

Project Completion Report

UNFPA Country Program (8th Cycle)

Supported by UNFPA Nepal

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Executive Summary

The UNFPA Country Program (8th Cycle) in Nepal, implemented in collaboration with FAYA Nepal, has significantly advanced sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender equality, and youth empowerment in Sudurpaschim Province from 2019 to 2023. Despite challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters, and systemic bottlenecks, the program achieved transformative outcomes through policy advocacy, community engagement, and innovative service delivery. Key accomplishments include the integration of SRHR into disaster response frameworks, strengthened supply chains for health commodities, empowerment of marginalized youth, and institutionalization of gender-based violence (GBV) response systems. This report details the program's components, achievements, challenges, and forward-looking recommendations.

1. Sexual and Reproductive Health Services (SRHS)

UNFPA/FAYA works in Sexual and Reproductive Health Services (SRHS) is guided by transformative goals that aim to address unmet needs for family planning, preventable maternal deaths, and gender-based violence (GBV). Through initiatives like ensuring access to modern contraceptives, promoting safe childbirth practices, and fighting harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM), UNFPA/FAYA aligns its efforts with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3 and 5. Additionally, they emphasize a rights-based approach to SRHR, focusing on bodily autonomy, equity for vulnerable groups, and comprehensive sexuality education to empower communities.

To further support SRHS, UNFPA/FAYA integrates essential services such as maternal and neonatal care, and emergency response during crises. Innovative solutions like digital logistics systems (e-LMIS) and radio campaigns have helped overcome systemic barriers such as fragile healthcare infrastructure and sociocultural norms. UNFPA/FAYA collaborates with local and Province governments to scale interventions locally and provincially, as demonstrated by their impactful initiatives in Sudurpashchim Province, particularly Baitadi, Bajhang, Achham, Bajura and Kailali district. By addressing inequities, leveraging technology, and fostering partnerships, UNFPA/FAYA strives to ensure universal access to SRHS, paving the way for healthier and more resilient communities

The main objective of this theme is to enhance access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services across both humanitarian and development contexts by integrating SRHR into disaster preparedness and response plans while bolstering health system resilience through effective supply chain optimization.

Key Achievements Under Sexual and Reproductive Health and Right (2019–2023)

1. Policy Integration and Disaster Preparedness

- Updated District Preparedness and Response Plans (DPRP) with SRHR/GBV components in 4 districts (Baitadi, Bajhang, Bajura, Achham).
- Disseminated the Safe Motherhood Roadmap 2030 across Sudurpaschim Province, enhancing maternal health service delivery.
- Trained 20 Rapid Response Team (RRT) members on the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for emergencies.

2. Service Delivery Innovations

- Distributed 8,712 dignity kits to women and adolescents during COVID-19 quarantine and 496 kits during 2021 floods.
- Established SRH information desks at Nepal-India border points, reaching 18,241 migrant women (2021–2022).
- Aired 150+ radio episodes on SRHR via Radio Dhangadhi, engaging over 15,000 listeners.

3. Capacity Building

- 34 workshops conducted with local governments to prioritize SRHR budgeting.
- Trained 157 health workers on RMNCAH guidelines through virtual orientations (2021).

2. Supply Chain Management (SCM)

UNFPA/FAYA employs a robust supply chain management (SCM) system in UNFPA country programs to ensure uninterrupted access to life-saving reproductive health (RH) commodities, including contraceptives, dignity kits, and emergency obstetric supplies. Central to this effort is the electronic Logistics Management Information System (e-LMIS), which tracks stock levels in real-time, mitigates shortages, and prevents overstocking, exemplified by a 9.39% increase in reporting compliance (72% in 2021 to 81.39% in 2023) in Nepal's Sudurpaschim Province. UNFPA strengthens systems through capacity-building initiatives, such as training to hospitals eLMIS focal persons, officials on SCM protocols, and joint monitoring visits to districts like Baitadi, Bajhang, Bajura and Achham to resolve discrepancies, including redistributing 2,700 implants to balance stocks in Bajura Hospital. Infrastructure improvements, such as procuring plastic pallets and ladders

for safer commodity storage, address logistical gaps, while partnerships with entities like the Provincial Health Logistics Management Center (PHLMC) enhance forecasting and cold-chain management. Despite challenges like limited storage facilities and connectivity issues in remote areas, PHLMC SCM framework prioritizes resilience, equity, and efficiency, ensuring RH commodities reach even the most marginalized populations, aligning with UNFPA mandate to uphold universal access to sexual and reproductive health services.

