and nutrition security management[46] , it is utmost important to promote localization of agriculture with its focus on *raithane* for households, school feedings and commercial purposes. To address the needs, demands and priorities of women, youth and rural smallholders in making agriculture sector inclusive, profitable and sustainable, there is a need to understand the national context from gender responsiveness.

Project area specific context:

The baseline studies carried out for general agriculture and food security context as well as GESI specific assessments show the following scenarios:

i) Population with disability: 2.9% with 2.7% female and 3.2% male.

[46] The schedule 8 of the Constitution mandates 22 different rights and responsibilities to local governments, out of which agricultural services and nutritional security are directly relevant to the RERAS.

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ii) Food sufficiency status: only 11.7% HHs have year-round self-sufficiency and 16.9% has less than 3 months sufficiency from own production.
iii) Land ownership: 80% of the land legally holds by male with 9.2% by female members of the HHs and 10.3% with joint ownership.
iv) Land size: on an average a family holds 0.36 hac with 0.31 hac of cultivable land, out of which 0.05 hac are only have year-round irrigation and rest depends on seasonal and rainfed conditions.
v) Access to RE technology: few options available and dire need of it.
vi) Access to funds: minimal access to formal credit systems.
vii) Participation and agency-wise voice making, participation in groups, cooperatives, farmer's field schools (FFS) and other sub-sector specific trainings; and
viii) The scope for the promotion of *raithane* crops which are nutrient dense, climate resilient and locally adaptive has potential to support in both production and post-production spheres.

Based on the context assessment and project design framework, the following are the identified major gaps and scopes presented in table 1:

Table 1: Gaps and Scopes

Gaps	Scopes	Requirements	Contribute to
Conceptual unclarity and focus in addressing food and nutrition concerns through agricultural and associated interventions such as school feeding Policy inconsistencies and inadequacies such as most of the LGs yet to develop GESI strategy and agriculture sector to respond GESI needs Lack and or weak institutional set up and improper coordination among technical and social sector related divisions within the municipalities Huge capacity gap in terms of budgetary allocation, utilization and social auditing as well as deputation of technical human resources for the assigned responsibilities	Use ADS-GESI strategy as a reference to initiate GESI specific targeting for the RERAS Facilitate dialogues and support in drafting GESI strategy for provincial and local governments where RERAS is active Exporing options for dialogue among different actors and intra-municipality sectoral divisions to discuss, review and identify common areas of interest to collaborate for GESI responsive objectives Support local governments to practice GRB while planning for the annual targets, monitoring, and reporting Dialogue forums for interactions, and explaining relevancy of diversities, inclusion promoting inter-sectionality	GESI responsive outputs and targets in the project result framework Diversity team with required competence including pool of experts for their mobilization as and when required ToR of project team with GESI specific mandates Funding source diversity Human Resource Development (HRD) plan Practice GRB Social audit in practice Inter-sectoral dialogue and policy feedback platforms System diversity with inter-cultural mix environment within office, partner agencies	Enhanced and informed participation Build agency-wise voice Enhance capacity Policy influence

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Objectives of the document:

Types of activities	Deliverables	Time frame	Responsible party
Ensure inclusive human resources and responsibilities of project team	GESI expert provision in the project Inclusive workforce of project/ ToR of each staff with GESI mainstreaming mandate Incorporate GESI related objective in each staff's annual performance plan as a mandate Inclusive team for project work monitoring, reporting Project Annual Reports with gender, caste, ethnicity, age, disability, etc. and inclusive disaggregated data	Year 1 Year 1-3	Project Team
Capacity building	Mechanism for regular orientation on GESI with project perspective (energy-agri-nutrition) to the project team in place Mandatory and statutory learning platform of UNDP (CoP) and project team to share, exchange and learning on GESI specific interventions	Year 1 Year 1-3	GESI Analyst. Project coordinators
Knowledge products	Evidence generation on gender equality and social inclusion specific case studies/stories/verdicts/palikas profiles Media tools (communication tools) focusing on GESI about *raithane*, nutrition, renewable energy, machine efficiency and multi-purpose functions	Year 1-3	GESI Analyst/MEL Analyst/Project coordinators /Communication team
Policy influence instruments	Ensure MEL indicators to capture GESI related data Awareness raising/sensitization package on policy instruments Provision to support or facilitate on formulation or review GESI strategy of Palikas of project area Provision to support or facilitate on formulation or review policy instruments related to agriculture, food and nutrition security of Palika with GESI perspective	Year 1 Year 1-3	GESI Analyst, MEL Analyst GESI Analyst, MEL Analyst, Cluster Coordinators,

The objective of this document is to guide the project team to devise inclusive and accountable policy frameworks and institutional mechanisms that are competent to cater GESI responsive results.

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GESI Action Plan

UNDP Nepal GESI policy aims to guide mainstreaming of gender and social inclusion in the implementation of the Country Programme Document 2023-2027 and contribute to achievement of SDGs, the Agenda 2030. To contribute to the objectives by RERAS, below is the GESI action plan.

Key Activities and Strategies

Activity	Description	Target Group	Timeline	Responsible Party
1. GESI Sensitization and Training	Conduct GESI sensitization orientation or workshops for related project staff, local authorities, and community leaders.	Project staff, local authorities, community leaders	Year 1	GESI Analyst, Cluster Coordinators, project partners
2. Conduct baseline GESI Assessment	Perform a baseline study to understand the needs and challenges faced by women and marginalized groups specific to the project	All community members	Year 1	GESI Analyst, MEL Analyst, Cluster Coordinators
4. Capacity Building activities for Women and marginalized group	Provide technical and entrepreneurial training for women and marginalized groups through the specific project activities (e.g., solar panel maintenance, small business development).	Women, marginalized groups	Years 1-3	Cluster Coordinators, project partners
5. Financial Inclusion Programs	Develop microfinance programs to support women and marginalized groups in starting energy-related businesses.	Women, marginalized groups	Years 2-3	Project Team
6. Monitoring and Evaluation	Regularly monitor and evaluate GESI outcomes using gender-disaggregated data.	All stakeholders	Ongoing	MEL Analyst GESI Analyst Project Team

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Annex 6: UNDP Project Board Terms Of Reference

Background

All UNDP projects must be governed by a multi-stakeholder board or committee established to review performance based on established monitoring and evaluation metrics and high-level implementation issues to ensure quality delivery of results. For the purpose of this ToR and to ensure standardization, henceforth, as regards project documentation, such a body shall only be referred to by 'Project Board'. The Project Board is the most senior, dedicated oversight body for a UNDP 'Development Project', which is defined in the PPM as an instrument where UNDP "Delivers outputs where UNDP has accountability for design, oversight and quality assurance of the entire project."

The Project Board is responsible for making management decisions by consensus when required, including the approval of project plans and revisions, and the project manager's tolerances. The Project Board approves annual work plans and reviews updates to the project risk log.

Within the overall governance and management arrangements of the project, the role of the Project Board as regards these two key functions ('High-level oversight of the project' and 'Approval of key project execution decisions') is distinct from the roles of entities involved in the implementation of the project, namely the implementing partner (IP), responsibilities parties (if applicable), service providers and project staff.

In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, the Project Board decisions should be made in accordance with the Quality Standards for Programming that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective national and international competition. An effective Project Board needs credible data, evidence, quality assurance and reporting to aid decision making (see next section on supporting functions to the Board). The Project Board also needs to be accountable to protect against conflicts of interest and fraud.

Specific responsibilities of the Project Board include the following:

- Provide overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints, and promote gender equality and social inclusion (LNOB) in the project implementation;
- Review project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including standard quality assurance checks, progress reports, risk logs, spot checks/audit reports and the combined delivery report;
- Address any high-level project issues as raised by the project manager and project assurance;
- Provide guidance on emerging and/or pressing project risks and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks (including ensuring compliance with UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards, Fraud/corruption, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment);
- Agree or decide on project manager's tolerances as required, within the parameters set by UNDP (Manage Change in the PPM) and the donor, and provide direction and decisions for exceptional situations when the project manager's tolerances are exceeded;
- Advise on major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP and the donor;
- Agree or decide on a project suspension or cancellation, if required; (note that for GEF and GCF projects it is UNDP that decides to suspend or cancel and project and the Project Board is informed/consulted only).
- Provide high-level direction and recommendations to the project management unit to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily according to plans.
- Receive and address project level grievance, including overseeing whatever specific compliance and stakeholder response (or grievance) mechanisms have been put in place so that individuals and communities potentially affected by the project have access to effective mechanisms and

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procedures for raising concerns about the social and environmental performance of the project[47].

- Engage in the low value grant selection process where there is no Grant Selection Committee, as guided by the Low Value Grants – UNDP Operational Guide.

Additional responsibilities of the Project Board can include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Ensure coordination between the various donors and government-funded projects and programmes;
- Report to relevant inter-ministerial bodies or higher-level oversight bodies;
- Ensure coordination with multiple government agencies and their participation in project activities;
- Track and monitor co-financing for this project;
- Appraise the annual project implementation report, including the quality assessment rating report;
- Ensure commitment of human resources to support project implementation, arbitrating any issues within the project;
- Act as an informal consultation mechanism for stakeholders;
- Approve the Project Inception Report, Mid-term Review and Terminal Evaluation reports and corresponding management responses;
- Review the final project report package during an end-of-project review meeting to discuss lessons learned and opportunities for scaling up;
- Providing guidance or reporting protocols to technical committees or sub-bodies reporting to the Board (if applicable);

[47] The responsibilities of the board in this regard should follow UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES) as codified in the PPM. It should be noted that while a project board can play a role in addressing or assisting with the compliance and stakeholder response (or grievance) mechanisms put in in place for a given project (as part of their quality assurance and oversight function), this will be in addition to and does not substitute for UNDP's core responsibility to ensure compliance with the SES throughout the project management cycle as part of UNDP's Programming Quality Assurance system.

