

# Nepal



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## General Country Profile



Nepal is a landlocked Himalayan country sandwiched between mountainous China in the North and Indian plains in the South, making it geo-strategically important.



Population: 28,096,000 (State of the World's Children, SOWC, 2019).  
Child population: (SOWC, 2019)  
Under 18: 10,490,000  
Under 5: 2,271,000



Nepal is an extremely diverse country with over 126 ethnic groups and castes and 3 distinct ecological zones.



It is one of the 48 Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Fifteenth plan - Five-Year National Plan sets the goal of graduating to Middle-Income Country (MIC) status by 2030.



Remittance inflows to GDP for Nepal accounted for around 25 per cent of GDP in 2017/2018 and provide the largest source of foreign exchange for Nepal (IMF Country Report No. 19/60).



Its topography and geography make it vulnerable to natural disasters such as floods, landslides and earthquakes (it is in one of the most seismically active regions in the world). The 2015 earthquakes killed more than 9,000 people and injured a further 22,400.<sup>1</sup> They caused widespread destruction (31 of Nepal's 75 districts were affected). Financial losses are estimated to be USD 7.06 billion.<sup>2</sup>



Life chances for many in Nepal are largely determined by the social stratification of the caste system. Pervasive norms and attitudes on the value of girls and women continue to have far-reaching consequences for Nepal's development.



Kathmandu hosts the headquarters of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and UNICEF's Regional Office for South Asia. This makes it a convening point for regional events in support of child rights.

[1] UNICEF Nepal, "Reaching the unreached" – Nepal Earthquake Six Months Review, 25 October 2015.  
[2] Nepal Post Disaster Needs Assessment, National Planning Commission, 2015  
([http://icnr2015.mof.gov.np/uploaded/PDNA\\_Executive\\_Summary\\_new.pdf](http://icnr2015.mof.gov.np/uploaded/PDNA_Executive_Summary_new.pdf))



## Nepal Key Indicators on Children

Indicator	Value	Year	Source
Under-five mortality	28 per 1,000 live births	2019	Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Study (NMICS)
Stunting in under-five children (moderate and severe)	31.5%	2019	NMICS
Primary school net enrolment	97%	2017 2018	Department of Education Flash Report
Use of improved sanitation facilities	94.5%	2019	NMICS
Child labour (aged 5-17)	37%	2014	NMICS



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## Biggest challenges facing children and UNICEF results 2018–2022

**Transition to a three-tiered federal structure of government comprising national, 7 provincial and 753 local governments is creating a challenging operating environment.**

### Humanitarian challenges:

- The **2015 earthquakes** caused significant damage to the country and UNICEF Nepal has provided continuous support to the government to aid recovery.
- UNICEF supported local government's effort to develop risk profiles. Fifteen municipalities completed their profiles, on which local **disaster risk management** plans are based. A total of 13,931 people (7,105 female) benefitted from lifesaving humanitarian responses following small-scale disasters in various parts of Nepal in 2018.
- **COVID-19** is affecting children and families far beyond those it directly infects. The Nepal Country Office response plan is aligned with the UN Global Humanitarian Response Plan, the 2020 WHO Global Strategic Response Plan (SRP), Operational Planning Guidelines and the 2020 UNICEF COVID-19 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal. UNICEF targets up to one-third of the initial scenario of 1,500 cases with preparedness, pre-positioning support and towards a further 7,000 cases for full-scale response activities.

### Country Programme priorities 2018–2022:

- Increase the percentage of **newborns** receiving newborn care services within two days of birth from 57 per cent to 75 per cent.
- Reduce moderate and severe **stunting** in under-five children from 36 per cent to 28 per cent.
- Increase **access and quality of early learning opportunities**. Provide quality basic education in targeted areas to improve survival rate to Grade 8 from 77 per cent to 92 per cent.
- Reduce **open defecation** from 10 per cent to 1 per cent.
- Reduce **child marriage** from 37 per cent to 32 per cent.
- Expand the **child grant** from 20 per cent to 67 per cent.



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## Type of UNICEF programme, presence and partnerships and salient issues

- The total budget for the Country Programme 2018–2022 is USD 150 million (USD 36 million regular resources and USD 114 million other resources).
- The Country Programme is a mix of policy and service delivery.
- In addition to the main office in Kathmandu, UNICEF has three field offices which provide critical grassroots links with local government, civil society organizations and communities.
- There are 178 staff members (IP 27, NO 92 and GS 59).
- Important partnerships for Nepal include the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN), UNICEF-UNFPA global programme to accelerate actions to end child marriage, Let us Learn (five countries), Reach Out to Asia (three countries) and GAVI.



## Country Team

- Elke Wisch, Representative
- James McQuen Patterson, Deputy Representative, Programme
- Maimouna Diallo (incoming Deputy Representative, Operations)
- Tania Dhakhwa, Chief of Communication
- Amadou Seck, Chief Planning and Monitoring
- Vacant, United Nations Resident Coordinator