The key objectives of SCM are to ensure the uninterrupted availability of family planning (FP) and reproductive health (RH) commodities by enhancing data-driven decision-making through optimized logistics management.

Key Achievements (2019–2023)

1. Guidelines and Compliance

- Developed and disseminated Provincial SCM Guidelines (2021), adopted by 8 municipalities by 2023.
- Increased e-LMIS reporting compliance from 72% (2021) to 81.39% (2023).

2. Stock Management

- Redistributed 2,700 implants to prevent stockouts and addressed overstock issues in Bajura.
- Procured 56 plastic pallets and 8 ladders to improve warehouse storage capacity.

3. Technical Support

- Trained 211 local officials on SCM protocols and e-LMIS usage.
- Conducted joint monitoring visits in 5 districts to resolve supply chain bottlenecks.
- Trained 30 hospital eLMIS focal person on three days technical training for smooth use of eLMIS.

4. Youth Empowerment and Education

Under the 8th Cycle of the UNFPA Country Program, the mandates for Youth Empowerment and Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) are anchored in fostering inclusive, rights-based, and gender-transformative frameworks to ensure adolescents and young people can fully exercise their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). UNFPA's objectives prioritize integrating evidence-based CSE into national education systems to equip youth with knowledge on bodily autonomy, consent, healthy relationships, and prevention of gender-based violence (GBV), while addressing cultural and structural barriers that hinder access to information. The program empowers young people, particularly marginalized groups such as girls, LGBTQ+ individuals, and rural adolescents, through participatory platforms like youth-led advocacy networks and enabling them

to influence policies and programs that affect their lives. Additionally, UNFPA/FAYA collaborates with local and province governments and civil society to scale up youth-friendly SRH services, strengthen digital literacy for CSE delivery, and combat harmful norms through community dialogues. These efforts align with global commitments like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), ensuring young people are not only beneficiaries but active agents in advancing gender equality, health equity, and sustainable development.

Empower youth as advocates for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) by integrating comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) into provincial education systems.

Key Achievements (2019–2023)

1. Capacity Building

- Trained 500+ youths (56% female, 57 with disabilities) in SRHR advocacy.
- Organized 6 Model Youth Parliament events to amplify youth voices in local governance.

2. Policy Advocacy

- Drafted the Provincial Youth Policy (2022), under review by the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD).
- Integrated CSE into local curricula in Patan and Mangalsen municipalities.

3. Community Engagement

- Aired 90 radio episodes on CSE, reaching 8,000+ adolescents.
- Established CSE Technical Working Groups (CSETWGs) in 6 municipalities to advocate for resource allocation.

4. Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention

The UNFPA mandates gender-based violence (GBV) prevention as a cornerstone of its country programs, aligning with global commitments to eliminate violence against women and girls and uphold human rights. Through a multi-sectoral approach, UNFPA/FAYA works to prevent GBV by addressing root causes such as gender inequality and harmful norms, while strengthening systems to protect survivors. This includes advocating for policy reforms to criminalize GBV, training health service providers, police, and judiciary officials on survivor-centered response protocols, and strengthening one-stop crisis centers for integrated medical, legal, and psychosocial support. Community mobilization initiatives engage men, boys, and local leaders in challenging discriminatory practices and promoting gender equity. UNFPA/FAYA also integrates GBV prevention into humanitarian responses, implementing the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) to ensure life-saving services during crises. Partnerships with governments, civil society, and UN

agencies amplify efforts to collect data, scale awareness campaigns, and empower women economically. By fostering resilient, inclusive systems and transforming societal attitudes, UNFPA Country programs aim to reduce GBV incidence and create safer environments where women and girls can exercise their rights freely and fully.

Enhance gender-based violence (GBV) response systems through policy reform, capacity building, and community awareness initiatives aimed at combating harmful practices

Key Achievements (2019–2023)

1. Policy Development

- Formulated Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) and harmful practice policies in 4 municipalities (2021).
- Drafted the Provincial GESI policy (2023), pending final approval.

2. Survivor Support

- Provided psychosocial counseling to 220+ GBV survivors through One-Stop Crisis Management Centers (OCMCs).
- Placed psychosocial counselors in Dhangadhi and Baitadi hospitals, addressing service gaps.