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Annex 7: Grievance Redress Mechanism Terms of Reference

ToR for establishment of

Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

In UNDP Nepal's Project

1. Introduction

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has policy of information disclosure and transparency; this includes ensuring that stakeholders who may be adversely affected by the project can communicate their concerns and grievances. The Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) is for people seeking satisfactory resolution of their complaints on the environmental and social performance of the UNDP project.

Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRMs) are generally the "first line" of response to stakeholder concerns that have not been prevented by proactive stakeholder engagement. GRMs are intended to complement, not replace, formal legal channels for managing grievances (e.g. the court system, organizational audit mechanisms, etc.). The existence of a GRM should not prevent citizens or communities from pursuing their rights and interests in any other national, local or judicial forum. More information on GRMs is available in UNDP's Guidance on Stakeholder Engagement, and the Supplemental Guidance on Grievance Redress Mechanisms.

2. Purpose of the project level GRM

During design and implementation of any project, a person or group of people can be adversely affected, directly or indirectly due to the project activities. The grievances that may arise can be related to social issues and/or environmental issues. The purpose of a project GRM is to address grievances related to the adverse social and environmental impacts of a UNDP project. A project-level GRM is designed to deal with concerns, complaints or feedback about how a project is designed or implemented, and any negative environment or social impacts that it may have. This may include complaints relating to (but not exclusive to): social issues such as eligibility criteria and entitlements, disruption of services, temporary or permanent loss of livelihoods, discrimination, harassment or bullying; not being able to access project benefits; project design not reaching vulnerable groups; human rights concerns; inequitable benefits; etc. Environmental issues such as construction-related matters; land-related matters; excessive dust generation, damages to infrastructure due to construction related vibrations or transportation of raw materials, noise, traffic congestions, decrease in quality or quantity of public/private surface/ground water resources during rehabilitation, damage to home gardens and agriculture lands etc.

3. Scope

The scope of the GRM is to address grievances related to the social and environmental impacts of any Project which is implemented by the UNDP in Nepal in a timely and efficient manner. Grievances related to other topics should be referred to the appropriate mechanisms.

Not all complaints should be handled through a project GRM. For example, grievances that allege corruption, coercion, or major and systematic violations of rights and/or policies, are normally referred to organizational accountability mechanisms or administrative or judicial bodies for formal investigation. The UNDP corporate Accountability Mechanism, including the Stakeholder Response Mechanism (SRM) at Country Office level and the Social and Environmental Compliance Unit (SECU) at HQ level, provides an additional recourse for complainants who are not satisfied with the response they receive from the project GRM, or who may be concerned about an adverse response if they raise concerns with the Project GRM.

The GRM must maintain the confidentiality of Complainants' identities when requested to do so, in order to reduce the risk of retaliation and reprisals against people who may express concerns about a project and wish to access project-level grievance redress mechanisms, the SRM, or SECU.

Not all projects should establish the GRM. Projects where there is more likelihood of potential adverse social and environmental impacts require a project-level GRM. Projects that are categorized as Moderate Risk, Substantial Risk, or High Risk, as determined by the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP), are required to have a GRM established.

To be effective use of the mechanism, the stakeholders and beneficiaries need to know about the existence of the GRM and how to use it. An effective GRM is built on the principles of inclusiveness, transparency, and equity, and it serves to build trust and mutual respect between the citizens and the project. A good GRM will

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have multiple channels for people to submit complaints (email, phone, in-person, suggestion boxes, raising voices in meeting, training, workshop, social media etc.) and be able to address and resolve complaints quickly and collaboratively. Project-level GRMs should be tailored to the project context, staffed by individuals with a good understanding of the risks and issues related to the project, and able to engage directly and rapidly to address concerns raised by project stakeholders.

4. Mandate

The mandate of the GRM will be to:

(a) receive and address any concerns, complaints, notices of emerging conflicts, or grievances (collectively "Grievance") alleging actual or potential harm to affected person(s) (the "Claimant(s)") arising from a UNDP project
(b) assist in resolution of Grievances between and among Project Stakeholders and beneficiaries
(c) Conduct itself at all times in a flexible, collaborative, and transparent manner aimed at problem solving and consensus building.

5. Functions

The functions of the project GRM will be to:

(a) Receive, log and track all grievances received.
(b) Provide regular status updates on grievances to complainants, Project Board (PB) members, CO SRM Focal Point and other relevant stakeholders, as applicable.
(c) Engage the Project Board members, Government institutions/partners and other relevant stakeholders in grievance resolution.
(d) Process and propose solutions and ways forward related to specific grievances as soon as possible. An ideal time period is to respond and resolve grievances within 60 days from receipt of the grievance.
(e) Identify any trends in grievances and recommend possible measures to avoid them.
(f) Receive and service requests for, and suggest the use of, mediation or facilitation.
(g) Provide information on grievance resolution as part of project bi-annual/annual reports and make said reports available to the public.
(h) Ensure increased awareness, accessibility, transparency and credibility of the GRM process.
(i) Collaborate with Partner Institutions and other NGOs, CSOs and other entities to conduct outreach initiatives to increase awareness among stakeholders as to the existence of the GRM and how its services can be accessed.
(j) Ensure continuing education of PB members and their respective institutions about the relevant laws and policies that they will need to be aware of to participate in the development of effective resolutions to grievances likely to come before the GRM.
(k) Monitors follow up to grievance resolutions, as appropriate.

6. Eligible Complaints

Any person or group of persons who believe they are adversely affected by a UNDP project, or at risk of adverse impacts from a proposed UNDP project, may file a request for use of the GRM.

(i) To be eligible for an GRM response, the complaint must:

a. Relate to a current UNDP project and its activities after the signing of the project document and before the project closure and/or UNDP projects being at designed phase.

b. Explain how the complainants (or their authorized representative) have been experiencing or may experience adverse socio-economic or environmental impacts from the UNDP project.

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c. Indicate what steps, if any, have already been taken to try to resolve the complaint, such as communication with the project manager (or with the project developers for projects that have not yet been approved), and/or communication with the Project Board.

(ii) The following are excluded from the GRM:

a. Any complaint that is found by UNDP to have been filed fraudulently or maliciously.

b. Complaints that relate to UNDP procurement or employment (these complaints should be referred to the appropriate mechanism, either the relevant Business Unit, OAI or the appropriate national government audit body or equivalent);

c. Complaints relating to projects that are not UNDP projects, projects where UNDP is one of several partners and is not responsible for the specific issues raised, or projects where UNDP's role has ended, and UNDP has no feasible pathway to address the complainant's concerns.

d. Complaints by people or groups who have already raised the same issue with respect to the same project and received an GRM response, unless significant new information is available or there has been a significant change in circumstances.

7. Protection from Reprisal and Retaliation

UNDP seeks to identify, reduce and address the risk of retaliation and reprisals against people who may seek information and participation in project activities, express concerns and/or access project-level grievance redress processes/mechanisms or UNDP's Stakeholder Response Mechanism or Social and Environmental Compliance Unit. To minimize the risk of reprisal or retaliation, the GRM will:

- maintain confidentiality of complainants' identities when requested.
- respond to complainant concerns about reprisal or retaliation; and
- in consultation with the complainant bring the complaint to the UNDP Accountability Mechanism at corporate level for review and action.

For complaints regarding SEAH, the GRM will take additional steps as necessary to protect the confidentiality of the complainant and minimize reprisal and retaliation risks.

8. Without Prejudice

The existence and use of this GRM is without prejudice to any existing rights under any other complaint mechanisms that an individual or group of individuals may otherwise have access to under national or international law or the rules and regulations of other institutions, agencies or commissions.

9. Establishment of the GRM for The Renewable Energy for Resilient Agri-Food Systems (RERAS) project

9.1 Brief background of the RERAS project

The Renewable Energy for Resilient Agri-Food Systems (RERAS) project is being funded by the Norwegian Embassy and implemented by UNDP in 20 local governments across Sudurpashchim, Karnali, Madesh and Bagmati provinces. The project focuses on enhancing agricultural productivity and food security by leveraging affordable energy solutions, empowering local farmers through modern technology, and partnering with government bodies and national organizations. The project is also working on strengthening the environmental local governance in some Palikas.

The Renewable Energy for Resilient Agri-Food Systems (RERAS) project focuses on enhancing the production, irrigation, processing, storage, packaging, and marketing of locally grown farm products, including indigenous crops such as millets, beans, marsi rice, fruits, and vegetables. It seeks to establish dedicated funds at the local level to support farmers in adopting modern technology. The project collaborates with local and provincial governments, cooperatives, traders, and service providers to enhance their knowledge, and promote the use of energy-based and climate-smart technology. This initiative is crucial in addressing food and nutrition security issues in the area while contributing positively to the environment.

9.2 Structure of the GRM at RERAS project

- Grievance Receipt and Registration:

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- Grievance Focal Point (GFP):

MEL Analyst will be the designated GFP personnel.

MEL Analyst will be responsible for receiving and registering grievances.

GFP will ensures confidentiality of not disclosing the identity if requested by the complainant. / Anonymous complaint mechanism.

- Grievance Submission Channels:

Multiple channels for grievance submission, including in-person, email, phone and suggestion boxes are established within the project.

Information on how to submit grievances will be made available through notice boards, websites, brochures, and orientation.

- Grievance Assessment and Acknowledgement:
  - Initial Assessment:

GFP assesses the grievance to determine its validity and urgency.

Grievances categorized based on nature and urgency.

  - Acknowledgement:

Complainant receives an acknowledgment of receipt within a specified timeframe (2 working days)

- Grievance Investigation and Resolution:
  - Investigation Team:

This will be composed of relevant project staff and specialists, if necessary.

The team will conduct thorough investigations, including consultations with involved parties.

  - Resolution Proposal:

The Investigation team will propose a resolution based on findings.

Complainant will be informed of the proposed resolution and given the opportunity to provide feedback.

- Escalation Mechanism:

  - Project Manager:

Project manager will review unresolved grievances and proposed resolutions.

Project manager will decide on further action or escalates the grievance if necessary.

Project Board/Senior Management:

Project board/senior management will handle escalated grievances that cannot be resolved at the project manager level.

Provides a final decision on the grievance.

- Grievance Monitoring and Reporting:
  - Grievance Database:

A database to record all received grievances, including details, actions taken, and resolutions will be managed within the project.

  - Regular Reporting:

The summaries of grievances and resolutions will be included in project reports submitted to UNDP country office.

Periodic reviews will be done to identify patterns and improve the GRM process.

- Staff Training and Awareness:
  - Induction Training:

All project staff including the implementing partner staff will receive training on GRM procedures.

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All the project staff will be educated on how to assist complainants and disseminate information about the GRM.

- Ongoing Capacity Building:

Regular refresher orientation and updates on GRM processes and any changes will be made accordingly.

- Feedback and Improvement:
  - Complainant Feedback:

Mechanism for complainants to provide feedback on the grievance process will also be ensured by GFP and the project team.

- Continuous Improvement:

Regular reviews of the GRM to incorporate feedback and improve efficiency and effectiveness will be done.

In addition to the project-level and national grievance redress mechanisms, complainants have the option to access UNDP's Accountability Mechanism and/or CO SRM mechanism directly.

9.3 Composition and operation of the GRM at the project level

(i) The Project Manager will be responsible for overseeing the operations of the GRM. For RERAS project, GRM Focal Point (GFP) will be Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Analyst, who will deal with grievances promptly in coordination with the Project Manager. The GFP will have overall oversight and monitoring responsibility for the GRM implementation in the project in close coordination with Project Manager.

(ii) The GFP will receive and log the complaints and acknowledge the receipt of the complaints within 2 business days of the receipt, contact complainant and state that the complaint has been received and is being reviewed for eligibility.

(iii) The GFP in close coordination with the project team will determine the eligibility of the complaint. If required, he/she will seek further information from the complainant and/or project staff.

(iv) If the complaints can be resolved easily at the project level, the Project Manager will work together with the GFP and the concern project staff to develop the response and dialogue with the complainant regarding the response.

(v) For the complex issues that cannot be readily resolved at the project level, the Project Manager shall inform this to the Project Board for the resolution. If the project board agrees, the unresolved grievance or complaint can be referred to the CO level SRM.

(vi) The Project Manager will present the progress of the GRM at the Project Board Meeting. The progress will be documented in the PEB meeting minute and will be included in the Annual Progress Report.

9.4 Channels to submit the grievance under RERAS

Complaint Boxes

- Complaint Boxes/Suggestion boxes will be installed at cluster offices in the field and Program management unit (PMU)

Onsite Complaints

- Overseers will be assigned to collect potential verbal complaints at project sites particularly for construction related work at construction sites
- Information on the GRM process in the orientation package will be provided at the beginning of construction work.
- Onsite complaints can also be made to the project staff directly during feedback monitoring visits

Dedicated hotlines and email address:

- Complaints can directly be made at A toll-free number **18105000078** available at PMU and this will be managed by MEL Analyst and Project Manager at the PMU
- Complaints and feedback can also be directly sent to grm.reras.np@undp.org for the feedback related to the project

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Active grievance management under RERAS:

i) The project will ensure that complainants have the option to request confidentiality about disclosing the identity when submitting their grievances. All the complaints will be dealt with high confidentiality.
ii) The Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) will be made publicly known among project stakeholders, especially vulnerable groups, through various means such as notice boards in local offices and villages, websites, brochures, and radio announcements, as appropriate.
iii) Language need will be taken into account for both disseminating information about the GRM and submitting grievances, including providing information in local languages and accommodating oral submissions.
iv) A database will be established to record grievances, and summaries of these records will be submitted to UNDP as part of the project reports.
v) All project staff will receive an induction on the GRM procedure and will be equipped to disseminate information about the GRM and guide complainants on how to submit their grievances.
vi) Complaints that need escalation will be handled by the Project Manager, who will escalate them to the Project Board and/or SRM if the complainant is not satisfied with the GRM's response.
vii) The above steps will help to ensure that the GRM is accessible for project stakeholders, in particular vulnerable groups.

9.5 Resources required for GRM

The project will ensure the following resources required to establish the functional GRM.

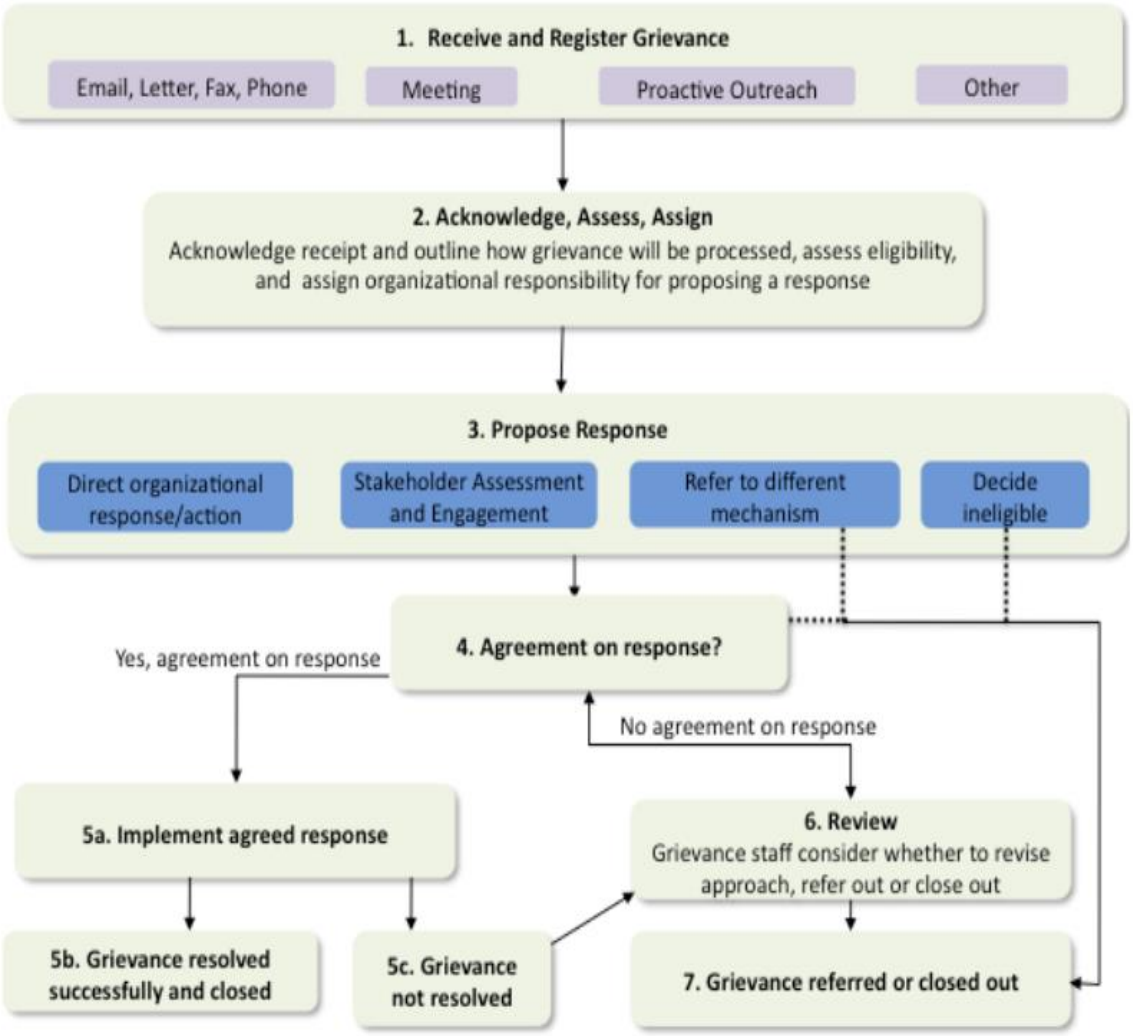
(i) GFP will handle both the phone and email to receive and respond the grievances.
(ii) Proper resource allocation for the functioning of the GRM will be ensured by project manager.
(iii) A one pager information sheet with the GRM procedures in English, Nepali language will be developed.
(iv) Information sheet to stakeholders and possible affected beneficiaries through various means such as meeting, training, workshops, conferences etc will be ensured.
(v) An information board with disclosing GRM procedure particularly in the construction sites will be displayed.
(vi) The orientation on information about GRM will be done before the activity particularly during any construction works.