3. Community Mobilization

- Conducted 16-Day Campaigns (2022–2023) with radio jingles and Safe House monitoring.
- Issued the Dhangadhi Declaration (2022), where adolescent girls demanded action against child marriage.

5. Girls' Empowerment

Under the 8th Cycle of the UNFPA Country Program, Girls' Empowerment is prioritized as a strategic pillar to dismantle systemic barriers and promote equitable opportunities for adolescent girls to thrive. Aligned with global mandates like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the program focuses on ending harmful practices such as child marriage and gender-biased sex selection while amplifying girls' agency in decision-making. Key initiatives include integrating **Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)** into school curricula to equip girls with knowledge on bodily autonomy, consent, and reproductive health, alongside establishing safe spaces like Adolescent-Friendly Information

Centers (AFICs) for mentorship and peer support. UNFPA/FAYA collaborates with governments to strengthen legal frameworks, such as advancing the **Provincial Child Marriage Policy** in Sudurpashchim Province and trains girls as social campaigners to lead community dialogues challenging patriarchal norms. Economic empowerment is promoted through skill-building workshops and digital literacy programs, enabling girls to pursue education and livelihoods. In humanitarian settings, the program ensures girls' access to dignity kits and GBV-responsive services, while advocacy platforms like adolescent girl conferences and the **Dhangadhi Declaration** amplify their voices in policymaking. By addressing intersecting inequalities and investing in girls' leadership, UNFPA's 8th Cycle promotes resilient, inclusive societies where girls can claim their rights, pursue aspirations, and drive sustainable development.

The major objective is to eliminate child marriage and harmful practices while empowering girls to actively participate in decision-making processes.

Key Achievements (2019–2023)

1. Policy Advocacy

- Drafted the Provincial Child Marriage Policy (2022), awaiting cabinet approval.
- Trained 33 social campaigners (2022) recruited by MoSD to advocate against child marriage.

2. Community Engagement

- Organized adolescent girl conferences and exposure visits to Safe Houses.
- Aired radio panel discussions on menstrual hygiene, reaching 4 districts.

6. Midwifery and Cervical Cancer Services

Under the 8th Cycle of the UNFPA Country Program, Midwifery and Cervical Cancer Services are prioritized to enhance maternal health and fight preventable women's cancers, aligning with global goals to reduce maternal mortality and improve reproductive health outcomes. UNFPA/FAYA strengthens midwifery focus on cervical cancer prevention, the program emphasizes scaling up community-based screening, and early treatment initiatives, informed by service mapping efforts—such as those in Sudurpaschim Province—to identify gaps in infrastructure and trained personnel. The cervical cancer services mapped in Sudurpaschim (2021), identifying gaps in trained staff and equipment, and advocated for upgraded facilities and training programs for midwives.

Challenges

1. **Resource Constraints:** Limited municipal budgets for SRHR/GBV activities hindered scalability.
 2. **Capacity Gaps:** Shortage of skilled health workers (e.g., midwives, FP providers).
 3. **Infrastructure Deficits:** Poorly equipped birthing centers and cold-chain storage facilities.
 4. **Policy Delays:** Slow finalization of Provincial levels policies.
 5. **Connectivity Issues:** Impacted e-LMIS reporting in remote districts.
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Lessons Learned

- **Community-Led Advocacy:** Involving people with disabilities (PWDs) and youth in dialogues increased policy buy-in.
 - **Technology Integration:** Radio programs and e-LMIS proved effective in reaching remote populations.
 - **Adaptive Programming:** Hybrid workshops and virtual training ensured continuity during crises like COVID-19.
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Recommendations

1. **Advocacy:** Strengthen lobbying for local budget allocations to SRHR/GBV programs.
 2. **Capacity Building:** Expand training for health workers, storekeepers, and police on GBV protocols.
 3. **Infrastructure Investment:** Upgrade cold-chain systems and birthing centers.
 4. **Policy Finalization:** Prioritize approval of pending provincial policies (Youth, GESI, Child Marriage).
 5. **Scale Innovations:** Expand CSE radio programs and e-LMIS to additional districts.
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Conclusion

The UNFPA-FAYA partnership has laid a robust foundation for sustainable development in Sudurpaschim Province. By leveraging technology, community engagement, and policy advocacy, the program has enhanced SRHR access, empowered marginalized groups, and institutionalized GBV response mechanisms. Future efforts must focus on finalizing policies, scaling innovations, and addressing systemic gaps to ensure lasting impact.