9.6 Procedures in the GRM

The general procedures of the GRM is provided in the below graph.

Figure 1: General overview of how the grievance redress process works

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Stage 1: Resolution

Step 1: Receive and Register Grievance

A complainant submits a grievance through one of the grievance channels identified by the project GRM (phone, email, oral feedback, suggestion box etc.). The grievance is logged by the GFP as shown in Step 1 within two (2) days.

Step 2: Acknowledge, Assess, Assign

The staff who have received the grievance, or a GFP should inform the complainant within 3-5 days of receipt that their grievance has been received, will be logged and reviewed for eligibility, and if eligible, will generate an initial organizational response. The initial acknowledgement should be in the form of a standard letter or email, with a clearly identified point of contact in the implementing organization/agency, a brief description of the process that will be followed, and a reference name or number for the complaint.

The GFP Jointly with the Project Manager and project team will then assess the eligibility of the grievance for the GRM, to ensure the issue being raised is relevant to project. The decision on eligibility is meant to trigger an initial assessment and response – it is not an admission that the organization has caused an impact, or a commitment to provide the complainant with any specific form of redress. Staff responsible for the initial response should follow clear guidelines on the issues that can be handled through the GRM, and the issues that should be referred to other mechanisms (such as internal audit departments, internal and external anti-corruption offices, police, etc.).

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If needed, the grievances may be categorized by the GFP (those relating to environmental impacts, those relating to traffic safety, etc. as shown in the sample log).

Step 3: Develop a Proposed Response

GRMs typically generate three primary types of response to complaints:

a) Direct action to resolve the complaint;
b) Further assessment and engagement with the complainant and other stakeholders to determine jointly the best way to resolve the complaint;
c) Determination that the complaint is not eligible for the GRM, either because it does not meet the basic eligibility criteria, or because another mechanism (within the organization or outside it) is the appropriate place for the complaint to go, or both.

The GFP with support from Project Manager is responsible to determine whether the grievance can be addressed directly through a relatively simple action agreed with the complainant; or whether the grievance is complex enough that it requires additional assessment and engagement with the complainant and other stakeholders to determine how best to respond.

Many complaints can be resolved through direct and relatively straightforward action on the part of the organization or program. However, other cases involving multiple stakeholders and complex issues may require an extended process of joint fact-finding, dialogue and/or negotiation. In these cases, the GRM should propose a stakeholder assessment and engagement process to respond to the complaint.

The GRM will aim to have a resolution for the complaint within twenty-one (21) days of first notifying the complaint their grievance had been received.

The proposed response should be communicated to the complainant in a timely fashion, in writing (plus orally if that is a more effective means of communication) using language that is easily accessible to the complainant.

Responders may also contact the complainant by telephone or set up a meeting to review and discuss the initial approach with the complainant. The response should include an explanation of why the response is being proposed; what the response would be; and what the complainant's choices are given the proposed response (e.g. agree to proceed, request a review, further dialogue, participation in a proposed assessment and engagement process, or to pursue the complaint through other channels).

Documenting the process is important and should be done through a Grievance Log (Annex 2).

Step 4 and 5: Agree on and Implement the Response

The complainant may or may not agree with the proposed response. If the complainant accepts the proposed resolution, the organization should proceed with implementation of the agreed response (Step 5a). GFP should document the satisfactory resolution of the complaint in consultation with the complainant, monitor the implementation and satisfactory completion of any actions agreed to as part of the resolution, and the case should be closed (Step 5b).

If the complainant does not accept the proposed resolution, the GFP should meet with the complainant to determine whether the matter can be resolved through further dialogue, or if the grievance should be reviewed (Step 6) and referred to Stage 2 (see below).

Step 6: Review

GRM should review the situation with the complainant to determine whether any modification of the response might meet the concerns of the complainant, the organization, and other stakeholders. If there is still no agreement, GRM staff should inform the complainant of other alternatives for recourse that may be available to them. It is important that GRM staff document the outcome of discussions with the complainant, clearly outlining the options that were offered, why the complainant chose not to pursue them, and the decisions made about referral or recourse to other alternatives.

Stage 2: If the complainant is not satisfied with the outcome of the Stage 1 resolution, they should be informed that they have the right to raise the grievance directly to the CO SRM. The CO SRM will further discuss the grievance with GFP, including keeping the Project Manager informed and seeking their approval

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in grievance resolution. The SRM will follow its own procedure in order to resolve the grievance, including ensuring its documentation and recording. In total, Stage 2 should not exceed 60 days.

If the complainant accepts the proposed resolution, this should be implemented (Step 5a), any agreed actions monitored until completion, and the case should be documented and closed (Step 5b).

If the complainant does not accept the resolution, the CO SRM should meet with the complainant to see if the matter can be resolved through further dialogue, or the grievance should be reviewed (Step 6) and referred to Stage 3.

Stage 3: If the complainant is not satisfied with the outcome of the Stage 2 resolution, they should be informed of other alternatives that are available to them, including raising the grievance directly with UNDP via its Stakeholder Response Mechanism (SRM). UNDP can then follow the SRM in terms of addressing the grievance. Complainants should also be informed of UNDP's Social and Environmental Compliance Unit (SECU), its purpose, and the procedure they should follow if they wish to raise a complaint with SECU, should they be dissatisfied with the response of the GRM or SRM. Complainants should also be informed that they can access local (legal or otherwise) mechanisms at any stage.

9.7 Monitoring and Evaluation

The project will submit the GRM report to Project Board describing the work of the GRM, listing the number and nature of the Grievances received and processed, description of the Grievances received, resolutions, referrals and ongoing efforts at resolution, and status of implementation of ongoing resolutions.

The project should report the status of GRM to Country Office through the periodic report. The level of detail provided with regard to any individual Grievance will depend on the sensitivity of the issues and Stakeholder concerns about confidentiality, while providing appropriate transparency about the activities of the GRM. The report will also highlight key trends in emerging conflicts, Grievances, and dispute resolution, and make recommendations regarding: (i) measures that can be taken by the Government to avoid future harms and Grievances; and (ii) improvements to the GRM that would enhance its effectiveness, accessibility, predictability, transparency, legitimacy, credibility, and capacity.

9.8 Grievance Log

As mentioned, all complaints should be recorded in Grievance Log (see Annex 2). It is recommended that the same database to record complaints be used by the GFP and the GRC so that there is consistency in information and full records. It is also recommended that the GRC has overall responsibility for the GRM.

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Annex 8: Project Manager Terms Of Reference

Background

Nepal's Constitution has established food security, the right to food, and food sovereignty as fundamental rights, with the government entrusted to uphold them. However, Nepal ranks 73 out of 117 food-importing nations in the 2022 Global Hunger Report, with approximately 45 out of 77 districts facing food insufficiency. To address this challenge and align with Sustainable Development Goals, UNDP will implement the "Renewable Energy for Resilient Agri-Food Systems (RERAS)" in 11 local governments across Sudurpashchim, Karnali, and Bagmati provinces to enhance agriculture productivity and food security by leveraging affordable energy solutions, empowering local farmers through modern technology, and partnering with government bodies and national organizations with the support from the Royal Norwegian Embassy.

The project aims to contribute to the “improved food and nutrition security of the communities in targeted municipalities of Sudur Paschim and Karnali provinces by promoting indigenous crop varieties through mechanization of agriculture using renewable energy-based technology.” The project will support establishing dedicated funds at local level to support the farmers for use of modern technology in production and processing. The project will work with local and provincial governments, cooperatives, traders, and service providers to enhance their knowledge on use of modern technology for food production and sustainable food system management through capacity building and provisions for climate information, policies, finance, and farm research. Extensive use of energy-based and climate smart technology will help reduce the cost of production and increase local food supply. This will also support economic empowerment of women and marginalized groups through job creation and contribute to environment.

In the context, UNDP is looking to recruit a full-time, dedicated, experienced and competent Project Manager for the Renewable Energy for Resilient Agri-Food Systems (RERAS) project to ensure that project milestones are delivered in a timely and cost- effective manner that fulfils donor’s expectations. The Project Manager will work under the direct supervision of the Portfolio Analyst, Resilience and Environment and will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of project management including programme, finance and operations and implementation of project activities in 3 provinces and 12 municipalities. S/he will coordinate with major partners and seek guidance from the respective technical experts to ensure quality of the processes and outputs. S/he will be responsible for supervision of project team that includes both professional and support staff based in Kathmandu, cluster and satellite office (Monitoring, Communication and Reporting Officer (GESI/M&E), Liaison and Coordination Officer, Cluster Coordinators, Admin and Finance Officers and support staff), maintaining day-to-day communication and coordination with partner agencies, and liaison with federal, provincial and municipal officials, the local partners and other stakeholders.

The incumbent will report to the Portfolio Manager (UNDP/ Resilience and Environment Portfolio)

Duties and Responsibilities:

Ensure effective coordination at national, provincial, and local level including with the partners and counterparts of the project

- Establish and maintain good working relations with key stake holders- national, provincial and local government, non-government organizations to support smooth implementation of the project and ensure their ownership on project results.
- Build and maintain a close coordination with Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) and Norwegian Embassy in regard to achievements of project results, timely reporting of progress, challenges, and potential modifications (in case required), and making responses to additional queries.
- Build and maintain a strong coordination and collaborate with the implementing partners including WFP, ICIMOD, AEPC and other for implementation of project activities at all levels based on agreed implementation framework and division of labor including financial and programmatic reporting and build synergy in approach and apply learning to address food and nutrition security risks in project municipalities and provinces.
- Build and maintain a strong coordination with partner members during implementation of project activities to ensure knowledge exchange and sharing of best practices to build synergy.

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- Ensure coordination with UN field office and government line agencies during preparation of cluster workplans and guidelines.
- Ensure participation of provincial and local governments, line agencies, target communities, and other stakeholders including community of practices in planning, implementation, and monitoring of project activities.
- Mobilize the Provincial Coordinators and Municipal teams to ensure integration of project approach into provincial and municipal planning for further scaling up.
- Communicate and coordinate with other agriculture and nutrition sector actors and partners working in 11 target municipalities and at the districts level about the objectives, approach, and intended outcomes of the project to build synergy in implementation.
- Organize Project Board meetings on a regular basis; consult with the Project Board on any issues that require the Board's attention, including issues related to deviation from the approved work plans and deviation from the approved target and/or budget.

Ensure effective management and implementation of the project activities for timely delivery of quality outputs:

- Overall management of Renewable Energy for Resilient Agri- Food System project.
- Lead recruitment planning and day-to-day management of all project personnel (staff, consultants, and contractors), project finance, procurement, and logistics to perform various tasks as reflected in the project document and project work plan.
- Take lead on the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, management, and coordination as relevant to project implementation at different levels -federal, provincial, district and municipal levels.
- Lead the project planning exercise to produce project annual and quarterly work plan/budget and implementation of day-today project activities within the timeline in coherence with set guidelines and procedures and quality standards.
- Ensure that all activities under each output are prepared in a timely manner and implemented in accordance with stated outcomes and performance indicators.
- Identify potential issues related to project implementation and management and prepare a set of recommendations for discussion as relevant to project implementation and management.
- Take responsibility of coordination, management and monitoring of project finance, administration, procurement and logistics of the project in compliance with UNDP's Rules and procedures
- Ensure that all financial and administrative matters related to the project are transparent, expedient, and effectively managed in line with UNDP rules and regulations.
- Coordinate and support all activities for annual audit exercise and ensure implementation of audit and evaluation recommendation.
- Provide supervision and coordination of the work of project personnel-PMU and field team to ensure delivery of project outputs and outcomes in a timely manner
- Facilitate strategic dialogue between project staff, the donor, implementing partners at federal, provincial and local levels, non-governmental organizations, and other counterparts.

Carry out project monitoring and evaluation and reporting responsibilities

- Finalize M&E framework/ plan of the project in coordination with project's Monitoring, Communication and Reporting Officer (GESI/M&E) and ensure its timely and effective implementation.
- Regularly monitor project activities to ensure their implementation and initiate taking necessary preparatory actions for course corrections as needful in liaison with relevant parties.
- Undertake regular field visits to project sites, and facilitate joint monitoring with consortium members, government counterparts to ensure quality delivery of outputs and activities, including coherence in understanding and approach undertaken for implementation of activities.
- Carry out baseline, midterm and final evaluation of the project.
- Ensure regular oversight to project implementation based on project follow up and monitoring plan, implementation strategy, action plan, calendar of events, etc. developed in consultation with project staff (AFO, M&E, GESI, etc.)
- Ensure timely reporting to donors and government as per agreed time schedule and template following UNDP's established procedures.

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- Ensure timely finalization of technical and financial progress reports- quarterly, six monthly, annual, project completion reports, briefs and other documents and ensure their quality.
- Facilitate the process of monitoring and evaluation of project as per UNDP requirements and procedures
- Ensure regular updates and maintain consistency of project disaggregated data/information in line with project M&E framework.
- Prioritize and provide necessary support to donor monitoring, evaluation and reporting as per agreed work plan.
- Ensure that the project receives adequate level of visibility and attention through multiple means at all tiers of government .

Provide technical guidance and support to the project team:

- Organize project inception and review workshops to build common understanding about project outcomes, implementation modality, challenges, and deliverables in collaboration with RERAS and other partners.
- Provide technical guidance to project team, in liaison with the government officials and other stakeholders, in preparation of detailed project workplan and budget, development of project implementation strategy and action plan, and engagement of project staff at community levels.
- Guide the field team: Provincial Coordinator, Municipal Technical Officers, Monitoring, Communication and Reporting Officer (GESI/M&E), Liaison and Coordination Officer, Admin and Finance Officers and Community Development Workers based in the cluster and municipality to execute planned activities in a timely and efficient manner.
- Conduct regular meetings and follow ups with project team to take stock of implementation and reflect cross-cutting issues such as vulnerability, gender, social inclusion, human rights, etc. in project result framework.
- Engage in policy advocacy to enhance energy-food and nutrition security nexus.
- Provide quality inputs and feedback to the work done at provincial and municipal levels and ensure coherence with project objectives, plans and budgets

Preparation of process/ technical reports/ documents, Communication/ Knowledge Management and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI):

- Ensure documentation of project results and achievements and their dissemination at province and municipal levels in coordination with provincial coordinators
- Guide Monitoring Communication and Reporting Officer in data collection and analysis, documenting challenges and lessons learnt, preparing project reports, news, success stories and organizing events.
- Ensure development of high-quality knowledge products and communication materials in close coordination with Monitoring Communication and Reporting Officer (GESI/M&E) and UNDP communication team
- Ensure project approaches, and monitoring and reporting system reflect on gender and social inclusion results; and project team build capacities for GESI analysis through tailored support.
- Facilitate the dissemination of information about the objectives, progress, and achievements of the project.
- Take the lead, coordinate and participate in organizing national and international conferences, seminars, workshops, training sessions and meetings related to the project;
- Build the project's reputation in the knowledge networks to draw on and disseminate best practices and lessons learnt.
- Ensure integration of GESI aspects in all stages of the project in coordination with GESI Focal Person of UNDP/ and consortium members.
- Provide advice and direction on strategic and policy issues to strengthen gender & social inclusion initiatives during planning and implementation

Perform any other related task as per the request of Portfolio Manager, Resilience and Environment and Policy Advisor

Competencies:

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Core competencies:

- Achieve Results: LEVEL 3: Set and align challenging, achievable objectives for multiple projects, have lasting impact
- Think Innovatively: LEVEL 3: Proactively mitigate potential risks, develop new ideas to solve complex problems
- Learn Continuously: LEVEL 3: Create and act on opportunities to expand horizons, diversify experiences
- Adapt with Agility: LEVEL 3: Proactively initiate and champion change, manage multiple competing demands
- Act with Determination: LEVEL 3: Think beyond immediate task/barriers and take action to achieve greater results
- Engage and Partner: LEVEL 3: Political savvy, navigate complex landscape, champion inter-agency collaboration
- Enable Diversity and Inclusion: LEVEL 3: Appreciate benefits of diverse workforce and champion inclusivity

People Management competencies:

- UNDP People Management Competencies can be found in the dedicated site.

Cross-Functional & Technical competencies:

Technical Competency:

- Project management: Hands on experience and expertise on managing bi-lateral and multilateral projects in coordination with federal, provincial, and local government, civil society organizations-I/NGO. CBOs, private sector and cooperative
- Gender: Gender and Social Inclusion Mainstreaming
- Value chain development: Clear understanding of agriculture value chain and commodity specific technology development at different node of value chain
- Agriculture sectoral federalization: In depth understanding of agriculture sector federalization and working with federal, provincial, and local governments in strengthening agriculture extension system strengthening.
- Multi-stakeholder engagement and funding: Knowledge and ability to forge multi-stakeholder partnerships, and remove any obstacles to resource mobilization and multi-stakeholder funding platforms.

Cross Functional competency:

- System Thinking: Ability to use objective problem analysis and judgement to understand how interrelated elements coexist within an overall process or system, and to consider how altering one element can impact on other parts of the system .
- Knowledge Generation: Ability to research and turn information into useful knowledge, relevant for context, or responsive to a stated need.

Required Skills and Experience:

Education:

- Advanced university degree (master's degree or equivalent) in management of development with agriculture science, natural resource management or any other related fields. OR
- A first-level university degree (bachelor's degree) in the areas mentioned above in combination with 2 additional years of qualifying experience will be given due consideration in lieu of Master´s degree.

Experience:

- Minimum five years (with Master´s degree) or seven years (with Bachelor´s degree) of progressive experience working in decentralized agriculture extension system and agriculture value chain or relevant related field is required.
- At least 5 years of proven experience of managing bilateral, multilateral donors funded agriculture projects and its implementation in Nepal.
- Experience of working in food security and agriculture rural livelihood,

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- Good understanding of current agriculture plans and policies of the Government of Nepal and familiar with various initiatives at provincial and local levels through various stakeholders (ministries and local bodies)
- Through understanding of gender and social inclusion and practical experience of integrating it into the agriculture sector.
- More than 5 years' hands on experience in designing projects, project planning, implementation, and monitoring.
- Substantial working experience of coordination and collaboration with private sector, and different spheres of government- local, provincial, and federal government.
- Good technical knowledge/experience on agriculture value-chain, agriculture and land use, land tenure, agro-forestry.
- Experience in project management and project delivery
- Well versed in computer applications like Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.
- Good knowledge of computer applications, especially MS Office Good understanding of other application for data management and project monitoring
- Prior experience with UNDP, I/NGOS and knowledge of its policies, procedures and practice will be an asset.
- Good understanding of other application for data management and project monitoring
- Proven experience in overseeing and ensuring technical soundness of research and analysis.
- Good understanding of UNDP rules and procedures
- An experience of completing UNDP project management assignments
- Sound understanding/experience of agriculture policies, agriculture research and hands on experience and expertise of agriculture extension and research systems in Nepal.
- Proven experience of managing and supervising a team – comprising of more than 20 multidisciplinary professionals.

Required Languages:

Fluency in English and Nepali at professional level

Annex 9: Signed LPAC Minutes

Renewable Energy for Resilient Agri-Food Systems (RERAS)

Minutes of 3rd Project Executive Board and Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) Meeting

Date:	7 October 2024
Time:	9:30 – 11:30 am
Venue:	UN House

Attendees

SN	Name	Designation	Organization	Signature
1	Mr. Julien Chevillard	Chair, Deputy Resident Representative	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	DocuSigned by: 2B6D826A661446B...
2	Mr. Einar Telnes	Counsellor	The Royal Norwegian Embassy (RNE)	Signed by: C000592FBB9C43E...
3	Mr. Sharad Karmacharya	Advisor	The Royal Norwegian Embassy (RNE)	
4.	Mr. Dal Prasad Pudasaini	Under Secretary	Ministry of Agriculture and livestock Development (MoALD)	
5	Dr. Narayan Adhikari	Deputy Executive Director	Renewable Energy Promotion Center (RERL/AEPC)	
6	Mr. Robert Kasca	Country Director	World Food Programme (WFP)	DocuSigned by: 10CA4705EEF0465...
7	Mr. Pragyajan Yalamber Rai	Portfolio Manager	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	DocuSigned by: B801579101E84F7...
8	Mr. Abid Hussain	Senior Economist & Food Systems Specialist	International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)	
9	Mr. Satish Gautam	National Programme Manager	Renewable Energy Promotion Center (RERL/AEPC)	Signed by: 9CBD7A6D565E444...
10	Mr. Manu Binod Aryal	Head	Center for Renewable Energy Fund (CREF/AEPC)	

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11	Mr. Bharat Bhandari	Executive Director	Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (BI-BIRD)	Signed by: Bharat Bhandari 714BC5B31B1D44E...
12	Mr. Nibedan Baidya	Operations Manager	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	
13	Mr. Dinesh Bista	Result Based Management Analyst	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	DocuSigned by: 117B1515CC60480...
14	Mr. Shiva Kumar Shrestha	Project Manager	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	DocuSigned by: B50DA30E06574EF...

Invitees

SN	Name	Designation	Organization
1	Mr. Tika Ram Thapa	Province Secretary	Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives, Karnali
2	Mr. Susan Pandey	Program Officer	Center for Renewable Energy Fund (CREF/AEPC)
3	Mr. Ajaz Ali	Programme Officer	International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
4	Mr. Niranjan Pudasaini	Senior Program Officer	Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (BI-BIRD)
5	Mr. Callen Murray Hocking	Head of Engineering	World Food Programme (WFP)
6	Ms. Laura Ballester Nieto	Head of Partnership	World Food Programme (WFP)
7	Nathaniel Glidden	Head of Social Protection	World Food Programme (WFP)
8	Mr. Deepak Gautam	PPO	World Food Programme (WFP)
9	Ms. Kalpana Sarkar	Portfolio Manager	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
10	Ms. Purnima Bajracharya	Head of Exploration	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
11	Ms. Bipana Dhimal	Policy Analyst (GESI)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

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12	Ms. Vijayata Shrestha	Portfolio Associate	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
13	Mr. Laxman Raj Shrestha	Admin and Finance Analyst	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
14	Ms. Monisha Shrestha	Project Analyst – Agri-Business and Private sector	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
15	Ms. Sharika Mahato	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Analyst	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
16	Ms. Srijana Shrestha	Admin and Finance Officer	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
17	Ms. Himashree Malla	Communication Associate	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
18	Mr. Bishal Poudel	Cluster Coordination Analyst	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
19	Ms. Line Engelsvoll	Trainee	Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kathmandu

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Agenda

Time	Description	Remarks
09:30 – 09:35 AM	Opening Remarks & Round of introduction	Facilitated by Mr. Shiva Kumar Shrestha, Project Manager
09:35 – 09:40 AM	Opening Remarks from UNDP	Remarks by Chair, Mr. Julien Chevillard, Deputy Resident Representative
09:40 - 10:15 AM	Review of the 2nd PEB and RERAS Summary of project progress and plan for 2024	Presentation by Shiva Shrestha, Project Manager
10:15 – 10:25 AM	Presentation of RERAS Project Document	Pragyajan Yalamber Rai, Portfolio Manager
10:25 – 11:00 AM	Open Q & A Session - Progress Report - RERAS Project Document	All Partners
11:00 – 11:15 AM	Discussion and Decision - Approval of Q3 Progress - Approval of Q4 workplan and budget - Endorsement of Updated Risk Log - Endorsement of Grievance Redress Mechanism - Endorsement of Project Document	All Partners
11:15 - 11:30 AM	Closing Remarks	Closing Remarks by Chair, Mr. Julien Chevillard, Deputy Resident Representative

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1. Introduction

Mr. Julien Chevillard, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP, welcomed all board members and invitees. requested the introduction of new members and proceeded to outline the agenda for the meeting. He expressed his appreciation for their attendance and informed the board that the tranche from Norway has been received, and the funds are expected to be in the bank accounts this week. The floor was handed over to Mr. Shiva Kumar Shrestha, Project Manager of RERAS, for the presentations.

2. Review of previous Board agreed actions plans

Mr. Shiva Kumar Shrestha, Project Manager, briefed the members on the decisions made during the second Project Executive Board meeting and presented the status and updates on the agreed actions.

SN	Decision	Status
1	Endorsement of programmatical and financial progress of Q1.	Endorsed
2	Endorsement of QWP of 2nd quarter.	Endorsed
3	An updated Annual Work Plan 2024 to be shared with Board Members for their no-objection for Extension of Initiation Plan until December 2024.	Completed
4	Conduct joint field mission from 19-27 May 2024	Completed
5	Annual RNE-UNDP consultation meeting on 5th June 2024	Completed

3. Project Presentation on Progress and Achievements of Q2-Q3 and Workplan for Q4

In his presentation, Mr. Shrestha highlighted the key achievements in Q2 and Q3 shared a detailed breakdown of the targets versus achievements, categorized by output, highlighting progress in each area.

Target vs Achievements

SN	Output	Target	Achievement	Variance
Output 1.1	# of people reached through events and campaigns (Disaggregation by: Sex, Socioeconomic status, Disability status	1525	1540	More people participated than anticipated due to the relevancy of orientation
Output 1.2	# of irrigation facilities installed	4	5	
	# of gender responsive agricultural technologies provided	2	4	As per the demand from community and within the scope of project
	# of farmers using climate resilient agricultural (CRA) practices	450	750	All those who received input support are currently practicing

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Output 1.3	# of market outlets selling local indigenous crops	4	3	As per the productivity and feasibility of market outlet
	# of digitized market services established and strengthened	0		
Output 2.1	# of energy-based solutions contributing to production and post-production services	2	5	As per the relevancy and need of the community
	# of operational agro-based enterprises # of people specially women trained on sustainable operation and management of energy systems.	0		
Output 2.2	# of people specially women trained on sustainable operation and management of energy systems.	20	23	
	# of schools with access to electric cooking	15	16	
Output 2.3	# of local governments supported with financial instrument	0		
	# of value chain actors with Improved access to finance	0		
Output 3.1	# of gender responsive knowledge products developed	1		
Output 3.2.	# Digital soil maps prepared	0		
	# of farmer's field schools conducted	5	6	
Output 3.3	# of value chain actors capacitated	32	25	
	# of MIS established and strengthened in municipalities	3	0	
Output 3.4	# of local government with EFLG framework institutionalized	0		

In the 2024 financial delivery, the work plan and budget were set at **USD 4.0 million**, which represents approximately **38% of the total project budget**. Mr. Shrestha presented that the project has achieved expenditure including commitment of USD 2,337,405 till September, which is 58% of the project budget of USD 4,011,770 till the end of December 2024. The budget balance including commitment for Q4 is USD 1,674,365. Mr. Shrestha reiterated the need for all implementing partners to focus on the financial delivery in the remaining quarter.

Work plan for Q3 and Q4

The proposed priority activities under each Outcomes are highlighted below.

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Outcome 1	• Project document finalization, agreement signing with partners • T&D and grid interconnection • LVG- cattle shed improvement, scale up conservation farming • Assessment on A2F, Pilot Precision Agriculture • Continue HGSFP- food storage, policy enforcement, supply contracts, community sensitization • Strengthen local market system/*Haat Bazaar* • Increase production and availability of quality seeds • Identification of GESI responsive technologies • Pilot technologies and solutions on food processing • Knowledge products development • Low Value Grant (LVGs) for upscaling of the climate resilient agriculture under early recovery in Jajarkot and West Rukum
Outcome 2	• Rehabilitation of 3 MHPs • Extension of T&D to schools and for PEU • Lift irrigation project • Grid interconnection • Enterprise and capacity development • E-cooking demonstration and distribution • Support schools for solar PV and e-cooking • Digitization of MHP online tariff payment
Outcome 3	• Climate resilient farming plan development for Palikas • Environmental governance – EFLGF rollout • Capacity Development of Palika for system strengthening • Inter Government Relation • ToT on EFLG to the local government • Completion of the Review of EFLG Framework

Low Value Grant (LVG):

Mr. Shrestha elaborated that for the implementation of early recovery activities in Jajarkot and West-Rukum three LVGs with the total worth US$ 225,000 will be awarded based on competitive bidding process to three local NGO/CBOs who are working in the respective districts. To assess and recommend the proposals under LVG, a designated evaluation panel will be set up, and final decisions on awarding LVGs will be approved by UNDP senior management.

Incorporation of GESI elements in the project:

Mr. Shrestha informed the board that the project has ensured GESI at the core of all of its intervention including staffing. The project has made significant strides in promoting women's leadership, youth empowerment, and entrepreneurship with 65% of the project beneficiaries being women. Out of 50 groups, 45 are chaired by women, showcasing strong female leadership in decision-making roles. In terms of youth empowerment, 9 out of 11 Local Resource Persons are young women, and 15 women entrepreneurs have successfully tripled their income. Furthermore, 15 local women entrepreneurs have been supported in the productive end-use of renewable energy, driving women-led businesses forward. In technical fields, 23 women have been trained with operation and maintenance skills for lift operators, with an additional 766 women oriented. Additionally, through the Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) initiative, 1,640 schoolgirls now have better access to nutritious food, further enhancing their well-being.

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Mr. Shrestha also provided an update on the HR plan, informing the board that most of the team members are on board and some are expected to join after Dashain. He also shared the key issues and challenges faced by the project mainly Geo Climatic challenges, staff retention, capacity gaps in managing MHPs and LIs, affordability and willingness of adapting to RE technologies and managing expectations of the local communities. Mr. Shrestha also presented the project risk log reviewed and updated in consultation with every partner as well as the status of the Social and Environmental Safeguards (SES) conducted and risks identified. Finally, Mr. Shrestha concluded the project update with a request for endorsements of the shared plans.

Mr. Chevillard informed the board that at UNDP a grievance mechanism at the project level is in place to address any concerns related to social and environmental standards. For RERAS, the Project Manager will be the focal point for this process. If an issue cannot be resolved at the project level, it will be brought to the Project Executive board level. In case the issue cannot be addressed at the country level, the matter will be addressed at the UNDP headquarters level in New York.

4. Field Monitoring

While a joint monitoring mission with the Norwegian Embassy was conducted between 19-27 May 2024, another joint mission will be conducted in November/December 2024.

5. Project Document Presentation for full-fledged implementation from January 2024 to June 2027

Mr. Julien Chevillard reminded board participants that the initiation phase of RERAS Project will be closed on 31 Dec 2024 and that the full-fledged implementation phase of the project would begin from January 2025. For this purpose, a full project document has been prepared and this board meeting will serve as local project appraisal committee (LPAC) for the full prodoc.

The floor was handed over to Pragyajan Rai, Portfolio Manager, UNDP for presentation (Powerpoint presentation in Annex). In his presentation, he focused on the RERAS project document (prodoc). He briefly discussed the situational analysis of Karnali and Sudur Pashchim, highlighting the Human Development Index (HDI), outmigration of youth, reliability issues of the grid system, and severe food insecurity in these regions further exacerbated by the poor irrigation facilities, agriculture extension services and access to finance barriers despite the immense potential of agriculture development in Karnali and SuPa.

Mr. Rai provided an in-depth overview of the project, detailing its ambitious goal of enhancing food and nutrition security in targeted areas. He explained the geographic coverage of the project, which focuses on regions with high food insecurity and vulnerability to environmental and socio-economic challenges. The results framework was also presented, outlining measurable objectives and outcomes that guide the project's implementation and track its progress.

Mr. Rai highlighted how UNDP's 3 decades of Renewable Energy experience will be mainstreamed in the project through the Water Food and Energy nexus approach. He also explained that the RERAS project has adopted the Water-Energy-Food Nexus approach to strengthen food and nutrition security in Nepal. This approach emphasizes the interconnectedness of water, energy, and food resources, ensuring that each is managed in a way that supports the sustainable development of the others. Through this integrated approach, the project aims to promote resource efficiency and resilience in the face of climate change and other challenges.

In addition, Mr. Rai discussed the governance arrangements and stakeholder engagement matrix, highlighting the collaborative efforts made to involve local communities, government agencies, and development partners. This inclusive engagement ensures that the project's initiatives align with the needs and priorities of those it serves. Partnerships with local and international organizations play a crucial role in the project, combining resources and expertise to maximize impact. He also addressed the project's compliance with

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government agreements, underscoring the importance of adhering to national policies and regulatory frameworks.

GESI Integration

Mr. Rai emphasized that women and marginalized groups are prioritized in the project areas. He shared that the integration of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) interventions was emphasized, showing the project's commitment to ensuring that women, marginalized groups, and vulnerable communities benefit equitably from its initiatives. Through these targeted GESI interventions, the project actively promotes equal access to resources, opportunities, and decision-making processes for all groups involved.

Notably, the project's first outcome aims to ensure that women and socio-economically disadvantaged households have improved access to food, enabling them to meet their daily dietary needs. This goal underscores the project's strong focus on gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) within its interventions. Additionally, Mr. Rai highlighted that 70% of the project's beneficiaries are women and individuals from socio-economically excluded and vulnerable groups, further demonstrating the project's commitment to supporting those who face significant challenges and barriers to resources.

Mr. Rai elaborated on the project's risk management approach, outlining various potential risks, including financial, operational, social, environmental, sustainability, and stakeholder engagement risks.

The potential project risks and its proposed mitigation measures are mentioned below:

Risk Type	Risk	Mitigation Measures
Stakeholder Engagement	There's a risk that the implementation of project activities could be obstructed by local communities due to the failure to adequately consult all relevant stakeholders and engage multiple partners.	Conduct a thorough baseline assessment and institutional mapping through a consultative and participatory process that engages local communities and local governments. The targeted beneficiaries are educated of their rights and made aware of mechanism that are in place to address social and environmental issues i.e. Grievance Redress Mechanism that will be made available in Nepali Language. The Project Manager will serve as the focal point for any issue and project staff will be trained on GRM A continuous, multi-layered dialogue with stakeholders will be maintained throughout the project to ensure ongoing engagement. This dialogue will also be structured to foster future collaboration at the local, provincial, and central levels
Financial	Corruption and grant embezzlement may impact both the project and its reputation, particularly during procurement of consultancy firm/agencies for their service related to goods such as conservation farming,	UNDP will lead the procurement process particularly online with its mandates through a competitive bidding process to ensure cost-efficiency as well as avoid conflict of risks and manipulations.

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	rehabilitation of micro-hydro and solar irrigation systems. Transfer of grants to local organizations to deliver projects on the ground comes with a risk of the funds being embezzled and miss used for inappropriate headings by the project.	UNDP conducts a detailed partner capacity assessment (Micro Assessment) prior contracting of implementing partner organization including for the implementation of Low Value Grants (LVG). The assessment outline technical capacity of the agency and internal control mechanism to mitigate the potential fiduciary risks. If financial anomalies are identified during an audit, this is brought to the attention of the Project Executive Board and addressed.
Operational (Sustainability)	Expansion of the National Grid by NEA will result in lack of interest and utilization of the rehabilitated MHP and solar energy solutions (such as solar irrigation systems).	AEPC and NEA have drafted the Interconnection Master Plan for Mini Grids to facilitate in the policy direction for grid interconnection. Prepare plan to go for hybrid model to ensure uninterrupted power supply and use of existing RE solutions to be operated by women for post-production services.
Operational	Project will engage in several related areas of work, as well as with multiple partners, including regional institutions, non-governmental organizations, three tiers of government, cooperatives, and farmer's groups, among others. The diverse spread of project focus areas and partners could constitute an operational risk if not managed through an integrated and well-coordinated approach.	Clear implementation arrangement with clear roles and responsibilities, deliverables timeline, reporting arrangements and communication line has been prepared for clarity amongst partner agencies. Quarterly partner coordination meeting organized and Project Board organized. Joint monitoring visits will be planned on bi-annual basis amongst partner agencies including RNE.
Social and Environment	Adverse climatic conditions and natural calamities (earthquake, flood, landslide, etc.) may also pose risks to workforce health and safety, or damage adaptation measures being implemented	The project will ensure that mitigation measures identified in environmental assessment are implemented to minimize damages due to natural calamities if and when that occurs. The project will draw up an engineering and safety plan to reduce immediate risks of hazard occurrence during works. Promotion of conservation and organic farming practices will be promoted in the project site. Farmer field schools will be operated to enhance

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		farmer's capacity on better soil management and conservation farming approaches.
	There is a risk that intensification of agriculture may impact local environment. As a result of promotion of commercial level farming of local indigenous crops, there is a risk of communities adopting intensive agriculture practices including excessive use of chemical fertilizers.	The project will ensure that mitigation measures identified in environmental assessment are implemented to minimize damages due to natural calamities if and when that occurs. The project will draw up an engineering and safety plan to reduce immediate risks of hazard occurrence during works.
	Adverse climatic conditions and natural calamities (earthquake, flood, landslide, etc.) may also pose risks to workforce health and safety, or damage adaptation measures being implemented	
Sustainability	The local government as a key stakeholder, are directly accountable for scale-up of agriculture food systems and Post-Federalization, there is urgent need to capacitate Local Level on understanding the technical and scale-up on	Project will prioritize enhancement of capacity technical staffs of agriculture unit and local resource persons. Provincial institutions i.e. Agriculture Knowledge Centers will also be engaged to support on food systems and local school feeding program. Enabling activities will be prioritized to support to better support Local Level on institutionalization, mainstreaming budget for local school feeding and agro-mechanization.

**Updated and consolidated risk log is attached, including existing and new risks identified during implementation of initiation phase.

6. Discussion

Mr. Julien Chevillard opened the floor for discussion on ProDoc. The key discussion points are summarized below.

Electrification

Mr. Robert Kasca, Country Director at WFP requested clarity regarding the claim that 98% of Nepal's population has access to electricity versus 68% electricity penetration. Mr. Satish Gautam, National Programme Manager, RERL clarified that this figure indicates that 98% of the population has access to

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electricity infrastructure, meaning there are electric poles in place, but not necessarily electric connections to households.

Concerns on Post-Harvest Crop Losses

There were concerns raised about the recent project update, which mentioned a 60% post-harvest loss. Mr. Manu Binod Aryal, Head of the CREF Secretariat, expressed concern about this significant loss and inquired if it occurred during the production phase. Mr. Tika Ram Thapa, Province Secretary of MOLMAC, Karnali questioned the accuracy of the statistics and whether the losses were related to apples.

Mr. Shrestha clarified that the statistics referred specifically to apples in Jumla. The post-harvest losses occurred at various stages, including harvest, storage, and transportation. The causes of these losses included, but were not limited to, the use of chemicals by farmers and improper timing of the harvest among others. He also stressed that the project would design interventions to minimize post-harvest losses based on the recommendations made by the study that has been completed.

Mr. Chevillard emphasized the importance of tracking these losses and identifying ways for the project to address them through the main project document.

Flood Damage and Safety Concerns

The recent floods caused by heavy rainfall have resulted in significant infrastructural damage in Nepal. Mr. Sharad Karmacharya, Energy Specialist at The Royal Norwegian Embassy, raised safety concerns regarding whether any assessments were conducted prior to the construction of irrigation facilities and the ways to address the damages in Sindhuli.

Mr. Shrestha responded that Social and Environmental Safeguards (SES) are implemented before any construction to identify potential risks. He further noted that the nature of the damage has been assessed. It was found that the damage in Jumla and Bajura was minor compared to those in Sindhuli, where the transformer of the irrigation system was significantly damaged, although the pipelines remain intact. Mr. Chevillard advised the project team to ensure that contingency plans are incorporated into the project budget, and that lessons learnt on climate-proofing designs are included in future construction designs.

Targets vs Achievements Concerns

RERAS is working towards achieving the targets set for each output. Through continuous efforts, RERAS has in some cases, reached more beneficiaries than targeted. Mr. Einar Telnes, Counsellor for Renewable Energy and Climate at The Royal Norwegian Embassy commended the RERAS team for their efforts towards reaching the project goal. He enquired how the targets were set and if they may have been set slightly low. He suggested the project may need to revisit and revise the targets.

Mr. Pragyajan Rai responded that the targets were set based on the baseline survey. Since the project is still in its inception phase, the goal was to evaluate whether these targets are achievable within the given timeframe. Mr. Shiva Shrestha responded that the targets were set low during the initiation phase due to the fact that partnership agreements were not in place, staff recruitment were ongoing. The targets were achieved because coordination between partners has been positive even in early stages of the project.

He added that, while some targets have been met, the progress is slower than expected on other indicators due to the ongoing staff recruitment process and the renewal of the partnership agreements during the inception phase. Once the necessary staff are recruited, it is expected that the pace will accelerate, and the number of targets achieved will increase. That said, the targets will need to be revised accordingly.

Mr. Chevillard advised the project team to revisit the targets but also be mindful that targets on beneficiaries reached may not tell the whole story of project progress. While beneficiaries may already be “reached” in

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the initial stages of the project, it is the depth and quality of engagement with these beneficiaries that needs to be measured in later stages. He advised to further develop indicators to track this quality and depth of engagement as the project progresses, beyond just reach.

Digitalization

Mr. Sharad Karmacharya expressed interest in learning more about digitalization at the local level. He inquired about who would take the lead in continuing these initiatives once the project tenure is over. Mr.Satish Gautam clarified that the initial costs to set up digital payment through e-sewa was subsidized by the project with the arrangement that the users would pay afterwards on peruse basis to ensure sustainability.

Concerns on Timely Disbursement of Funds

Partners raised concerns about the timely disbursement of funds, noting that delays could halt ongoing activities or prevent the commencement of new ones. They also highlighted that some activities are weather-dependent, which could further complicate planning and implementation. Mr. Robert mentioned that for this reason, it is important to have the partner agreements signed by mid-November.

Mr. Chevillard clarified that the funds have already been received from the Royal Norwegian Embassy (RNE) and processed at the country office level. Partners are expected to receive the funds within this week. He also mentioned that the finalization of the Project Document and partnership agreements can be planned concurrently to happen by November.

Concerns on Staff Turnover and Working Conditions

The issue of frequent staff turnover was raised as a concern for the project. Mr. Chevillard noted the issue was discussed at the partnership coordination meeting and also advised to look into best practices from partners and put a strategy in place if the current measures are insufficient. Additionally, Mr. Rai encouraged all partners to explore ways to motivate staff and implement necessary measures to ensure better staff retention. Mr. Bharat added that an enabling working environment needs to be created at the field level. For instance, field staff are facing difficulties with mobility between project areas at local level, and the provision of motorbikes could help address this challenge. Mr. Shrestha responded that the motorbikes for local level transportation can be built in into the 2025 plan.

Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

The GRM documents are currently available only in English. Mr. Aryal suggested that the documents also be translated into Nepali to ensure easier understanding for the beneficiaries. Mr. Chevillard supported this suggestion and requested the team to prepare a Nepali version. He also shared that UNDP would provide any necessary support for this mechanism and will organize staff training related to the GRM.

Financial Risk

Mr. Ajaz Ali, Program Officer at ICIMOD, inquired whether UNDP has any policy or guideline defining fund embezzlement. Mr. Rai clarified that while UNDP does not have a specific policy or guideline on fund embezzlement, it has standards for managing fiduciary risks through the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers, including a detailed partner capacity assessment prior to contracting of partner organization for any low value grant, and assurance measures. He also stated that partnerships renewal is subjected to annual review to ensure that it is aligned to project objectives and results delivery.

Market Linkage and Coordination

Mr. Tika Ram Thapa inquired about the indigenous crops in Jumla and Bajura. He was informed that the region's indigenous crops include foxtail millet, marsi rice, beans, and fruits such as apples and walnuts. Mr. Thapa emphasized the importance of market linkage, stating that focusing solely on production without a

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platform for selling would lead to challenges. He sought clarification on the types of coordination currently taking place at the field level.

Mr. Shrestha explained that market linkage can be complex due to the presence of two types of market participants: collectors and wholesalers. He noted that the project is working towards creating and strengthening mechanisms for market linkages. Regarding coordination efforts at the local level, Mr. Shrestha shared that RERAS has conducted various meetings to identify areas where local government and RERAS can complement each other's activities.

Environmental Governance

Mr. Karmacharya suggested the project team to consult with the Governance Advisors- Shradha at RNE while designing activities for the Environmental Governance, a new component for RERAS and informed that she will be attending the Annual Meeting for RERAS. Furthermore, he requested the team to consider the challenges associated with the Low Value Grant, particularly given the vast number of partnerships involved in the project.

7. Closing Remarks

In closing, Mr. Chevillard confirmed the approval of the endorsed Q2 and Q3 progress reports, the Q4 work plan, and the Grievance Redress Mechanism. He further shared that the issues mentioned during the meeting will need to be addressed by the team and tracked at the next meeting.

Regarding prodoc appraisal and approval, the comments received during the meeting will be incorporated in the prodoc and meeting participants will also be given additional time to provide written comments by early November (considering Dashain and Tihar festivals). Subject to incorporation of these comments the prodoc is endorsed and the drafting of the renewal of partnership agreements can proceed in parallel, for signature by end of November 2024.

He concluded by expressing hope that all partners would be able to join the joint field mission in November/December.

Note:

Written comments on the prodoc were received from the following partners and incorporated accordingly:

-WFP email dated 7 November 2024.

-ICIMOD email dated 11 November 2024.

-LI-BIRD email dated 11 November 2024.

8. Approval of any decision required

SN	Documents Proposed	Status	Responsible
1	Endorsement of Q2 and Q3 progress	Endorsed	Board
2	Endorsement of Q3 & Q4 Plan / 2024 AWP	Endorsed	Board
3	Endorsement of updated Risk Log for IP	Endorsed	Board
4	Endorsement of Grievance Redress Mechanism	Endorsed	Board

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5	Endorsement of Project Document of RERAS for full – fledged implementation from January 2025 to June 2027	Endorsed	Board

9. Summary of next steps

SN	Matters Raised	Next Step	Deadline/ Timeline	Focal Point
1	Sharing draft ProDoc of RERAS for full-fledged implementation to all partners	Receive comments, feedback and incorporate inputs from partners and finalize ProDoc	2nd week of October	UNDP, RERAS
2	Bilateral Meeting	Annual Meeting between RNE and UNDP	28 October 2024	UNDP, RERAS
3	Monitoring	Joint Field Mission	3rd week of November 2024	UNDP, RERAS
4	GRM	Develop GRM in Nepali language and circulate to partners	4th week November 2024	UNDP, RERAS
5	Extension of Partner agreements	Finalization of MYWP and Signing of the agreements	4th week of November 2024	UNDP, RERAS